



The King's Norton School for Boys School Sports Guidelines

Introduction

Our universal offer of PE lessons, House Competitions and extra-curricular clubs encourages students to participate in and enjoy all aspects of sport and games. These are available to all students to attend and are open to all to enable us to meet our aim of developing a lifelong love of, and participation in, sport in our boys.

We also run competitive teams in addition to the universal offer and this enables selected students to actively engage and participate in competitive sport their lives, which may have health and social benefits. Unfortunately, the demand for places in our selected teams is often greater than the places that are available. Therefore, we have developed this guide so families can see our approach to team selection and our universal PE offer.

Fixtures and Competitions

As a school, we enter several competitions from local to national level across a range of sports. Throughout the year, we also organise inter-house sporting competitions to offer all students the chance of participating in semi-competitive sporting situations. Fixtures are played both during school time and after school and range from cross country to football.

Squad Selection

Ideally, we would like to include every eligible student in each fixture, however, due to circumstances beyond our control (usually squad size restrictions, staffing ratio requirements for off-site activities, transport restrictions) this is not always possible.

Therefore, we start each year by running trials to determine the initial squads for that year.

Trials

Following initial team trials, team selection is based on the following criteria:

- Aptitude, skills and tactics demonstrated in trials, lessons and extra-curricular activities
- Attitude in trials, extra-curricular and matches (on and off the field of play)
- Understanding of games, tactics and rules
- Enthusiasm to learn and improve one's game
- Performances and effort in trials, lessons and practises
- Continued commitment to the team
- General level of fitness
- Emotional maturity to cope with pressure and resilience in dealing with failure in competitions and when not chosen to participate in competitions and matches
- Understanding the importance of safety

- The way students present themselves when representing the school at fixtures, and when representing the team around school and in lessons (e.g., STRIVE values and SDfL point loss).

The decisions regarding which students to select is never easy and many conversations take place to ensure that choices are as fair and just as possible. We also have to consider the level of the competition that the team will be facing and select students accordingly.

We do choose what we consider to be our best squads for any competitive sporting fixtures, however, no squad is set in stone; team line-ups are fluid and, through experience, we know that students develop at different rates.

We do appreciate how disappointing it is not to be chosen for a match or a squad, which is why we also try to arrange 'friendly' fixtures wherever possible. In this way, we try to include everyone. Our overriding principle, however, is to play the appropriate team for that fixture and level of competition.

Students that are not selected in the squad still have access to PE lessons, house competitions and extra-curricular clubs. If the opportunity arises, we will also try and organise B team, and even C team, fixtures if time, facilities and opposition allow. All our extra-curricular clubs are open to *all* students - they are not just team practises.

Team Selection

The starting line-up for each fixture will be displayed on the notice board in the sports hall as early as possible before each fixture. We ask individual students to notify their parents of the details, including date and estimated arrival time back to school.

If a student is unavailable, it is the responsibility of the individual student to notify their team manager of their unavailability as soon as possible to allow time to select a replacement. Also, if any fixture is postponed (e.g., due to poor weather or transport issues), it remains the responsibility of the student to notify parents. If students need assistance in letting parents know then they should speak to their team manager.

We understand that every member of the squad will want to play in the starting line-up. However, if squad members find themselves as a reserve or substitute then they should support their team mates fully. Team managers will continually assess the game situation, standard of opposition and importance of the match and will make substitutions to include all selected players if appropriate. However, there may be times when squad members might not get much game time and it is important that in these circumstances our players show the character and resilience to accept those decisions.

It is also important to recognise the difference in squad sizes for fixtures. Each sport has varying squad sizes these are dependent rules for competition. For example, Year 7 football is 9 a-side and game day squads are made up of a maximum of 12 players; in comparison, Year 8 football is 11 a-side and has bigger squads.

PE staff and team managers will endeavour to speak with all the students in advance of the fixture season to help them to understand the process of team selection and explain what they can do to improve their chances of being selected in the future. If players have questions, then they should ask politely at an appropriate time. However, the selection decisions are for the team managers to make, and these decisions are final. It is important that the natural frustrations of losing a match, spending time on the bench and/or poor personal or team performance are managed carefully by both school and home. We expect all parties to manage those frustrations and help our young men to grow from their experiences and become more rounded individuals.

Team Kit

The school holds team kit which will be issued to students when required. In the interests of personal safety, no jewellery is permitted. We ask all students to take personal responsibility for any additional equipment required (such as boots and shinpads) and their personal belongings and valuables.

Behaviour

At KNSB, we set high expectations for behaviour, and we uphold strong standards for the conduct of our students (STRIVE values). Team Managers will regularly receive the SDfL point loss for their match squad. Any behavioural issues will be identified, and targets will be set for improvement. If a student's behaviour issues persist, their place in the squad will be reviewed. Students *will* make mistakes, however, representing the school is an honour which must not be taken for granted. There have been instances where continued negative behaviour has led to time out of the team, and if the need arises this will happen.

Travel

Students will be notified of fixtures at the earliest opportunity. When the fixture is away, we will provide students with an estimated time for our arrival back to school. This may vary due to local traffic conditions, extra time etc. Students will be dismissed as soon as they arrive back at school. They will be allowed their mobile devices following matches, to enable them to update parents on their estimated time of return.

Medical conditions

The school must be updated on any medical conditions at the start of the year. It is the responsibility of the parents and student to ensure any medication needed (e.g., inhalers or EpiPens) are in a student's possession at the time of all fixtures. If it is discovered that students do not have their required medication with them, they will not be able to participate.

Role of Parents/Carers

We would like to thank parents/carers in advance for supporting us as follows:

- If your son is selected regularly for a team, please help them to understand it is an honour and privilege to represent KNSB and they should be proud of themselves.

- If your son is not chosen for a given match or is a substitute, encourage them cheer on their teammates and show a positive attitude. Also encourage them to keep coming to clubs and enjoy what they do within that extra-curricular club; they are still part of the success of their teammates.
- We understand that parents/carers and spectators have a great influence on the students' enjoyment and success in sport. Safeguarding regulations make it very difficult to allow visitors onto site to watch fixtures. For instance, a member of staff will need to be available to chaperone parents who come to school to watch matches - this is often difficult when many fixtures across different ages can be taking place at the same time. We do pledge to make every effort possible to ensure any home semi-final and all finals are available for families to watch.
- We believe that taking part in lessons and clubs contributes to each student's personal development and self-esteem. Similarly, our teams play to 'win' but not at any cost. It is important to play in the right spirit and in a supportive atmosphere. To achieve this, we do heavily rely on everyone at matches to behave in an appropriate manner, to respect team selection and support the students positively.

KNSB Team Member Contract.

Each student and parent/carer will be expected to sign a copy of the KNSB Team Member Contract/consent form. The purpose of this contract is to ensure that all parties are aware of the expectations of a KNSB sports team representative, have read the KNSB PE team selection policy, shared any vital medical information with the school and provided consent to attend home and away fixtures.

This policy is reviewed regularly by the Physical Education department, in consultation with their SLT link, in the light of experience, research and good practice.

Last review: September 2024

Next reviewed by: September 2025