



NELSPRUIT PRIMARY SCHOOL

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5 - Nelspruit Primary Sport & Culture Policy (Revised: November 2024)

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the implementation of school sport consistently for all learners, irrespective of ability, in an age appropriate way based on the principle of equity. This policy is governed by the South African Schools Act, The Department of Basic Education, Sport and Recreation South Africa, other government sectors and among recognised implementation agencies delivering school sport.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Education system in South Africa acknowledges that the teaching of young people is a responsibility shared by School leadership, staff, parents, learners, families and members of its school community to ensure opportunity, excellence and inclusivity. This includes sports, cultural and extra mural activities.

Nelspruit Primary is such an educational institution where sport forms a major part of the holistic educational process of our school.

The purpose of this policy is to establish a disciplined and purposeful environment within the school, aimed at meeting and exceeding the expectation of all relevant stake holders within the school community. It is intended to be a living document that should be revisited on a regular basis and, if or where relevant, applicable or necessary, amended from time to time. In the dealing and implementation of this document, common sense should always prevail where all aspects regarding sport at Nelspruit Primary will be made on sound educational reasoning.

It is thereafter also binding on the entire community of Nelspruit Primary to abide by, respect, implement and practice the provisions of this policy. The community of Nelspruit Primary should strive for excellence in sport, through participation and performance, while embracing the ethos, traditions and spirit of our school.

2. AIM OF THIS POLICY

All learners should be encouraged to participate in sport and cultural activities in order to:

- (a) To live a healthy lifestyle and to enhance physical and emotional development;
- (b) To enjoy, have fun and participate;
- (c) To make friends;
- (d) To build a sense of camaraderie and be part of a team spirit;
- (e) To be taught mental strength, respect and hard work, in order to achieve goals and success;
- (f) To teach learners how to win with dignity and to lose with grace;
- (g) To develop both physically and mentally;
- (h) To participate and be victorious against rivals;
- (i) To serve the school and contribute in every aspect of school life;
- (j) To maintain a balance with regards to academic, sport/culture and social development;
- (k) To be afforded an opportunity to aspire to be the best they can be;

3. SPORT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED AT NELSPRUIT PRIMARY:

Term 1:	Term 2:	Term 3:	Term 4:
Athletics	Chess	Cricket (Only boys)	Soccer
Tennis	Netball	Cross Country	Tennis
Swimming	Rugby	Eisteddfod	Swimming
Choir	Cross Country	Hockey (Only girls)	Choir
	Choir	Chess	
		Choir	

4. STRUCTURE OF SPORT AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Deputy Principal in charge of sporting and cultural activities shall have overall responsibility for the Sports Policy and its implementation and the Sports Committee shall clearly define certain reasonable responsibilities of participants including conduct, dress and punctuality, all of which shall be adhered to. Queries or problems will be addressed by the Principal or Deputy.

- (a) The Deputy Principal in charge of sporting and cultural activities is in charge of the administration and management of all the sports and cultural activities at Nelspruit Primary.
- (b) The school Principal is to assist the Deputy Principal in charge of sport in directing the sports program.
- (c) An organiser is appointed for each sporting and cultural activity. This organiser is responsible for managing their specific sport or cultural activity and will be responsible for the day-to-day running of that sport or cultural activity on the school grounds.
- (d) Coaches and assistant coaches: comprising of educators, staff members as well as outsourced coaches appointed by the school for their experience and/or specific skill.
- (e) Each team or event (in the case of athletics) will have a coach to coach/manage the team/event.
- (f) The organiser will be in constant communication with the coaches and the learners regarding the specific sport's program.
- (g) In an effort to streamline communication to Senior Management of the school, all communication is directed through the Deputy Principal responsible for sport and culture, who will take the matter to Senior Management. Feedback will follow the same course. This process should be strictly adhered to, unless there are suitable reasons for not doing so.
- (h) It is important to note that the Deputy Principal responsible for sport and cultural activities will only communicate with organisers and not coaches.
- (i) When a parent has lodged a complaint, it must be addressed promptly and replied to without delay.

