



SPORTS

Code Handbook

A guide for coaches, managers, sports committees, TIC's and anyone involved in sport at Aquinas College



Welcome, haere mai

Aquinas College would like to welcome and thank you all for your support this season.

Your time and commitment is very much appreciated and it is hoped that the experience will be beneficial for both you and the students that you will be involved with

thank you

To assist you with your role within our Sporting Codes, we have compiled this Code Handbook. It is designed to help you navigate your way through the sports procedures within the school whilst at the same time supporting and promoting the school values.

Mission Statement:

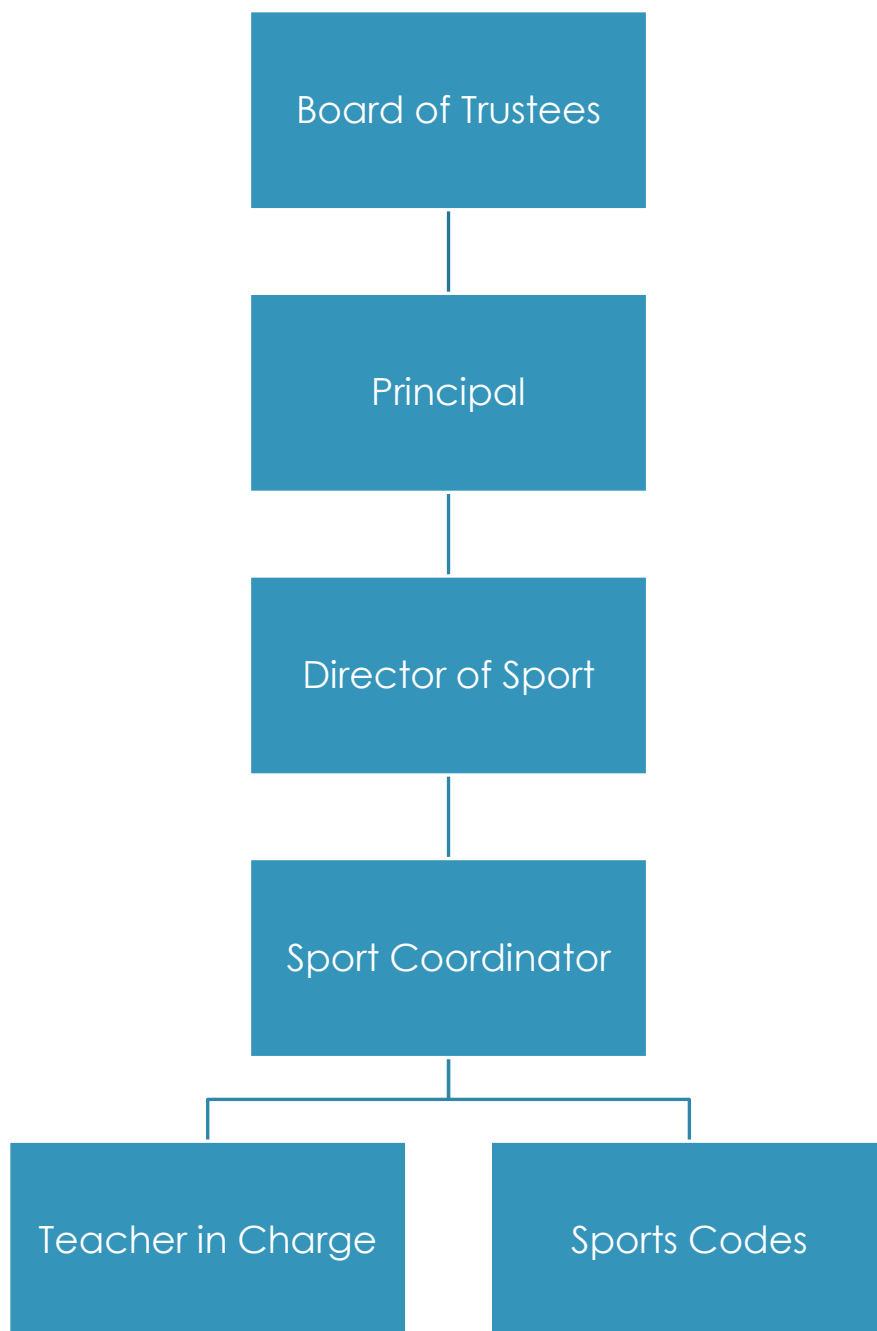
To educate students in the Catholic tradition of faith and love recognizing the uniqueness of the individual and challenging them to realize their potential in a multicultural environment that constantly strives for excellence.

