BRADFIELD COLLEGE

Sports Policy

Document Control	
Document title:	Sport Policy
Author:	M Ruxton (Director of Sport)
Version number:	4.0
Document status:	Modifications to 1.0 approved
Effective date:	September 2026
Date of next full review:	September 2027
Documentation Location	Website/About Us/Polices or Firefly/

Version	**Author**	**Date**	**Changes**
1.0	RJW		
2.0	RJW	6/09/21	Reviewed - no changes to initial policy
3.0	RJW	18/11/24	Reviewed – minor change made
4.0	MMR	23/11/26	Reviewed – significant changes made in line with updated College Sports Policy

Bradfield College Sports Policy

General Aims

- Ensure all pupils have opportunities to exercise regularly, supporting an active and heathy lifestyle.
- Provide opportunities for as many pupils as possible to represent the school in competitive environments.
- Develop clear pathways for pupils to develop their sport to as high a level of performance as their ability allows.
- Create stimulating and enjoyable sports programmes that provide an appropriate balance of challenge and support, cognisant of each pupil's sport and physical activity aspirations.
- Use sport and physical activity as a vehicle to support the holistic development of every pupil.

Our Approach

The way we plan and deliver sport not only works to achieve these stated aims, but also takes account of the College's Education for Life principles and our desire to use sport as a vehicle to support the development of the College's values. The understanding that we are coaching within a school context, where we aim to support the pupils' holistic development, influences the way we coach. It is therefore expected that elements of the way we help pupils navigate their sporting journey will be seen in how our teaching and coaching staff operate:

- **High expectations** - we aim to challenge pupils to fulfil their capabilities, and we will work to do so by marrying this with appropriate support when and where required.
- **Wider skills and attributes** - we want sport to provide opportunities for enhancement of their skills, character and values. Our coaches will therefore work to maximise the responsibility pupils are given. This may mean they allow mistakes to be made, within the context of supporting pupils to find solutions themselves. Whilst on occasion this could reduce the likelihood of short-term success, we believe it has long-term benefits to the pupils' overall progress.
- **Long-term development** – we aim to make decisions in the best interests of each pupil, considering their long-term development and with an understanding that each pupil's progress is individualised and non-linear.
- **Breadth of opportunity** – we work to ensure all pupils maintain some breadth in their sporting experience, understanding that this has positive associations with long-term outcomes, retention in sport and in reduced injury risk, particularly in later life.

Physical Activity Pathways

Pupils can access sport via one of our three participation pathways:

- **Performance Sport** – These sports offer competitive opportunities across a minimum of two terms. Fixtures and competition entries have a clear performance focus, challenging pupils at the highest level on a national basis. Programmes will offer in the region of 7 to 10 hours of training per week.
- **Competitive / Participatory Sport** – Activities that are offered for either one, two or three terms, depending on pupil engagement and competitive cycles. A minimum of two training sessions are offered each week, with fixtures taking place in 75% of each term's weeks.
- **Health and Recreation** – Activities that are formally scheduled, organized and delivered by teachers or coaches, with the aim of offering non-competitive environments in which pupils can participate in physical activity.

Performance Sport	Competitive / Participatory Sport	Health and Recreation
Cricket (Boys and Girls) Football (Boys and Girls) Golf (Boys and Girls) Hockey (Boys and Girls) Tennis (Boys and Girls) Netball (Girls)	Athletics Badminton Basketball Fencing Futsal Golf Lacrosse Sailing Shooting - Clay and Target Rifle Squash Swimming	Athletic Development Climbing Cross Country Hyrox Martial Arts Mountain Biking Pilates Spinning Yoga Swimming (free swim)

Pupil Engagement in Sport and Physical Activity

As a College we are proud of the way in which our pupils participate in physical activity. To support high levels of engagement, we use participation guidelines as pupils plan their involvement. These are designed to provide a balance between creating clear expectations around minimum levels of expected engagement, whilst also providing some flexibility for pupils to have an element of choice around which activities they participate in. The table below provides a summary of these. The first row explains the minimum participation levels we will expect on a term-by-term basis, whilst the second row highlights our overall expectations across the academic year.

