



Co-Curricular Policy – 2019

All Rostrevor College Students

30th January, 2019

The clear policy for 2019, which will be outlined in detail below is aimed at reducing unexplained student absences from trainings and matches. The policy will hold students accountable for making poor choices in relation to attendance with the hope that it better educates young men of the associated consequences for unexplained absences in the workforce, study or other social commitments in the future. When you are part of a team, there are some responsibilities you must uphold to yourself, team mates, coaches, teachers and Rostrevor College in general.

Training & Match Attendance Policy for 2019

For all Rostrevor College students who are absent from training or matches, **without appropriate notification** (see below), there are 3 clearly defined steps of escalation which will be consistently upheld throughout 2019 and beyond.

STEP 1: Any student who is absent from training, **without appropriate notification**, will be issued with a Lunchtime Yard Card. If the first offence involves a student missing a match, **without appropriate notification**, then that student will be issued with 2x Lunchtime Yard Cards which will be completed over the course an entire lunchtime.

STEP 2: Any student who is absent from training for a second time in the same season, **without appropriate notification**, then a Wednesday Afterschool Detention will be issued. The same consequence will occur for a student who has missed a second match in the same season **without appropriate notification**.

STEP 3: Any student who is absent from training or matches for a third time, **without appropriate notification**, within the same season will be issued a Saturday Morning Detention **OR** be forced to miss selection for their desired team for the round. A meeting with the student, their parents, relevant Director of Well-Being and Head of Co-Curricular Programs will also be scheduled to discuss the circumstances and aim to come to a resolution.

- If students are found to be **dishonest** in the reasons given for missing trainings or matches, then the same consequences as above will be issued to the offender.



What is 'Appropriate Notification?'

The following information is provided to eliminate any confusion around students feeling like they have given appropriate notification, yet still receive a consequence. The idea behind this will be that expectations from the Co-Curricular program are abundantly clear and consistent. Below are some examples of what **WOULD** be considered appropriate notification:

- A student will be travelling to the Yorke Peninsula with his family for the coming weekend. He makes sure he notifies his coach, three days in advance, that he will be unavailable for the match due to this commitment.
- A member of the Tennis team has a physiotherapy appointment on Tuesday afternoon, when training is normally held. During school on Monday, he makes sure he emails his coach and team manager to ensure both are aware of his absence.
- After getting hit in the leg with a ball during cricket training, Josh still feels immense pain the following day. He contacts his coach and team manager immediately, to let them know there is a realistic chance he may not be able to play so they can arrange cover if need be.

The common theme is **communication**, doing so **well in advance**, and making sure the **correct people are notified**. Initiative, consideration and respect are clearly evident in these examples.

Below are some examples that **WOULD NOT** be considered as Appropriate Notification:

- A student can't get to the game on Saturday Morning due to transport issues, and emails the Head of Co-Curricular Programs at 7:30 p.m. on a Friday Night to let them know.
- An injured Badminton player tells his friend to pass a message onto the coach that he won't be training or playing for two weeks.
- A member of the Water Polo team can't be bothered playing on a Friday afternoon, so tells his coach on Friday that he won't be playing that night and he is sorry for the inconvenience.
- A senior student has a lot of homework, and neglects to train or play for a week until he catches up. He tells his teammates in a group message to inform the team manager.

The common theme here is **little or no communication**, considerably **late notification**, and hoping that **others deliver a message instead of doing so themselves**.

Coaches (both staff and external), Team Managers & the Head of Co-Curricular Programs all have the right to issue consequences if students are found to be in breach of this policy.



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Legitimate Excuses or Reasons for Absence/Non-Attendance

If there is a legitimate excuse or reason for missing training or matches, then let someone know! Rostrevor College coaches, team managers etc. will always be supportive of absences for legitimate reasons provided they are aware of them. If the right people aren't told the right information, then it makes their job very difficult. **No consequence will ever be issued for fair and substantial reasons for being absent from training or matches, but there needs to be appropriate notification in advance.** Being able to communicate effectively is a very valuable skill for young men to develop, and will serve our students extremely well in future endeavours.

Don't rely on others to deliver your message, show some initiative and do it yourself.

Why give Appropriate Notification?

Simply, it shows a basic level of respect for the expectations of Rostrevor College, consideration for staff, coaches, parents and team mates and also allows time for 'back-up plans' to be made. For example, if a basketball team only has 5 players available and a student pulls out without telling anyone, that team will play one short and be at a significant disadvantage. If appropriate notification is given, the coach and other individuals can try to find a student who can fill the void for one week.

In a perfect world, we would have all students attend every training and every match. Realistically though, we as a College, accept that sometimes people have other commitments which impact their ability to attend training and games. The purpose of this is to educate students on the negative impact they have upon others when they get 'a bit lazy' perhaps and can't be bothered taking time to do the right thing. These consequences are not a scare tactic, and we certainly don't want to punish students just for the sake of it. It is however, important to hold everyone accountable for choices and encourage you to work and communicate more efficiently and respectfully with people who give up their time to be a part of the Co-Curricular Program here at Rostrevor College.

Kind Regards,

Mr. Luke Manuel

Head of Co-Curricular Programs