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Lines of Communication



Roles & Responsibilities



Teacher-in-Charge of Sport (TIC)

Purpose of the Role

- To co-ordinate the organisation and management of a sporting code within Aquinas College
- To ensure the management and systems within the respective code committees are in keeping with the special character of Aquinas College
- To be the staff representative and act on behalf of Aquinas College in all matters related to the code
- To be the point of contact for that code at Aquinas College
- To ensure codes follow the guidelines as outlined in the Sport Policy

Key Functions

Administration

- Assist with organisation of teams – trials, selection
- Co-ordinate team data with the Sports Department
- Assist with coaching recruitment, retention, and development
- Assist with development of official pathways
- Monitor/control all financial transactions of the code – sign off
- Assist/control funding applications
- Assist with 3 year plans
- Assist with the setting of fees
- Highlight results and achievements regularly

Sports Exchanges/ Sports Tournaments

- Co-ordinate EOTC procedures
- Assist the Sports Co-ordinator with team/student/coach involvement
- Co-ordinate necessary equipment, field/court prep, officiating staff, uniforms, facilities, resources (Vans, tents)
- Co-ordinate and inform stakeholders of fundraising plans
- Monitor/assist with financial budgeting

Acknowledgements

- Assist/co-ordinate code prize giving
- Recognise volunteer support
- Recognise and highlight student achievement (assemblies, newsletters, newspapers)

Sports Prize giving (in addition to Code-Specific Prizegiving)

- Assist with the process of nominations and selections for awards
- Assist with the programme implications (entry/exit programme, video, overheads, displays, photo's)
- Assist with set-up/ clean-up
- Co-ordinate cups/trophies where required

Roles & Responsibilities



Sports Coordinator

Purpose of the Role

- To assist in the administration of the sport programme

Key Functions

- Coordinate registration and administration of sports teams

Sports Registrations

- Provide all students with information and registration forms on sports offered at Aquinas College
- Ensure all TICs have student registrations prior to selecting teams and a clear process for team selection is followed
- Enter all students' names onto the database system
- Ensure sports fees are set in consultation with TIC and School Finance Manager
- Keep sports website up to date

Coordinate Inter-School Sport Competitions

- Administer and organise with all documentation as required
- Attend major sports events with the TIC of Sport for Inter-school Competitions (if available)
- Support TICs to ensure Risk Management Procedures are in place and appropriate for all sports events, travelling teams and visiting teams
- Organise and assist with all paper work for annual AIMS Competition in conjunction with Director of Sport, TIC's and AIMS Sports Committee. Make oneself available with Director of Sport for the whole of AIMS week to go between all entered sports assisting where possible

Administer Sports Equipment and Uniforms

- Maintain an accurate inventory of sport equipment and uniforms
- Store, maintain and distribute sports equipment/uniforms and ensure these are returned
- Liaise with TIC of each sport to ensure there is adequate equipment/uniforms for each team

Responsible for Support and Communication to Team Coaches

- All participants (coaches, managers, players, parents) are aware of codes of conduct
- Organising transport for travelling teams when required
- Act as a driver/manager for small groups of sporting students attending various events, when available

Responsible for Communication and Maintenance of Records

- Articles and results regarding student achievement are available for assemblies and publication (newspapers, magazine, newsletter, website)
- Assist with annual sports photo day
- Attend all Sports Coordinator related meetings outside and within the college.

Organise Sports Prize Giving and Acknowledgement of Adult Volunteers

- Student achievements, team and individual are recognized.
- Oversee and organise in conjunction with Director of Sport the annual Sports Awards Evening in Term 4. All coaches/managers/officials acknowledged
- Assist with student nominations

Roles & Responsibilities



Code Committees

Purpose of the Role

- Co-ordinate the planning, organisation and management of all activities of the code within the guidelines of Aquinas College
- Develop short and medium term goals and planning with appropriate strategies
- Act within school policies and the Special Character of Aquinas College at all times
- Conduct regular committee meetings throughout the year as determined by the demands of the code.

