

5. SPORT RULES AND REGULATIONS

(15/10/07)

5.1 Conduct Of Competition

Inter-school sport in Ballarat should be pursued in such a way that competitors accept that while it is expected that they will strive for victory, the long-term purpose of the game is to establish and foster comradeship. Members of the home side should always remember that they are the hosts so that before, during and after the game, the welfare of the visitors is promoted.

The following basic principles have been accepted in Ballarat school competitions for some years:

1. No team should withdraw from a fixture without giving adequate prior warning of its inability to compete. Likewise it is discourteous to take part in a match without a full team and the necessary officials.
2. If a student has accepted an invitation to play for the school, it imposes an obligation on him/her to put that fixture before any other commitment. Further, the team members must then be prepared to observe the principles of good sportsmanship.
3. The umpires have complete control of the game and deserve the support of all players, coaches and spectators, all of whom should make it their business to know and understand the rules of the game. Umpires often face difficult decisions; it is not the place of students or parents to dispute these decisions. Umpires are asked to report to the coach any student who loses his temper or indulges in unacceptable behaviour or foul play. While umpires do have the right to send a player from the field, it is always hoped that such situations will not arise.
4. Spectators, whether students or adults, will naturally be strongly partisan in their support. However, verbal abuse of umpires and the use of audible disparaging remarks about those on the field are not acceptable forms of behaviour.
5. Possibly the coaches hold the key to a proper approach to sport. They should always remember that they are dealing with children who are learning how to play a game. Hence their influence is of paramount importance if games are to be played in the correct spirit. Encouragement of weaker performers is highly desirable as every child should be made to feel an important part of a team.

5.2 Code Of Ethics

- In addition to the guidelines outlined in the front of the Association Handbook, players, coaches and spectators will be expected to observe the following send-off rule:

Competitors and spectators will be removed from the competition for the following reasons:

- (a) Striking or unduly rough play.
- (b) Poor language/abusive behaviour being directed towards members of the opposition, umpires, any other officials or team mates.
- (c) Continual disputing of umpiring decisions. Players will be given one warning and if they infringe a second time they will be sent off. Seeking clarification of umpiring decisions should only be done by the coach or team captain in a calm and sensible manner.
- (d) In games such as Hockey, which have rules relating to suspending players for infringement of rules, it must be left to the judgement of the umpire whether the offence is serious to warrant a red card, ("send off" permanent suspension) or only a temporary suspension.

NB: The umpire or teacher representative from each of the participating schools will be responsible for enforcing this rule.

- Decisions on whether a student should be permitted to play BAS sport will be made on a case by case basis by the school concerned, but generally suspensions or penalties imposed by external organisations (e.g. community / club sport) shall NOT be carried over to schools sport and participation in BAS.
- Each school must make a commitment to re-schedule matches that have been unable to be played.
- If there is a disagreement between schools in a washout decision the Executive Officer needs to be consulted for the final decision.
- If a washout or forfeit is to occur then schools must be notified by at least 1.30pm on the scheduled day of the match. If a school fails to notify then it will be expected to cover the costs involved in the match for the other school and the Association.

5.3 Child Safe Standards

5.3.1 Statement of Commitment

Ballarat Associated Schools Incorporated (BAS) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. All children participating at and involved in BAS events have the right to feel safe and be safe. The wellbeing of our children and young people will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

BAS has zero tolerance for child abuse.

BAS is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are free to enjoy life to the full without any concern for their safety and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved with BAS has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In its planning, decision-making and operations BAS will:

1. Provide children and young people with positive and nurturing experiences and take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk;
10. Value the input of and communicate honestly and openly with families and carers. The views of staff, contractors, officials, children, young people and families are taken seriously and their concerns are addressed in a just and timely manner; and
11. Systematically and continually identify and assess risks to child safety and will eliminate, where possible, or reduce all potential sources of harm.

Adapted from Our Community (2016) Child Protection Toolkit: The Department of Education and Training

5.3.2 Child Safety Code of Conduct

Safeguarding Children and Young People at BAS Events and Activities

It is the purpose of Ballarat Associated Schools (BAS) to provide structured competition for the member schools to maximise the opportunities for students to participate in organised sport.

