

# Guidelines for SWISSA Schools



## SECTION 1

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### Introduction

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The South Western Independent Schools Sports Association (SWISSA) organises interschool sport, carnivals and gala days between Independent schools in the South West of the Sydney region, who uphold commonly shared values, beliefs and attitudes.

Interschool Sports include: Basketball, Soccer, Netball, Swimming, Cross Country, Oz-tag, Volleyball, Athletics and Touch Football.

Gala Days include: Futsal, Table Tennis, Soccer, Tennis, Cricket and Softball.

### Mission statement

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SWISSA's mission is to:

Provide opportunities for students to compete in structured sporting activities against other schools.

- Encourage participation, sportsmanship and fair play.
- Provide a pathway for further skill development and achievement at the higher levels of AICES (Association of Independent Co-Educational Schools) and CIS (Combined independent Schools).

## SECTION 2

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### Criteria and expectations for member schools

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Schools who are members of SWISSA (South West Independent Schools Sports Association) must meet the following criteria:

- member schools must be an independent school.
- member schools must be a coeducational school.
- member schools must be similar in size to each other.
- new member schools must use SWISSA as a pathway to AICES and CIS events.
- member schools must agree to uphold commonly shared values in terms of behaviour at SWISSA sporting events. This behaviour must reflect mutual respect for the values, religious and cultural beliefs and attitudes of others.

### Eligibility for SWISSA Team Sports

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Players who compete in SWISSA team sports must meet the following requirements.

- All players must be students of a member school within the SWISSA sporting organization.
- Players may only play in one team on any given day.
- A student may play in an older division than their own age group but never in a younger division.
- If a student plays in a team which is different to their normal team (eg. a student plays in an older division when their own team has a bye) they may only do so once. Once a student has played for a team on two occasions they may not return to their previous team.
- For a student to play in a finals game (i.e. a semi-final or a final) they must have played for the team on at least one other occasion prior to the finals.
- Note for convenors: Convenors should make every effort to ensure that all finals games are played concurrently

## SECTION 3

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### Representative selection procedures

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The selection of players to represent SWISSA should follow the following guidelines:

- A selection trial or Gala day will be held to select the team. In regards to swimming and athletics, students must finish in the top 2 of their event at the SWISSA Championships to qualify to represent SWISSA at the AICES Championships. In Cross Country, the top 8 per age group qualify at the discretion of the convener.
- Selection Gala Days are held for Basketball and Soccer and afternoon school trials will take place for Touch Football and Netball
- Students who are unable to attend trials will only be considered for selection if they provide sufficient evidence for not attending. Examples include: injury, academic commitments or absence due to holidays. Their selection will be based on prior knowledge of the student and their representative history.
- Coaches of the representative teams will liaise with the convener of the sport and school team coaches to select the best possible team
- The selection of the positions shall be by majority vote.
- In the event of a tied vote, the Convener shall have the casting vote.

**When Selecting Players for a representative team the selection committee will consider:**

- Performance in previous events
- Physical capacities
- Technical competence
- Tactical ability
- Potential to improve
- Competitive ability
- Attitude
- Team/Squad orientation
- Communication

## SECTION 4

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### Obligations for players selected to play in SWISSA teams

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Students who are selected to represent SWISSA must meet the following obligations:

- Students who are selected to represent SWISSA must do so with the upmost respect and sportsmanship. Failure to do so will lead to exclusion from other representative teams.
- Students who are selected and are unable to attend the AICES Championships must give at least 24 hours notice to the coach/manager of the team. Failure to do this will jeopardise their participation in future SWISSA teams.
- Students who represent SWISSA must inform the Representative Coach of their intentions of competing at the next level (AICES) if they are selected.
- Students will incur a fee to trial for SWISSA teams. Failure to pay this fee may exclude them from selection.

### Obligations for convenors and coaches of SWISSA teams

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Coaches and convenors of SWISSA sports must meet the following obligations:

- Fill in Team Selection Sheet with players Name, School Year, School Name and Date of Birth.
- Submit team nomination to AICES.
- Check availability of squad members prior to the trial date. This can be done by emailing Sport Coordinators.
- Collect, distribute and wash playing uniforms and return to the specified SWISSA representative (currently Ken Shaw) via your Sports Coordinator.
- Coaches and convenors must be approved by their schools with respect to Working With children Check requirements.

## SECTION 5

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### Decision making procedures for convenors of SWISSA competitions.

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#### Convenors of SWISSA sports should follow the guidelines:

The procedure for arriving at policy decisions is as follows:

- All member schools are to be given the opportunity to vote on decisions
- Decisions will be made according to a majority vote.

Please note:

In principle, the convenor will seek the consensus of other Sports Coordinators in the decision-making process. However, where this is not possible, the convenor has the authority to make decisions provided it is in the best interests of all SWISSA schools.

