



Sports Participation Policy

29/09/2025

Policy Statement

The Intermediate School Killorglin recognises and values the contribution of sport to the holistic development and wellbeing of our students. This is reflected in the Mission Statement of the school

Pupils will always be encouraged to enjoy leisure in life, to participate in sport, in creative activities, to be inventive and to be generous with their talents.

Sport encourages teamwork, discipline, respect, and school spirit. This policy sets out how sporting activities are organised and managed, within the school. The school actively encourages all students to participate in extra-curricular sport. This commitment is reflected in the wide range of sporting opportunities made available.

This policy has been developed in accordance with the following school policies:

- Child Safeguarding Statement
- Data Protection Policy
- Code of Behaviour
- Bí Cineálta Policy
- Health and Safety Statement
- Mission Statement

Students are required to comply with the school's Code of Behaviour, Substance Use Policy, and Acceptable Use Policy at all times while participating in school-organised sporting and extra-curricular activities.

Rationale

- To promote physical health, mental wellbeing, and lifelong participation in physical activity,
- To encourage teamwork, fair play, and respect for others,
- To provide opportunities for talent development and school representation,
- To ensure equality of access and participation for all students.

Scope

This policy applies to all students, staff, and parents/guardians involved in:

- Extra-curricular school sports
- Inter-school competitions
- Recreational and non-competitive sporting activities

A broad range of extra-curricular sports is offered to students in the Intermediate School. The continuation of these activities depends on a variety of factors, including staff availability, resources, and timetable considerations. While every effort is made to maintain a diverse programme, the school cannot guarantee that any particular sport will be offered in every academic year.

Junior Cycle Physical Education (PE) is offered as a short course to all students and adheres to the NCCA short course specification. Senior Cycle PE is offered as a non-exam subject. The teaching of PE at all levels is in line with the relevant specifications and curricula.

Roles and Responsibilities

Students:

- Attend training and matches regularly and punctually.
- Inform coaches/mentors of reasons for absence from training.
- Inform coaches/mentors of any relevant medical conditions or injuries.
- Show respect to teammates, opponents, coaches, referees, and facilities.
- Balance academic responsibilities with sporting commitments.
- Abide by the school's Code of Behaviour when representing the school.
- Students are expected to maintain their academic responsibilities and to catch up on any schoolwork or homework missed while representing the school at a sporting event.

Parents/Guardians:

- Encourage participation and support positive sporting behaviour,
- Respect the professional judgment of coaches and staff.
- Uphold and support school policies and procedures.
- Follow the Parent & Supporter Code of Conduct.

Coaches/Teachers:

- Organise training sessions, matches and competitions, with the support of school management,
- Promote inclusion, safety, and enjoyment for all students.
- Maintain accurate records of student attendance at training sessions and competitions
- Record and report any incidents or accidents in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Statement
- Provide school management with the names of students attending sporting events to ensure the accurate maintenance of school attendance records
- Apply agreed Team Selection Criteria.
- Communicate expectations clearly to students.
- Ensure all students are given opportunities to participate at a suitable level as determined by the coaches and mentors.

School Management:

- Provide facilities, equipment, and organisational support.
- Ensure compliance with child protection, health & safety, and equality legislation.
- Investigate complaints according to school grievance procedures.
- Oversee and review this policy to ensure fairness and accountability.

Team Selection Criteria

Selection for school teams is conducted through a fair and transparent process. Coaches, teachers, and mentors will apply the agreed criteria when making decisions. The criteria are not presented in order of priority, and selection will always be made with the overall best interests of both the players and the team in mind.

Membership of a school sports panel or team is regarded as a privilege rather than an entitlement. Coaches, teachers and mentors reserve the right to withhold a student from attending or participating in a game or event if the student's behaviour does not meet the standards expected by the school, as outlined in the Code of Behaviour.

Being included in a training panel does not guarantee selection for competitive fixtures, nor does it guarantee equal playing time. Coaches, teachers, and mentors will make final decisions on team selection and participation, guided by the published criteria and the developmental needs of students. The decision of the coaches is final.

- Commitment – attendance and punctuality.
- Effort & Attitude – respect, work ethic, positivity.
- Teamwork & Sportsmanship – support for teammates, fair play.
- Skill Development – effort to improve and contribute effectively.
- Behaviour & Academic Engagement – good conduct and school effort.

Ratified by:

J. O'Donoghue

Date:

29/09/25

Appendix A

Parent & Supporter Code of Conduct

The role of Parent/Guardian and support is to provide positive encouragement to the team and/or player(s)

Parents and supporters must:

- Encourage all players equally.
- Focus on effort and enjoyment, not just results.
- Respect coaches' professional judgment and decisions.
- Raise concerns only through the school's Complaints Procedure.
- Accept referees' decisions without argument.
- Be positive role models on sidelines.
- Communicate respectfully with the school.

Breaches of this code may result in restricted attendance at school sporting events.

Appendix B – Extra-curricular Sports Participation Agreement.

Purpose:

This agreement confirms that students and parents/guardians have read, understood, and agree to comply with the [School Name] Sports Participation Policy, including all related policies referenced therein (e.g., Code of Behaviour, Health & Safety Policy, Child Protection Statement, Substance Use Policy, Acceptable Use Policy).

Student Responsibilities

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that:

1. I have read and understood the Sports Participation Policy.
2. I will comply with the Code of Behaviour and other relevant school policies at all times while participating in school-organised sporting activities.
3. I understand that membership of a school sports team or panel is a privilege, not a right.
4. I will attend training and matches as required and catch up on any schoolwork missed due to participation.
5. I understand that coaches, teachers, and mentors may withhold participation in events if my behaviour is not consistent with school expectations.

Student Name (print): _____

Class: _____

Student signature: _____

Date: _____

Sport/Team: _____

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

By signing this agreement, I acknowledge that:

1. I have read and understood the Sports Participation Policy.
2. I support my child in complying with the policy, including attendance, behaviour, and academic responsibilities.
3. I understand that decisions on team selection, match participation, and training are made by school staff in accordance with the policy and agreed selection criteria.
4. I will respect the professional judgment of coaches and teachers and will raise any concerns only through the school's formal Complaints Procedure.
5. I will model respectful behaviour at matches, training, and other school sporting events, in line with the Parent & Supporter Code of Conduct.

Parent/Guardian name (print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