5. PARTICIPATION

- (a) Nelspruit Primary is built on the platform of learners participating to the best of their own ability, even though they may not be the most gifted sportsman, orator or actor.
- (b) The school expects learners to participate throughout the year in the sport and cultural program provided by the school.
- (c) Nelspruit Primary is a school that thrives on the mass participation of all our learners and staff.
- (d) Learners should embrace the opportunity to try out for sport and cultural activities that they do not specialise in, or that they are not familiar with as this will further assist in the development of a Nelspruit Primary learner into a well-rounded individual.
- (e) Learners should be allowed to participate in as many activities as possible and therefore the school should guard against “forcing” learners to specialise in one particular sport to the detriment or sacrifice of any other sports of his choice and interest.
- (f) Nelspruit Primary will rely heavily on its organisers and coaching staff to let common sense prevail in giving learners the opportunity to take part in a sport per season to the best of his/her ability.
- (g) Grade heads, with the help of register teachers and coaching staff, will keep register of activities that learners are taking part in.
- (h) Each sport codes will participate in the same league.

6. COMMITMENT TO A CHOSEN SPORT

If a learner commits him-/herself to a sport, the learner is deemed to have committed him-/herself for the rest of the season.

7. ATTENDING PRACTICES

If a learner does not attend practice before a match without a viable excuse or the learner failed to inform his/her coach that he/she will not be attending the practice, that learner should not participate in the sporting or cultural event.

8. SPORT DURING EXAMS

- (a) There will be no sport activities as normal during examinations unless where fixtures exist at provincial or national level.
- (b) Although the academic program is the priority focus of Nelspruit Primary, the school values physical exercise as an aid to a successful learner.
- (c) The school also wants to teach learners that a good academic learner needs to work hard and consistently throughout the year and should not leave all academic preparations for just before exam time.
- (d) That said, coaches are to be sensitive to the needs of their players that might be under intense academic pressure.
- (e) It is strongly advised to avoid midweek fixtures during exams.
- (f) The SMT will make an informed decision regarding practice during the exam.

9. SPORT SEASONS

Nelspruit Primary understand the importance of pre-season training, HOWEVER The precedence of the in-season program should not be compromised and it is the responsibility of the organisers and coaches, to make sure that the in-season program and schedule takes preference over any pre- season training

9.1 Pre-season

Pre-season can only be scheduled after in-season practice times.

10. SELECTION

- (a) Trials should be held at the beginning of the first and fourth terms (summer sport) and the second and third terms (winter sport).
- (b) Learners will be selected for teams based on merit;
- (c) Selection needs to be 100% fair, consistent, objective and impartial;
- (d) Coaches should communicate to players if they are going to leave a player out of a team;
- (e) This must be done with honesty and empathy;

- (f) Younger / older learners may not be drafted to be part of an older / younger aged team. E.g.: an u/9 learner will not be allowed to play for the u/10 team.
- (g) Communication must be of such a nature that the message should not come as a surprise to any of the learners;
- (h) Coaches should also give any learner that has been dropped, be it altogether or to a lower team, fair reason and explanation together with guidance on how he/she can improve in order to be considered for selection into any particular team.
- (i) A policy of "no practice, no play" exists, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

11. RESERVES

- (a) If a team needs reserves in case of injury during a match, they may take reserves from the team below only after that player has played a full fixture himself.
- (b) In those sports that choose a team of players for a match, care must be taken that all players need to play that fixture.
- (c) It is highly recommended that the composition of the team is such that all players play a minimum of half the allocated time for the game.
- (d) If a player is selected to go on tour and is not part of the first-choice team, he/she should at least play one third of the total time of all fixtures on tour.

12. TRAVEL TO SPORTS FIXTURES

Learners traveling to a sports fixture will at all times travel in full school uniform or approved school attire. If a learner, for some or other reason make use of private transport, that learner should arrive at the venue in full school uniform or approved school attire.

