



South African College High School

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24 November 2017

SOUTH AFRICAN STATE BOYS SCHOOLS' SPORTS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

We, the members of the association of traditional State boys' schools in South Africa affirm that sport is an important part of the educational programme we offer at our schools. Our sports programme should exist to help us develop a strong character, healthy attitude and important life skills in **all** our boys.

Many of our educational objectives are being undermined by an overemphasis on results and on winning in particular. There is considerable pressure being brought to bear on schools from the misguided notion that a school is only as good as its sports results. To this end, unethical practices have developed to improve results and we run the risk of losing perspective and the educational reasons why we play sport.

In an effort to ensure that the sports programmes at our schools continue to be a healthy part of our educational offering, we hold firm to the following principles and practices.

Principles:

1. Sport is but one of the many important programmes we have at our school and must be for the benefit of **all** our boys.
2. All sport must be played within the rules of the specific code and in the spirit that sport was originally intended to be played.
3. We value good sportsmanship above results and reject gamesmanship in any form.
4. We believe that teachers play a vital role in the coaching and managing of sport and are the most suitable people to oversee all sport.
5. We applaud good behaviour by supporters and spectators on the side of the field and strongly discourage abusive comments directed at players or officials.
6. We admit boys to our schools based on the understanding that they will participate in our extra mural programmes and will benefit most from involvement in the full educational offering of the school, including but not limited to sport.
7. We will not engage in the practice of "poaching" players from other schools.

Practices:

1. We will field as many teams as we possibly can, given the constraints of facilities and available staff. We will not arbitrarily cancel fixtures.
2. We will teach boys to play by the rules and encourage them to enjoy the activity of which they are part.
3. We will actively promote good sportsmanship in our schools and encourage our boys to win with dignity and lose with grace.
4. We will develop our teachers and their skills in the coaching arena with a view to having as many teachers as possible play an active part of our sporting programmes.
5. We will teach our cheerleaders and boys to applaud good play from both sides and discourage jeering at any opposition's misfortunes. We will encourage respectful and robust competition within the bounds of good sportsmanship. We will be firm if our adult spectators, be they parents or Old Boys, behave in a manner we would not expect from people associated with our schools.

6. We reject approaching boys or their parents and/or offering incentives of any kind with a view to allowing or encouraging them to change schools.
7. We reject the practice of approaching primary school boys who are linked by their primary school's name to a suitable high school. Sports scholarships may be advertised but it is up to the boy's parents to take the matter further and to make application themselves.
8. We believe that if parents/guardians wish to place their child at another school, after their child has committed to one school (by accepting a place in writing or signing a tuition/enrolment agreement or by being in the school already), the onus lies with the Principals of the two schools to discuss the application. Any movements must be without financial incentive, for sound educational reasons, in the best interests of the boy and with the support of both Principals.
9. We reject the practice of enticing a boy to a different high school by the offer of boarding accommodation.
10. We reject the use of staff members, parents, alumni, pupils or well-meaning supporters to make offers to boys on behalf of the school.
11. We totally reject the use of performance-enhancing substances amongst our boys and will take active steps to discourage and bar such harmful practices.

Signed on behalf of the schools below:



**B.J. GRANT
HEADMASTER
THE SOUTH AFRICAN COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL (SACS)**

Afrikaanse Hoër Seunskool
Dale College
Grey College
Highlands North Boys' High School
Jeppe High School for Boys
King Edward VII School
Maritzburg College
Muir College
Paarl Boys' High
Parktown Boys' High School
Paul Roos Gymnasium
Pretoria Boys High School
Queens College
Rondebosch Boys High School
Selborne College
St Andrews School
Westville Boys High
Wynberg Boys High