



SPORT SELECTION POLICY

As a sports department we understand and are very aware of the impact that selection for sports teams can have on our pupils, their motivation, self-esteem and indeed the dynamics within a team and friendship groups.

Irrespective of level, selection will always be one of the most challenging aspects for all involved. We also appreciate that selection decisions made at school inevitably have an impact at home and this is something you find yourselves having to manage and support your children with.

The aim of this policy is to help you to understand how decisions around selection are made for all school sporting activities.

What is selection based on?

- selection will be based on technical ability, attitude, body language, commitment to training, performance in matches and training, ability to act upon feedback and adhering to school rules.
- pupils who attend training/matches on a regular basis will be given priority. However, individual circumstances will be considered when some pupils compete in more than one sport at a particular high level.
- staff/coaches will select at their discretion the most appropriate available team for each match/fixture taking into account the standard of opposition.
- any changes to selection will be at the discretion of the staff/coaches. Changes happen throughout the season for various reasons and the latest team sheets are published on [SOCS](#).

How do staff make assessments of pupils' development before making selection decisions?

- staff will observe all the year group during sports afternoons so that pupils' progress can be monitored to ensure there is an opportunity for movement between teams.
- staff will also rotate between teams on a Saturday morning to ensure that all pupils will be seen by the lead member of staff/coach during competitive fixtures.
- staff will keep records, highlighting if players move between teams and also their individual progress during the season which can be referred to as and when required.

What else may impact team selection?

- If we have repeated requests to miss several weekend fixtures the matter will be discussed with the parents/carers. Key considerations will include the impact this may have on the teams' development and also the opportunities for other pupils.



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What will not impact on team selection?

- if pupils miss extra training sessions or the odd match to compete in another sport, particularly if they are doing so at a high level, this will not affect future selection and will be a decision made through approval by the Rector and Director of Sport that the school recognises that talented pupils may be involved in more than one sport.

Feedback

- as a school we welcome your feedback. To help us understand each other and build the best environment for your children, if you wish to discuss anything please use the email address, tgasport@tga.org.uk. You will receive a response to your email within 5 working days.

How can pupils access feedback on selection decisions?

- it is very important to us that pupils understand the rationale for decisions and know what they should focus their efforts on to continue to improve.
- we know it is important to prepare pupils for selection decisions and to manage expectations. Time pressures are such that it is not always possible before the next immediate fixture.
- if a pupil would like to seek any feedback, they should contact the relevant teacher/coach via Teams.
- this will allow the teacher/coach to arrange a suitable time in conditions that are conducive to positive conversations and lead to the pupil feeling listened to and developing a better understanding of the rationale for the decision, their strengths, areas for development and next steps.

How can a parent/carer raise a question or concern?

- it is also important to us that parents understand the rationale for decisions and know what their child should focus their efforts on to continue to improve.
- in most cases, this is something that should arise from positive conversations with your children at home about their progress in sport and how you can support – in the same way that you might discuss an academic subject.
- we fully appreciate there are circumstances that may require further discussion and know the importance of ensuring these conversations take place in the right environment. If you have a matter you would like to discuss further, please email tgasport@tga.org.uk. You will receive a response to your email within 5 working days.