Faulkner's	Shell & Fifth Form	Sixth Form
- Participate in one of the term's large competitive / participatory sports. - Pupils can supplement their programme with involvement in additional competitive / participatory sport and / or additional recreational activities. - Participate in a minimum of four physical activity sessions each week (sessions can include fixtures).	- Participate in either a performance or competitive / participatory sport. - Participate in a minimum of four physical activity sessions each week (sessions can include fixtures). - Pupils can supplement their programme with additional competitive / participatory sport and / or recreational activities.	- Participate in a minimum of three physical activity sessions each week (sessions can include fixtures) irrespective of which physical activity pathway they are in.
- Participate in one of the large competitive sports in all three terms. - Participate in at least three team sports each year.	- Participate in a performance or competitive / participatory sport in all three terms. - Participate in at least two team sports each year.	- Participate in a performance or competitive / participatory sport in at least two of the three terms. - Participate in at least one team sport each year. - Pupils have the option to opt into the recreation pathway in one of their three terms.
Only in exceptional circumstances will a pupil be allowed to be exempt from this structure and such an arrangement will need to be agreed by the HSM, The Director of Sport and if required by the Deputy Head, Co-Curricular.		

Selection of Squads

At the start of each academic year, pupils will attend trials in sports that are being offered in that term, with the aim of these to give pupils a fair opportunity to demonstrate their ability. Pupils will then be placed into squads based on their application, attitude and ability. The makeup of these squads will change throughout the term in which a sport is offered. Movement between squads will be based on a pupil's commitment to training and fixtures, their approach in training and application in relation to the

College's values, their effort levels and their level of performance. Where a sport runs across multiple terms, this on-going evaluation will continue.

With a number of our performance sports, there will be a limited number of squads offered in the term in which that sport has not traditionally been the major sport. For example, netball in the Michaelmas Term, Boys' Football in the Lent Term and Tennis in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Where this is the case, a select group of pupils will be offered the opportunity to participate in these performance squads for an additional term or terms. With the aim of these squads being to provide elongated training and competition periods to support those pupils with realistic aspirations of following a performance pathway (e.g. US College / UK University Performance Programme / Academy, Regional or International Sport), the expectation and commitment required of pupils involved in these will be significant. Again, selection to these will be based on commitment to training and fixtures, approach in training and application in relation to the College's values, effort levels and performance level.

Where a pupil or their parents have a query or concern about the squad they have been selected to, we ask that in the first instance and wherever possible thereafter, that the pupil raises this directly with their coach. This process helps us work to develop pupils' independence, resilience and confidence. If this has happened and concerns remain, parents are asked to communicate directly with the relevant Head of Sport. At this point they will listen to the concerns, and if necessary communicate with relevant coaches directly to ensure the College's selection policy has been applied correctly.

Organisation of Squads

Once squads have been selected, pupils will be added to the relevant training squad within the co-curricular section of SOCS. This will automatically populate each pupil's SOCS calendar with their training schedule. It will usually transpire that pupils will be selected to play for the team of the squad they are regularly training with. There may, however, be occasions where they are selected in a higher or lower team depending on other pupils' availability or based on selection related to recent performances in training and fixtures. Once a pupil has been selected for a squad on multiple occasions, normal working practice would expect them to move into this squad's training group.

Where a pupil would like to participate in multiple activities, their tutor and HsM will support them to plan their weekly schedule accordingly. Where clashes occur, there may be the need to create bespoke training schedules for an individual in an attempt to support their overall sporting goals. Where a pupil is training in more than one sport, there may also be occasions where fixtures in the two sports take place at the same time. When this occurs, staff will work to identify these clashes prior to the date of the fixture with the aim of selecting them to the squad that most effectively supports the pupil's sporting priorities. There may, however, be occasions where pupils are asked to play in a specific fixture if this enables a squad to be fulfilled, or they have the potential to support its performance goals, especially if the fixture is in a recognised league or cup competition. Where required, the Director of Sport will make the final ruling if the selection cannot be resolved through normal negotiation. Where possible, clashes between house matches and College fixtures are avoided. However, where a clash exits, the school fixture will take precedence over the house fixture.