The purposes of the Association are:

1. To be a group of like-minded schools in the Ballarat region who associate for the purposes of sporting, cultural and social inter-change in a mutually supportive manner for the benefit of the students of the schools.
2. To arrange and enter into inter-school activities in order to cultivate friendship, goodwill and a spirit of fair play and comradeship.
3. To promote a spirit of co-operation, generosity, courtesy, consideration and healthy competition amongst member schools at all times.

(Please see BAS Handbook for a complete list of purposes of BAS)

Purpose of this Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct has a specific focus on safeguarding children and young people at BAS Events and Activities against sexual, physical, psychological and emotional abuse or neglect. It is intended to complement other professional and/or occupational codes.

All staff, volunteers, officials, contractors, and board/school council members at BAS are expected to actively contribute to a school sporting association culture that respects the dignity of its members and affirms the values of care for others, compassion and justice. They are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

Acceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, officials, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and board/school council members are responsible for supporting the safety of children within our association by:

- adhering to the *BAS Child Safety Policy* and upholding the associations commitment to child safety at all times
- taking all reasonable steps to protect the young people at our events from abuse
- treating everyone in the BAS community with respect, modelling positive and respectful relationships and acting in manner that sustain a safe and positive environment
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people

- promoting the cultural safety participation and empowerment of young people with culturally and /or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of young people with a disability
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensuring as quickly as possible that the young person/people are safe in accordance with the *BAS Child Safety Policy*
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not alone with a child
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to the school's concerned Child Protection Officer and/or the BAS Executive Officer
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)*
- ensuring that this Code of Conduct is followed in any interactions with students from every associated member school of BAS when attending any BAS events or activities.

Unacceptable behaviours

All staff, volunteers, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and board/school council members must NOT, unless prior and explicit consent is given by the BAS Executive Officer or BAS Inc.:

- put young people at risk of abuse
- ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of young people
- use inappropriate language in the presence of young people
- express personal views on culture, race or sexuality in the presence of young people
- discriminate against any young person on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- exhibit behaviours with young people which may be construed as unnecessarily physical
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with a young person or do things of a personal nature that a young person can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children)
- consume alcohol or take illicit drugs under any circumstances at an event where students are present.
- work with any young person while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking sites or personal email addresses with a young person
- have any online contact with a child or their family (including by social media, email, instant messaging etc), unless necessary i.e. by providing families with information relevant to their involvement and participation in BAS events and activities

- use any personal communication channels/devices such as a personal email account to contact a child or their family unless necessary i.e. by providing families with information relevant to their involvement and participation in BAS events and activities

Responsibilities in matters of Child Safety:

All staff, volunteers, officials, contractors, visitors, parents/guardians and board/school are responsible for:

- listening and responding to concerns of young people; particularly if they are telling you that they or another young person have been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another young person
- reporting any allegations of child abuse as outlined in the BAS Child Protection – Reporting Obligations
- understanding and complying with all reporting obligations as they relate to mandatory reporting and reporting under the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) and as contained in the BAS Child Safety Policy
- reporting any child safety concerns as outlined in the BAS Child Protection – Reporting Obligations
- ensuring child safety protocols at all BAS events and venues are implemented
- ensuring risk assessments at all BAS events and venues incorporate child safety

5.3.3 Child Safe POLICY:

Available at www.bas.vic.edu.au.

5.4 Supervision

A staff member from each school is required to accompany each team as supervisor, unless teams are on adjacent courts. Adequate and active supervision must be provided.

5.5 Uniforms

Players are expected to wear uniform appropriate to the school and sport when participating in BAS competition.

5.6 First Aid Provision

It is the responsibility of each school to provide teams with adequate first aid equipment to cater for the sport that teams are involved in.

This may include mobile phones or other means of communication.

At all times staff in charge of teams are to ensure that the health and safety of the students involved in a fixture is maintained at a standard that is satisfactory for the sport being undertaken.

Refer to individual sports for specific details.