## SECTION 6

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### Players' code of behaviour

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Students who compete in SWISSA sports are expected to adhere to the following set of guidelines.

Players should:

- Learn and play by the official rules of each sport, and any specific rule modifications made for SWISSA provided to schools prior to sports events.
- In individual or team sports, display good sportsmanship. Respect your opponents and appreciate their good play. Shake hands with your opponent after the event.
- Accept winning or losing graciously. Be modest in success and appreciate the opponent's performance, even when defeated.
- Encourage your team mates and players even when they make mistakes. Remember, every player makes errors and has off days. Never ridicule opponents or team mates.
- Respect the time and effort put in by your players, coaches and officials. They deserve your support and full commitment.
- Never argue with an umpire, opposition player or official. If you have problems discuss it with your coach or team manager. These people can approach the official or umpire.
- Control your temper. Verbal or physical abuse, swearing and un-sportsmanlike behaviour are reportable actions and will not be tolerated. Play to enjoy the game and improve skills.
- Respect the equipment provided for you, it should be used responsibly. Abuse of equipment, such as throwing bats, is a reportable act and will not be tolerated.
- Set an example. If you want to be treated in a certain manner, then act that way to others. Be encouraging and fair - show respect to everyone, as they too, have feelings.

## Coaches and managers code of behaviour

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Coaches and managers who are involved in SWISSA sports are expected to adhere to the following set of guidelines.

Coaches and managers should:

- Ensure that players are aware of the official rules of the game and rule changes that apply to SWISSA.
- Recognize that games are for enjoyment and that satisfaction comes from doing one's best for the team.
- Never ridicule or yell at players for making mistakes or not winning.
- Exhibit role model appropriate behaviour by acting with integrity and professionalism because coaches and managers are likely to have the greatest influence on the behaviour of players and spectators.
- Always operate within the rules and spirit of the game, teaching players to do the same.
- Display control, respect and professionalism to all involved with the sport -- including opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, parents, friends and supporters - and encourage players to do the same.
- Be reasonable in demands on your player's time, energy and enthusiasm.
- Remove from the playing arena those players who are losing their composure and becoming too physical.
- Accept player safety as an essential priority and encourage correct techniques. - under no circumstances are matches to start or to continue under conditions which a coach considers contentious.
- Be responsible for the conduct of your team members at practice sessions and games.
- Discuss any coaching problems with the Sports Coordinator.
- Supervise the practice fields, courts or dressing rooms until all their players have left.
- Be familiar with the official rules of the sport being coached.
- When a player is injured, supervise his/her condition and administer First Aid only until qualified personnel take over.
- In all cases of severe injury, immediately notify the executive of the school involved, the parents and the Sports Coordinator so that a complete record of injuries is kept by the Sports Coordinator.
- Ensure that spectators from each school do not interfere with the conduct of the event, provide positive support, and leave the area free of litter at the conclusion of an event.

## Consequences of inappropriate behavior for students

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If any one of the above guidelines has not been adhered to, or if inappropriate behaviour occurs during a SWISSA event, the following is a guideline for dealing with inappropriate player behavior. Please note that these guidelines are in order. If the first level of action does not adequately address the issue the second level will be used. If the second level does not address the issue then the third and so on.

1. Dealt with by the Coach or Manager
2. Dealt with by the Sports Coordinator from the player's school
3. Collectively dealt with by SWISSA Coordinators for decision
4. Dealt with by the Deputy or Head of SWISSA School

If a student has been sent off the field or court for inappropriate behaviour, this will warrant a one week suspension. When the issue is significant and requires further action, all SWISSA Coordinators may be required to discuss a course of action. This may also include the involvement of Deputies or Heads of College.

Examples of consequences for inappropriate behaviour during a SWISSA event include:

1. Removal from SWISSA competition at time of the event and notification to Sports Coordinator for internal school action
2. Removal from SWISA representation for a 12 month period or indefinitely and notification to Sports Coordinator/Head of School for internal school action

Where internal school policies may conflict across SWISSA schools with respect to behavioural expectations, SWISSA Coordinators from all school shall meet to determine most appropriate course of action.

## SECTION 7

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### SWISSA finances

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Costs for various sporting events will be shared between member schools according to their involvement in these events.

Each member school must meet their obligations with regards to these costs so as to not burden other member schools.

Students will incur a small fee to trial for SWISSA teams. This will assist in meeting the cost of venue hire and officials. One member of the sports coordinators will act as treasurer for the association and will be responsible for holding any cash that is excess after these costs are met. This will in turn be used for other SWISSA needs.

The treasurer will report to the sports coordinators at each SWISSA sports coordinators meeting.