



Falls Creek Primary School

Interschools Snowsports Policy 2020

Purpose

To explain to our school community the processes and procedures Falls Creek Primary School will use when planning and conducting Interschools Snowsports camps.

The school's Interschools Snowsports program enables students to further their snowsports experience, and develop team and social skills in a non-school setting. The program promotes self-esteem, resourcefulness, independence, leadership, judgement, cooperation and tolerance. Interschools Snowsports camps have an outdoor and physical education emphasis and are an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

Scope

This policy applies to all Interschools Snowsports camps organised by Falls Creek Primary School.

This policy is intended to complement the Department of Education and Training's policy and guidelines on excursions, camps and adventure activities which all Victorian government schools are required to follow. Falls Creek Primary School will follow both this policy as well as the Department's policy and guidelines when planning and conducting Interschools Snowsports camps.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, an Interschools Snowsports camp is defined as any activity involving participation in Interschools Snowsports competitions, whether overnight accommodation is involved or not.

Policy

- Participation in Interschools Snowsports competitions is voluntary. No school student or family will be pressured into participating.
- The program will be available to students in Years 3 to 6. Participation of younger students will be at the Principal's discretion.
- School Council will ensure that all parents are made aware that participation in Interschools activities is expensive, however will endeavour to maintain them at the most reasonable and affordable cost possible, and comply with all Department of Education requirements.
- The school newsletter will provide parents with dates and approximate costs associated with the year's Interschools activities as early as possible. Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual camps as soon as practicable.
- All families will be given sufficient time to make payments for individual camps. Parents will be reminded of the need to finalise payment before commencement of the camp. Children whose payments have not been finalised before the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Principal. Any family who has not met the required alternative payment arrangements for a previous camp will be unable to participate in further camps until the outstanding payment is finalised.
- Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend Interschools competitions, are welcome to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a confidential case-by-case basis.
- Interschools Snowsports activities are an outdoor education activity and as such, are subject to specific [planning and approval guidelines](#). School Council is responsible for approval of all snowsports

excursions and camps. The organising staff will comply with all relevant Department of Education guidelines when planning and seeking approval for Interschools activities and ensure that time permits for the matter to be placed on a School Council agenda and, if approved, that the online [Student Activity Locator](#) form then be submitted three weeks prior to the activity.

- As it is a school activity, the Principal will be mindful of duty of care obligations and take reasonable steps to plan and manage the activity even though the Interschools are operated by a third party.
- School Council requires that a report be tabled after each Interschools Snowsports camp, detailing feedback regarding the event, in particular any mishaps or areas for future improvement.
- Due to the nature of Interschools Snowsports competitions in an often hostile environment, a high ratio of parents to students is required. Parent volunteers will need to be prepared to assist with all aspects of the camp and competition. The teacher in charge will allocate duties to parents attending. These may include, but not be limited to:
 - Supervision of both their own children and the children of others during competition and whilst free skiing/boarding
 - Supervision of children in the place of accommodation
 - Assistance with meal preparation and cleaning, eg as house parent to those children not skiing or during times of bad weather
 - Team Manager duties
 - Interschools volunteer official duties
- The teacher in charge will ensure that parent volunteers understand the responsibilities of the above duties, the school's injury and accident protocols, the importance of children being supervised at all times and the need for them to communicate with the teacher in charge if they are unable to fulfil their duties. Parents will be responsible for their own children outside of competition hours. Meetings will be held both prior to the events and during the events to stress these matters.
- Parents, staff and children attending Interschools Snowsports events must understand and comply with all [Snowsports Development Foundation rules and codes of conduct](#).
- Parents must read, sign and comply with the Falls Creek Primary School Parents Code of Conduct at Interschools Competitions. *Refer to Appendix 1.*
- Parents must read, understand and comply with the [Falls Creek Primary School Child Safe Policy](#) and sign the [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#).
- Parent volunteers must read, understand and comply with the [Falls Creek Volunteers Policy](#) and sign the Volunteer Code of Conduct. They are also required to have a valid Working with Children Check.
- Parent volunteers will be required to pay their camp costs, eg accommodation, meals, lift tickets and transport.
- Parents whose children win and take home an individual perpetual trophy will be required to return the trophy, after engraving, to the school by the beginning of Term 2 of the following year to allow time for the school to return it to the Snowsports Development Foundation.
- Interschools teams will be decided by the Snowsports coordinator, in consultation with the Principal. Selection will be based on:
 - Any current year race results that are known to the school
 - Interschools results from the previous year
 - Cross country trials held by Falls Creek Primary School
- All children attending Interschools Snowsports competitions need to have a parent taking responsibility for them. Parents who are unable to accompany their own children should have another parent or adult agree in writing to take responsibility for their children.
- Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable and responsible behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the Interschools Snowsports program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in an Interschools experience due to poor behaviour at school. If the unsatisfactory behaviour continues, the child will then be excluded from the Interschools. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher.
- Parents will be requested to collect their child from camp if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.

- The primary reference that must be consulted when considering all camps is the [Excursions and Activities](#) section of the School Policy and Advisory Guide.

References

School Policy and Advisory Guide:

- [Excursions and Activities](#)
- [Emergency and Risk Management](#)

[Safety Guidelines for Education Outdoors](#)

[Interschools Snowsports](#)

Review cycle

This policy will be reviewed annually at the conclusion of the Interschools Snowsports program.

This policy was last updated and approved by School Council in October 2019 and is scheduled for review in October 2020.



**FALLS CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENTS CODE OF CONDUCT
AT
INTERSCHOOLS COMPETITIONS**

1. Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
2. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.
3. Provide quality supervision for all students in your care.
4. Show appreciation and be courteous to snowsports coordinators, teachers, parents and students.
5. Respect all the support people involved with Interschools events.
6. Be a good sport yourself. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.
7. Provide positive focus on the child’s efforts and performances rather than winning or losing.
8. Promote respect for all opponents and sporting behaviour.
9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every student regardless of their gender or ability.
10. Compliment and encourage all participants.
11. Respect the rules that resorts have put in place. Your safety and those around you is at stake.
12. Do not interfere with the conduct of any events.

I agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct while my child is participating in Interschools competitions.

Signed:..... Date:

Name: