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RATIONALE

At St. Francis of the Fields Primary school, Students are given the opportunity to be selected to represent the school in a variety of sports. These include Swimming, Tennis, Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Football, Netball, Cricket and Athletics. These sports may have a school-based competition, followed by Catholic Sports, Divisional, Regional and State representative level competitions, as programmed by School Sport Victoria (SSV).

POLICY

Students who are currently playing a sport at a club level will have priority to apply to be chosen at a representative level, as they have shown a commitment to that sport. A selection process will be conducted if there are more children applying than the number of positions permitted to compete at competition level. This will be set by the SSV guidelines or determined by team coaches. Students will be notified via the sporting schedule of trial times and days.

SELECTION PROCESS

To be suitable for the selection process, students must have followed the school's expectations both in the classroom and yard, before being considered for selection. This is also important once in the team. If there are several students who would like to compete in an event and not enough places for these students, then there will be a trial process to select a team. There will be a minimum of 2 trials. Before the commencement of trials for each given team sport, children will be asked to indicate if they are currently playing, played in the past or never played before, but are interested in playing.

The selection process will follow these steps:

1. Priority will go to the students who are in Year 6 and are currently playing or have played that sport at a club level in the past 12 months (or intend to play in the remaining season and have shown previous commitment).
2. Priority will then go to the students who are in Year 6 who have shown past commitment to that sport i.e. have played in that sport at a club level in previous years.
3. Priority will then go to any students from Year 6 who have an interest in playing but have never played at a club level.
4. Priority will then go to students in Year 5 who are currently playing that sport at a club level that year.
5. Priority will then go to students who have played that sport in Year 5 at a club level in previous years.
6. A selection process involving several adults, will take place at school. A discussion between the selection panel members will take place and the students will be informed of who has successfully made it into the team/s.
7. At the end of the selection process, the team/s will be selected based on the tiers listed above and by the ability and skill of the students that is demonstrated during the selection process. The teams will be graded according to ability. All students involved in the selection process will be informed of the decisions made.

Absences (Team Sport):

If a student is unable to attend any school selection trials due to illness, a family holiday, or other significant

personal circumstances (e.g. a bereavement), the student and/or parent must notify the PE Coordinator before the trial period concludes to indicate that they would still like to be considered for selection. The student may then be invited to attend a training session prior to the competition. Their performance at this session will help determine whether a position can be offered.

If a student misses all trials without advising their intent to remain in consideration, we unfortunately cannot include them in the selection process.

Once the team has been finalised, if a selected student is absent from a competition, they will remain eligible for future representation should the team progress further. If an emergency player is required at any point, and the total squad remains within SSV team limits, the emergency player will be elevated to the team and continue to participate for the remainder of the competition pathway.

Absences- Relays (Swimming & Athletics):

An emergency team member will be named for each relay team. If an original team member is absent for a competition, the emergency will step into their position for that event. The original team member will return to the team for any future competitions once they are available again, and the emergency will resume their standby role should the team progress through to subsequent stages.

SSV State Teams:

Students representing St Francis at a SSV National event, will be offered financial support from the school.

This will be offered in two forms:

1. A donation from the school.
2. A unit fundraiser, this involves all students in the unit being invited to engage in an afternoon of activities for a gold coin donation.

*This will only be offered once, per child each year.

ENDORSEMENT

This policy was amended by the School's Physical Education Coordinator and Principal on December 8, 2025.

Danielle Coates- PE Teacher/Coordinator

Tim Moloney- Principal