Key functions

Administration

- Liaise regularly with the TIC and Sport Co-ordinator
- Organise an AGM at the beginning or end of each season
- Prepare a calendar of code events
- Co-ordinate student registration process and ensure sports fees are set in consultation with the TIC
- Oversee and/or assist the TIC with all financial matters and fundraising for the code
- Develop a coach/manager appointment process and co-ordinate appointments for all teams
- Proactively seek opportunities for coach/manager/student support and development
- Develop a clear team selection and trial process for all teams
- Maintain a coaching database with all past and present coaches including accurate contact details and service to the school
- Provide a point of contact for coaches/managers/parents concerns
- Liaise regularly with the TIC to ensure uniform, equipment, facility and training requirements are satisfactory
- All participants (coaches, managers, players, parents) are aware of codes of conduct
- Record appropriate data for all competitions and events
- Update the TIC/Sport Co-ordinator on results and significant achievements
- Develop and update a 3-Year plan for the code
- Liaise with the TIC regarding Funding Applications

Sports Exchanges/ Sports Tournaments

- Follow recognised school procedures for away trips
- Assist the TIC/Sports Co-ordinator to identify students/teams/coaches that will compete in these events
- Co-ordinate necessary equipment, field/court prep, officiating staff, uniforms
- Co-ordinate and inform stakeholders of fundraising plans
- Oversee tournament attendance at regional/national events including fundraising, parental commitment, travel and accommodation arrangements
- Monitor financial records and assist with budget planning.

Acknowledgements

- Assist/co-ordinate code prize giving
- Recognise volunteer support
- Recognise and highlight student achievement (assemblies, newsletters, newspapers)

Sports Prize giving

- Assist with the process of nominations and selections for awards
- Co-ordinate cups/trophies where required

Code Committee Officers:

Chairperson

- Support, guidance and oversight of all Code activities
- Ensure the committee meets its objectives
- Ultimately responsible to members and the College BOT for the conduct of the Code's affairs
- Organise and chair Committee meetings

Secretary

- Keeping of general records including Minutes of Committee meetings
- Keep and update a record of all current members
- Communication with members
- Correspondence

Treasurer

- Keeping/monitoring of all financial records
- Liaise regularly with TIC over financial records and accounts
- Update Committee on financial records and accounts

Roles & Responsibilities



Role of the Coach

Purpose of the role

- To coach the appointed students as designated by the Code Committee or TIC of that Code
- The coach is ultimately responsible for the on-court performance of the team/students

Key Functions

- Coach and prepare the team appointed so that they play to their potential, are well organised and disciplined
- Lead by example – be a positive role model. Especially in regard to training, co-operation, self- control, respect for others, and proper attitudes in language, dress, and behaviour on and off the field of play
- Be honest and consistent
- Develop and communicate team strategies
- Assist with team selection if required
- Plan and manage regular team trainings prior to and during the season
- Through practices develop skills, fitness, mental and tactical approaches to the sport.
- Coach for the development of the individual and the team
- Coach to make sport challenging and rewarding
- Maintain regular communication with Teacher In Charge of Sport (TIC)
- Maintain regular communication with students via texts, emails, school daily notices or newsletter
- Appoint responsible team members to hold positions of captain (and vice-captain)
- In conjunction with the Team Manager, establish and communicate team protocols to all members of the team – trainings, competition, tournaments, sports exchanges
- Ensure suitable players receive nominations for representative teams
- Allow, as much as possible, all players to receive equal playing time
- In conjunction with Team Manager, look after equipment/gear bag for duration of season
- Carry Basic First Aid equipment (provided by the school)
- Communicate results and incidences of Fair Play to TIC or Sports Co-ordinator
- Ensure the conduct of all team members and people associated with the team are consistent with the Special Character of the College
- Encourage players, parents and spectators to adhere to the Fair Play Policy
- Be aware of and adhere to Aquinas College Sport Code of Conduct (see attached)

Roles & Responsibilities



Role of the Manager

Purpose of the Role

- To co-ordinate the activities associated with the students/team involved in the Code
- To support the Coach and liaise with Teacher In Charge
- To provide administration support to the coach (and AC)
- To act as the link between the students/team and the parents

Key Functions

- Reinforce behaviour consistent with the Special Character of the College
- To communicate within the team/families regarding practice times, cancellations, games, forthcoming events etc.
- Be familiar with and encourage the team to use the school/sports association website for information
- Look after the team bag/gear and be responsible for the issue of gear to players, collecting in at the end of the season and returning this to AC/Club as required
- Be responsible for your team's first aid kit, and co-ordinating any first aid required
- Be responsible for the team's emergency and medical health forms, in case of any health or contact need
- Supervising team members at games, and until parent's collect
- Recording the score cards and reporting results as per code procedure
- If students/the team achieves well at competition, inform your TIC/Club/Sports Co-ordinator for their records/action
- Maintain a record of team and individual performances for the season
- Dealing with conflict incidences amongst those involved, face to face in the first instance and refer to TIC/Sports Co-ordinator if not resolved
- In conjunction with the coach, apply a consistent approach to all matters requiring discipline
- Report major disciplinary incidents to the Teacher-in-Charge who may refer to the Director of Sport, or Senior Management if deemed necessary.
- In conjunction with the coach, establish and communicate team policies, particularly outside the game situation with all players and parents
- Establish and communicate team protocols to all members of the team – trainings, competition, tournaments, sports exchanges
- Support the coach to organise equipment for team practices and game
- Maintain an updated team list and contact details of all members of the team
- Communicate with parents/guardians of any injured player and in the case of a serious injury inform the Teacher-in-Charge who will notify the Director of Sport and Senior Management.
- Be responsible for the teams playing equipment
- Maintain a team equipment inventory

