



ST PIUS X COLLEGE

CHATSWOOD

14th September, 2017

INTRODUCTION TO SPORT AT S.P.X

Firstly, welcome to all parents and boys new to the College in 2018. Welcome back to current parents and thank-you for your support throughout the 2017 sporting calendar. Sport is an integral part of the educational philosophy of St Pius and we have a proud sporting tradition, built on participation, mate-ship and fun. This is only maintained thanks to the dedication and support of staff and parents, and the participation of your son. Whilst I appreciate there is a lot of information here, please take the time to read through it.

Boys will participate in PE lessons and Thursday sport as part of their normal school program. We also expect all boys to play competitive sport on a Saturday. Whilst contributing to their overall education, this fosters school spirit and pride within the College and may lead to sporting opportunities at a higher level. All students *must* participate in at least two terms of Saturday sport, though most boys play year round. Once a boy has chosen to represent St Pius, **he must put his commitment to the school above any other team.**

Weekly Thursday Sport

Thursday sport usually takes place at the School's home grounds at Oxford Falls and travel to and from the school is by hired buses. Part of this time is used as an additional training session for those boys involved in Saturday sport. The remainder of the boys participate in a variety of activities with an emphasis on fitness, skill development and above all, enjoyment. We also complete numerous other programs including: Dance, Swimming, Surf Education, Charity events and Community events such as the Father and Son Day. On Thursdays, boys are required to wear school sports uniform including a hat (this may include a tracksuit and or spray jacket when required).

Parents wishing to collect their son/s directly from Oxford Falls after sport may do so at 2.20pm. **Please wait in the car-park until boys are packed up and dismissed.** Also, be prompt as any boy not collected by 2.25pm will return to Chatswood on the buses and be dismissed from the school.

Sports Carnivals

At various times throughout the year the boys will be involved in Junior School Carnivals such as Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country. The boys compete in their House teams and from these Carnivals, squads are chosen to represent St Pius at inter-school events.

The Swimming Carnival will take place on Wednesday 7th February at Macquarie University Aquatic Centre and parental support and assistance would be greatly appreciated. A separate note regarding this event will be dispatched when the boys start School in January.

Saturday Sport

Competitive Saturday Sport is offered each term. Depending on the sport, some teams are selective and graded on ability. Whilst District Cricket (traditional form) is on-going from last year, boys have the opportunity to trial for Basketball, Softball, and Tennis in Term 1 (these 3 sports are broken down into 1 term 'half' seasons). Apart from the training session at Thursday sport, some sports will have one other weekly training session. This may be before or after school but is usually on a Monday or Tuesday afternoon from 3.00-4.30pm or morning from 7.30-8.30am. A small fee is charged to school fees to cover referees, equipment etc. (about \$50 per term for most sports). A summary of Saturday sport follows:

Summer - Terms 1 and 4

- BASKETBALL:** SPX Junior School participate in the IPSHA Competition. Games take 45 minutes and are played at various venues between 8.00 and 11.30am. The season is split into 2 halves, the first commencing in Term 1, with a retriial before Term 4. The first game is on Saturday 10th Feb.
- CRICKET:** SPX Junior School play traditional Cricket in the Manly Warringah Competition in the afternoon slot, dependant on District scheduling (we have previously played A.M and also in North Shore Comp). Trials are held in Term 1 and 3, with the season beginning in September and running through till March, 2019. The parent based Cricket Club assist with organising/running teams.
- SOFTBALL:** SPX Junior School participate in the IPSHA Competition. Games take 60 – 90 minutes and are played at various venues between 8.00 and 11.30am. The season is split into 2 halves, the first commencing in Term 1, with a retriial before Term 4. The first game is on Saturday 10th Feb.
- TENNIS:** St Pius play in the NSTA (Northern Suburbs Tennis Association) Competition on Saturdays. Games are generally 2 hours and take place between 8.00am and Midday. Each Term represents a new 7 week season. Home courts are at Talus St, Naremburn or our Oxford Falls campus.

Winter - Terms 2 and 3

- AFL:** SPX compete in the IPSHA Competition run by AFL NSW. Games take an hour and are played at various neutral venues between 8.00 and 11.30am. We play 15 per side under parent body modified rules (nb. AFL is not offered in the Senior School).
- FOOTBALL:** (Soccer) SPX compete in the IPSHA Competition. Games take 45 minutes and are played at various venues between 8.30 and 11.30am. We play full field, 11 per side matches.
- RUGBY:** SPX compete in the IPSHA Competition. Games take 45 minutes and are played at various venues between 8.00 and 11.30am. We play 12-15 per side under parent body modified rules (as per club rugby).

Summer Sport Trials and Introduction Day

On Thursday 1st Feb and Thursday 8th Feb the boys will spend the entire school day at Oxford Falls. The purpose of these days is to familiarise the boys with the facilities, inform them of sporting expectations at SPX, conduct summer sport trials for basketball, softball and tennis, and build early peer friendships.

Dress: College sports uniform with hat (sunscreen is always provided at school)

Bring: Recess, lunch, drink (no canteen available), tennis racquet if trialling for tennis

Transport: Students are required at school normal time. Parents may collect their son from Oxford Falls at 2.20pm or they will return to Chatswood for dismissal.

Afternoon Tea: Parents are invited to attend on Thur 1st February from 1.45pm for a welcome afternoon tea.

Woodchatta: This is a key means of communicating on a weekly basis with you, the parents. It is emailed to parents each Wednesday and can also be found on the school website. Look to it for venues, times, changes, news and previous week's results. Contact the office should you need a hard-copy sent.

Portal / Website: All relevant sport information including notes, info letters, squads, venues and draws can be found on the College website: <http://goo.gl/bfdT9a> or SPX Portal (details/log-in to follow)

Colour Houses: Boys have been distributed evenly amongst the four Colour Houses. Should your son need to change so as to maintain a SPX family tradition (not to be with friends), please complete the relevant section on the accompanying *Saturday Sport Choice Form* or email myself.

If you have any questions regarding Junior School sport, or are able to assist in any capacity over the course of the year, please contact me.

We look forward to a happy and successful sporting year at St Pius.

Mr Greg Virgona

Junior School Sportsmaster

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