College Fixtures

If a pupil is required to represent the College in a team, then he or she must honour this commitment. Weekend leave should not be taken until after the game has been played. Regular squad members must expect to be on stand-by for all calendared matches in their sport and reserves and non-travelling reserves should be named for all fixtures. In our attempts to maximise competitive opportunities for pupils, the large number of fixtures we offer means that teams often operate with a limited number of substitutes. If pupils withdraw from fixtures, this can result in us having to cancel fixtures, thus letting opponents down, as well as reducing competitive opportunities for other Bradfield pupils selected in these sides. We therefore operate a number of central expectations related to school fixture availability:

- If parents would like to request absence from a Saturday fixture, we ask that this is communicated directly to the relevant HsM.
- We ask that these requests are received at least four weeks in advance. This timescale aligns with the wider College absence policy and provides us with a sufficient lead in period that enables Heads of Sport to monitor overall absence requests.

- In the week of the fixture, absence from fixtures will only be authorized for exceptional circumstances. This does not include non-urgent medical/dental appointments, which we ask parents to book at other times.

Fixtures and Team Sheets

Selection to fixtures is communicated by our SOCS platform. Information regarding which squad a pupil has been selected in, their location, start and expected return times can be found on the relevant team sheet. With training sessions taking place on Thursday afternoons, the expectation is for coaches to populate team sheets by 7pm on a Thursday evening. Details of how to access SOCS will be populated to parents at the start of each academic year or can also be requested via the Co-Curricular Office.

Cancelled Matches

Unfortunately, matches do get cancelled at relatively short notice on occasion due to poor weather or opponents being unable to raise sides. When this occurs, we will change the status of the fixture on SOCS and communicate this to pupils as quickly as possible. If parents are intending to travel to watch a fixture, we ask them to double check its status on SOCS before they leave home.

Pupils Competitive Code of Conduct

We expect pupils to adhere to the highest standards of behaviour in both training and competitive situations / fixtures, whether these are against other schools, clubs or in internal fixtures that are played, including both inter-squad and house matches.

When participating, pupils are expected to:

- Always apply maximum levels of effort, irrespective of the stage of a fixture / competition or the score-line.
- Play fairly within the rules / laws / spirit of the sport in which they are participating. It is understood that on occasion when playing sport, these rules / laws may be inadvertently broken, but in these instances, pupils are encouraged to highlight these to the coach / official, where possible within the confines of the situation.
- Demonstrate respect towards officials, opponents, coaches and spectators.

Where a pupil or group of pupils falls short of these expected behaviours, sanctions exist to help the College educate that pupil, team and the wider community that their behaviour is not acceptable. In these instances, coaches will be asked to follow the relevant guidance within the staff sport and physical activity handbook. Taking into account the specific circumstances of each situation, a decision will be made as to whether the behavior should trigger a sports related sanction such as a suspension from the following game / games. In instances where behaviour falls significantly below expectations, it may be referred to the Second Master and considered against the College's wider behaviour policy.

Away Fixture Collection

We are happy for parents to take pupils home directly from opposition schools after their Saturday fixtures. We ask that they sign out with their coach before leaving. If they are being collected by another adult or by taxi, then this needs to be communicated to the respective HsM prior to the fixture. Unfortunately, without this confirmation, staff are unable to let pupils leave fixtures with another adult.

Spectators' Code of Conduct

We welcome parents, family and friends to support pupils during College fixtures. We ask that all spectators behave in a way that ensures both Bradfield pupils and those from opposing schools have a positive sporting experience. Spectators are asked to adhere to the following guidance:

- We encourage support but ask that everyone conduct themselves in a manner that promotes respect and that contributes to a positive experience for all players, staff and spectators.

- Spectators should feel free to appreciate the pupils' effort, skill and fair play, but we would encourage them not to focus on the end-result of the match.

- At no point should spectators enter a playing area until after the end of the match.

- Spectators should refrain from making any negative comments towards players, coaches or officials.

- To ensure fair play, we ask that there be no coaching or officiating from spectators, and that supporters do not approach match officials before, during or after play.

Match Tea

In an attempt to get pupils away promptly after fixtures, we have removed the requirement for Bradfield pupils to attend match tea after home fixtures. Provision will, however, be in place for away teams when they request it, and on these occasions, Bradfield pupils are welcome to attend tea. Parent teas will continue to be provided on Saturday afternoons and for midweek games where there are a significant number of teams playing.