5.7 Eligibility

- (a) Players must be currently enrolled in the school that they are representing. Only full time pupils of the member schools shall be eligible to participate in BAS Sporting Competitions.
- (b) When there is a girls competition offered in a particular sport, girls will not be permitted to play in the boys competition for that sport. This rule does NOT apply to a coxswain in Rowing.
- (c) Where teams are graded, a player having played 50% of the team's matches in a higher grade or section, is no longer eligible to play in a lower grade or section.
- (d) In accordance with the spirit of the competition, it would be deemed most inappropriate if a school was to stack a team according to form, week to week.
- (e) Any player may only participate in one match per round per sport or competition.
- (f) There is no required number of games to play before a student is eligible to play in the Finals.
- (g) Players are permitted to move from B to A Grade (Seconds to Firsts) during finals. Players are not permitted to move from A to B Grade (Firsts to Seconds) unless both teams are participating in the Final when teams may be chosen on merit.

THERE IS NO RESTRICTION ON PARTICIPATION / MEMBERSHIP OF A TEAM PROVIDED THE STUDENT QUALIFIES IN THAT AGE GROUP.

5.8 Age Grouping

SENIOR: Senior competition will be available to all students within a school – Open.
INTERMEDIATE: Intermediate shall mean students in Year 10 and below.
JUNIOR: Junior shall mean students in Year 8 and below.

Where a competition is conducted in only Junior and Senior divisions, Junior shall be defined as Years 7, 8 and 9.

5.9 Fixturing

It is the aim of the Association to schedule, wherever possible, an even number of byes within a fixture. Draws will also, where team entries permit, be prepared on a yearly rotation system.

Rescheduling of matches must be completed with joint agreement. If a suitable rematch time cannot be found the original rostered time shall stand. If one team is unable to play the designated fixture, they will forfeit the match.

In the event of cancellation due to weather, the BAS Executive Officer will determine the allocation of points.

In the event of a wash-out of a round, teams allocated a bye would stand on four points prior to the round being declared washed-out. If any team forfeits, then the winning team would be awarded four points. If wash-out occurs, then teams receive equal points of two points each.

Schools are required to confirm their team entries by Wednesday in the first week of each term, if not before, to assist in the timely production of fixtures.

5.10 Scoring (updated term 2 2014)

Unless otherwise stated:-

Win	4 points
Draw	2 points
Loss	1 point
Bye	4 points
Forfeit	0 points (score as stated for specific sports)

Where an uneven number of byes occur in a competition the 2nd bye shall be treated in the same manner as a forfeit, receiving the same score and points.

Where 2 teams finish on equal points at the end of preliminary rounds the results of the matches between these teams shall be used to determine final positions. For Junior and Intermediate competitions, if the results of matches between the two teams is still equal a joint premiership shall be awarded.

When 3 or more teams finish on equal points percentage; **points / goals for** divided by **points goals against x 100**, shall be determined using the scores for and against for the matches between these teams.

When final ladder positions are required for the purpose of a playoff and teams cannot be separated by the methods stated above a playoff will determine the final ladder positions

5.11 Mercy Rule

All Coaches in BAS competition will do their utmost to ensure that all games are a fair and even contest. The suggested mechanisms needed to achieve this will be decided

on and used at the discretion of the participating coaches, who on reaching agreement on the standard of the game, will then implement measures to attain the desired outcome.

Coaches can provide an even and fair competition by endeavouring to ensure that opposing players are matched evenly. Another way is to rotate players during the course of the game. At no time are players to make this process demeaning or patronising to their opposition.

The Executive Officer and Heads of Sport shall have the right to monitor all games and approach a Coach or Supervising Staff Member and remind them of their responsibility to abide by the "Mercy" Rule in the best interest, and spirit, of the competition.

The Executive Officer will monitor final scores at the end of each round and check if a problem exists. If it does they will speak to the relevant Head of Sport and recommend appropriate action to address the problem. If the problem is not addressed the Executive Officer has the power to apply reasonable and appropriate penalties. Overall percentages are not used to determine final ladder positions, only the percentage from matches between the tied teams.

Mercy Rules shall be applied to Junior and Intermediate competition. See specific recommendations under relevant sport sections.

5.12 Late Starts

The BAS requests that where a team is late for a game, 15 minutes lee-way be given where possible in starting games. After that time, the rules of the particular sport in relation to late starts apply.