13. COACHES

Coaches should appreciate and respect that they are first and foremost role models for the learners. Strict adherence to the following is non- negotiable:

13.1 Administration and Communication

- (a) Ensure that the organiser can communicate with you. Be available on email, WhatsApp and mobile phone.
- (b) Communicate promptly and accurately when needed.
- (c) Adhere to time lines of team lists, bus lists and other important administrative duties.
- (d) Educators and coaches should be available to discuss problems and explain certain matters to parents via appropriate channels. This shall only be via appointment through the school's office. In the event of there being no resolution, the Deputy Principal in charge of sport and culture may be consulted by appointment.

13.2 Appearance

- (a) Coaches must be dressed in their Nelspruit Primary coaching attire.
- (b) New coaches should acquire the necessary garments as soon as possible from their organiser.
- (c) Coaches' appearance must at all times be neat and presentable, befitting a staff member.

14 BEHAVIOUR, CONDUCT & RESPONSIBILITIES

14.1 Code of Conduct for Coaches

- (a) Coaches must always speak and conduct themselves in a professional, respectful and helpful manner to any school management, fellow staff member, learner, parent, family, member of visiting school, official, or referee.
- (b) Coaches' conduct next to the field towards the referee/umpire, their own players and opposition team members should always be of the standard of "gentlemanly conduct".
- (c) Regulations of the sport with regards to technical areas etc. should be adhered to where applicable.
- (d) Arrogance, apathy, intolerance, bad sportsmanship, foul language, racism and side-line banter is strictly forbidden.
- (e) Respect practice schedules.

- (f) Attend all team practices and fixtures.
- (g) In a case of injury: the learner stays the coaches' responsibility until he/she can hand him/her over to his/her parents and/or medical staff.

14.2 Code of Conduct for Players

- (a) Play according to the rules and never question an umpire's decision. Leave any queries to your coach or team captain.
- (b) Control yourself at all times – never lose your temper with your opponents or fellow team mates.
- (c) Maintain a high “work rate”! This will be to the benefit of both you and your team.
- (d) Show respect to all players on the field.
- (e) Be sporting – acknowledge good play of both your team mates and opponents.
- (f) Play for your love of the game – not for the pleasure you think it gives your parents and coach.
- (g) Remember: The aim of sport is enjoyment and to develop your skills.
- (h) Learners, who on a regular basis, do not uphold this ethos, will be dealt with appropriately.

Consequences:

- (i) Verbal warning and counselling of the child.
- (ii) The child will be dropped from the team or suspended for one or more games/matches if unacceptable behaviour continues and a discussion will be held with the parents and child.
- (iii) In extreme cases a child may be suspended for the whole season after a discussion with parents.

14.3 Code of Conduct for Parents

- (a) Children learn best from the example which is set for them.

- (b) Children must never be forced to participate in any sporting code. Children should play sport for their personal enjoyment, and not for that of their parents.
- (c) Never humiliate or shout at your child if he / she makes a mistake on the field or loses a match.
- (d) Encourage your child to play according to the rules and to co-operate with coaches and umpires.
- (e) Continually reinforce the fact that it is just as important to play your best as it is to win.
- (f) Change losing into winning: help your child develop his / her skills and develop a spirit of sportsmanship.
- (g) Acknowledge all good play, regardless from which team.
- (h) Show respect for the opposing team at all times.
- (i) Set an example. Please refrain from swearing or insulting coaches / umpires publicly.
- (j) Acknowledge and support our volunteer coaches and umpires. They are offering their time and expertise for the good of the game.
- (k) Not every child is a future Springbok; some children are simply participating in organised sport.
- (l) Aggression / violence on the field will not be tolerated under any circumstances.
- (m) Appointments must be made with the coach to discuss any sporting issues which they might have.
- (n) Parents who, repeatedly, do not uphold this ethos should be dealt with firmly.

Consequences:

- (i) Parents will be asked to leave the playing area.
- (ii) Parents may be suspended from supporting their child for the rest of the season.

