



Northcote College

Policy Title:

Student Sport Fee Compliance & Participation Eligibility Policy

Policy Category:

Co-Curricular / Financial Governance

Date Presented to Board:

2nd March 2026

Proposed Effective Date:

2026 Sport Season

Review Cycle:

Every two years

Responsibility:

Director of Sport

1. Rationale

The school's sports programme provides significant educational, social and wellbeing benefits to students. Delivering high-quality sport requires funding to cover costs including (but not limited to):

- Competition entry fees
- Officials and referees
- Transportation
- Uniforms and equipment
- Coaching and administration

Outstanding sports fees place financial strain on the sustainability of the programme and create inequity across participating families.

This policy establishes clear expectations regarding fee payment while maintaining the school's commitment to equitable access and student participation.

2. Purpose

To:

- Ensure financial sustainability of the school sports programme
 - Promote fairness and accountability across all families
 - Provide clear eligibility guidelines
 - Support families experiencing genuine financial hardship
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3. Policy Statement

Students with outstanding sports fees from a previous year will not be eligible to represent the school in competitive fixtures until:

1. The outstanding balance is paid in full; OR
2. A formal payment plan has been approved and is being adhered to; OR
3. An alternative financial arrangement has been approved by the Director of Sport (in consultation with senior leadership), which may include a revised agreement relating to current year fees where exceptional circumstances exist.

Students may attend trials and trainings while financial matters are being resolved but may not compete until eligibility is confirmed.

4. Current Year Fee Expectations and Payment Plans

Upon registration for sport:

- Families will be invoiced for the current season upon team selection.
 - Students will automatically be expected to pay the fee in full prior to the playing season starting, unless communicated with the Director of Sport or Deputy Principal in charge of sport if they require a payment plan.
 - Compliance with the plan must be maintained to retain eligibility to play.
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5. Financial Hardship

The school recognises that financial hardship may arise.

- A limited hardship fund is available.
- Applications will be handled confidentially.
- Decisions will be made by the Director of Sport in consultation with the Deputy Principal and Principal.
- Assistance is subject to available funds and documented need.

The school's intention is to remove barriers to participation while ensuring fairness and programme sustainability.

6. Withdrawal from Sport

If a student withdraws mid-season:

- Fees may be adjusted proportionally where appropriate.
- Costs already incurred (e.g., registrations, uniforms, tournament bookings, transport) remain payable.

- Adjustments are at the discretion of the TIC and Director of Sport.
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7. Uniforms and Equipment

Unreturned or damaged uniforms and equipment will be invoiced and treated as an outstanding sports fee.

8. Administration & Management

- The Sports Office and TICs will monitor eligibility.
 - Families will be notified in writing of outstanding balances.
 - Coaches will be informed of eligibility status only (not financial details).
 - All financial matters will be managed respectfully and confidentially.
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9. Review

This policy will be reviewed initially at the end of year 1 (December 2026) and then biannually by the Director of Sport and reported to the Board