5.13 Results

RESULTS for ALL BAS Sports are required to be entered into the BAS Results Vault within 48 hours after the completion of the match.

Both schools are required to enter OR confirm results and scores before they will be declared official. Updated results and ladders will be available on the BAS Website under SPORTS / RESULTS & FIXTURES.

CRICKET RESULTS; Go to <http://admin-cricket.resultsvault.com> to login.
ALL OTHER SPORTS; Visit <http://admin-sport.resultsvault.com> to login.

Completed scoresheets must be retained by the winning school and be available for presentation should they be requested.

5.14 Finals

In all SENIOR competitions, a Grand Final will be played between the top two teams on the ladder at the end of preliminary rounds.

In INTERMEDIATE and JUNIOR competitions the team that finishes on top of the ladder at the end of preliminary rounds shall be awarded the premiership.

5.15 Grand Final Venue

Unless otherwise stated the Grand Final will be played at the home venue of the higher placed team, if it is deemed to be an appropriate and safe venue. The safety and appropriateness of the venue is to be determined by the Executive Officer of BAS and the Chairperson if there is any dispute.

Where a season has been conducted in its entirety at a single venue then the Grand Final will be conducted at that venue unless stated otherwise in the competition fixture or by negotiation between the participating schools.

5.16 Abandoned Games Procedures

These procedures are to apply to all grades of BAS sport, unless otherwise specified for an individual sport.

- Where an independent umpire in charge of a fixture determines that the game is no longer able to proceed due to risk to the safety of the players or inappropriate behaviour of both teams, then the game is classed as abandoned and points shall be shared between the two competing schools. In such a situation the umpire will be asked to submit a written report to the Executive Officer of BAS.
- If in the opinion of one (or both) of the school-appointed coaches the match is proceeding in a manner that is inappropriate for the safety of the students involved or the spirit of BAS competition, OR the match cannot continue due to the constraints of the venue availability, the coach will approach the opposing coach to raise the concern.

The following options are then available to the coaches:

- (i) Agreement on the issue of concern.
 - ~ Match stopped immediately. Umpire approached and informed of the concerns. Players to be made aware of the need for a change in behaviour by each coach to his individual team. Play recommenced with a review between coaches to occur at the next scheduled break.
 - ~ Stop the match immediately, with the game to be classed as an abandoned game, no points awarded to either team.
 - ~ Continue the match with a review of the issues at the next scheduled break in play.
- (ii) If there is no agreement between coaches on the issue of concern, one coach has the option of withdrawing his team from the match if he feels that there is a risk to their safety. If this occurs points will not be awarded for the match until the following procedure is applied:

Written reports including time of abandonment, score, conditions etc. submitted to the BAS Executive Officer by the coaches of each team, the umpire and staff who were witnesses at the match.

The outcome for the match would be at the discretion of the Principals of the two competing schools, taking in all the individual and specific circumstances.

5.17 Protocol for inclusion / exclusion of 'core' sports

Suggestions for a sport to achieve 'core sport' status in the BAS competition:

1. BAS will support the trial introduction of a 'new' sport, if the sport is; to be administered by an external body, including the provision of administrators, officials, playing venues and required equipment; the sport does not exceed the acceptable running costs of other BAS sports; more than 3 BAS schools enter teams in the trial season.
2. Until the sport becomes a Premiership Sport non BAS schools can be invited to enter the competition and participate at any level once approval is attained. (There will need to be a recommended cut off point with 'invited' schools for the sport. Delegates/Sport Coordinators and finally Heads will need to endorse which non BAS schools are invited.)
3. Three or more schools (50 to 75/%) need to have participated in the same competition for a sustained period of two consecutive seasons before it achieves 'core sport' status and is recognised as a BAS Premiership Sport.
4. Once 'core sport' status is achieved, if the number of competing BAS schools drops to 3 schools or less, for 2 consecutive years' then the sport loses its core sport status and will not be recognised as a Premiership Sport or be administered by BAS.
5. If the number of competing BAS schools drops to 3 schools or less in any division of a core sport, for 2 consecutive years' it is recommended that a different night or format be trialled the following year. If entries are still 3 schools or less, then that division will no longer run and provision will be made for other divisions to include the students no longer provided for, E.g. Junior, Senior Open