- (iii) If the parent continues with inappropriate behaviour, their child will be dropped or suspended from the team if behaviour continues and a discussion will be held with the parent.
- (iv) The above-mentioned sanctions will be managed and enforced by the SGB.

15. MEDICAL CARE & EMERGENCY/INJURY MANAGEMENT

- (a) Nelspruit Primary has a complete qualified first aid team, with senior (Level 3) first aiders on duty every day.
- (b) The school is also equipped with a complete set of emergency medical equipment, a sick room situated behind the hall, with beds.
- (c) Nelspruit Primary provides first aid care during games for Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Athletics.
- (d) In the case of a serious injury, the coach should first notify a senior first aider and then the learner's parents/guardians as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the coach to see that the learner gets referred to the proper medical treatment if his parents are not available.
- (e) A senior first aider will manage and assess any/all serious injury requiring more advanced assessment and treatment, or injury that may require the learner going to hospital such as serious stitches that cannot be done at the school, concussion, broken bones, unconsciousness etc. (The senior first aider is responsible for ambulance service should the learner need an ambulance).
- (f) If the learner is being sent to hospital, and parents are not available then it is the responsibility of the coach to accompany him if going by ambulance.

16. TOURS

- (a) It is the responsibility of the coach/es of a particular team, age group or code in association with the specific organiser to arrange tours.
- (b) Once details have been finalized, the Deputy Principal in charge of sport and culture and the Senior Management Team must be briefed on the proposed tour.

- (c) First teams are allowed to tour up to 600km from home whilst the other teams are allowed to take part in local tours and clinics.

17. TRANSPORTING OF LEARNERS IN SCHOOL BUSES

- (a) It is the responsibility of the particular educator/coach to ensure that all participants of an activity reach the venue for the activity.
- (b) Should the learner be unable to reach the venue by his / her own means; school transport may be made available to him / her where possible.
- (c) Parents are to be informed should it be necessary to make use of private transport.
- (d) Seatbelts are compulsory.
- (e) Any staff member driving a school bus must be in the possession of a valid Professional Driving Permit (PDP).
- (f) Even though every effort will be made to keep the buses roadworthy and safe, the driver must do a pre-trip check of tyre pressures and fuel levels.
- (g) Buses must be checked on a regular basis to ensure roadworthiness and service records must be kept up to date.
- (h) Learners are not permitted to eat in the school buses and buses are to be returned in a clean condition.
- (i) Participation in sport/culture beyond school level (e.g. Provincial level) will be entirely the responsibility of the parent. Learners who represent a provincial team need to provide their own transport to the different venues for participation UNLESS one or more of the school's coaches are also representing the province in an official capacity. In this case, the school (SGB) may grant permission to use the school vehicles. The costs for fuel and toll gates will be for the learner's parents to pay.

18. WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, the organiser of the specific sporting code must consult with the Deputy Principal in charge of sport and culture regarding cancellation and the office must be notified of the decision made.

- (a) Junior Phase Activities: Inform the office by 11:00

- (b) Senior Phase Activities: Inform the office by 12:00

18.1 Wet weather

- (a) Should continuing with outside activities no longer be of any educational value due to rain, wet fields or courts, the activity will be cancelled.
- (b) If it is raining at the above-mentioned times, and the forecast predicts that rain will continue for the duration of the afternoon, the activity will be cancelled.
- (c) If intermittent showers prevail and the forecast predicts that periods of clearing could be experienced, the activity should continue.
- (d) If the Sport Head and Deputy Principal are of the opinion that the fields and courts are not suitable for use due to excessive water or damage to them, the activity should not take place on the fields, but an alternative arrangement should be made.
- (e) In case an agreement cannot be reached – the principal/principals will make an informed decision.

19. Policy amendments

The school governing body may from time to time amend, supplement, modify or alter this policy.

This policy is approved by the principal (on behalf of all the staff), the Chairperson of the SGB (on behalf of all the members of the SGB) and the Circuit Manager, as per the signed Revised and Amended document (see Index).