Roles & Responsibilities

Role of the Team Captain

Purpose of the Role

- To lead the students/team on and off the field - lead by example with actions, dress, behaviour, attitudes and Fair play

Key Functions

- Support and respect the Coach and Management staff
- Action the Coaches' directions on the field
- Support and respect game officials and encourage team players to do same – the only player who should speak to the referee/umpire.
- Support all Aquinas College players both on and off the field
- Encourage all players to uphold School Rules and Fair play principles
- Welcomes opposition teams at home games, shows them changing rooms and fields/court
- At the game
 - take the toss
 - talk to referee/umpire
 - after-match cheer, handshakes
 - thank the referee/umpire, opposition coach
 - make after-match speeches and thank you speeches where appropriate
- Ensure the team recognises the efforts of the Coaches/Managers

Codes of Conduct



CODE OF CONDUCT for PLAYERS

- Treat the team management, team members and the opponents with respect
 - Play hard, but within the rules
 - Exercise self-control at all times
 - Not react with violence to any physical or verbal provocation. Use of bad language, whether directed at an umpire/referee, another player or oneself, is unacceptable
 - Respect the decision of officials without gesture or argument, and will never argue with an official. If I disagree with a decision, I will inform the captain, coach or manager during a break or after the competition
 - Win with humility; lose with dignity
 - Show that it is a privilege to represent the school
 - Recognise and applaud honestly and wholeheartedly the efforts of team mates and opponents
 - Co-operate with my team management, team members and opponents
 - Thank the opposition and officials at the end of the game
 - Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion
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CODE OF CONDUCT for PARENTS/CAREGIVERS & SUPPORTERS

- Treat all players and opponents with respect
 - Respect that students are involved in sport for fun and enjoyment as much as competition
 - Support good play and applaud good performance from all competitors
 - Attempt to understand the rules of the game
 - Learn the difference between supportive and abusive comments and rule out the latter
 - Accept the decisions of the officials and coaches
 - Display self-control on the sideline. Always be positive. Never ridicule players
 - Show appreciation for people who volunteer their time to make sport happen. Remember that we are all capable of making mistakes
 - Co-operate with the school to achieve the best outcomes for your child
 - Support the school's policy of a smoke, alcohol and drug free environment
 - Encourage children always to compete according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence
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CODE OF CONDUCT for COACHES

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual student as a human being
 - Maintain high standards of integrity
 - Undertake your responsibilities with professionalism
 - Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your students
 - Provide a safe environment for training and competition
 - Protect your students from any form of personal abuse
 - Lead by example – be a positive role model for the sport and athletes especially in regard to training, co-operation, self-control, respect for others, and proper attitudes in language, dress, and behaviour on and off the field/court/pool
 - Coach for the development of the individual and the team
 - Coach to make sport challenging and rewarding
 - Be honest and consistent
-

Codes of Conduct



CODE OF CONDUCT for MANAGERS

- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every individual student as a human being
 - Maintain high standards of integrity
 - Undertake your responsibilities with professionalism
 - Make a commitment to providing a quality service to your students
 - Give attention and time to each player
 - Protect your students from any form of personal abuse
 - Lead by example – be a positive role model for the sport and athletes Especially in regard to training, co-operation, self- control, respect for others, and proper attitudes in language, dress, and behaviour on and off the field/court/pool
 - Never argue with officials, encourage cheating or make excuses for losing
 - Apply a policy of open communication with players, families and staff at Aquinas College
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Procedures

how, what, where

Facilities

At Aquinas College we have a vast variety of sporting facilities which include outdoor netball courts, tennis courts, football fields, cricket pitches and the Aquinas Action Centre which accommodates basketball courts and a weights room. The Aquinas Action Centre can also become 6 badminton courts or 3 volleyball courts when basketball is not in progress. The College also has a half-sized hockey turf, 2x regulation size football fields, cricket pitch and a regulation size rugby field.

Booking the facilities

- Contact the Sports Co-ordinator by phone or email with your preferred day and time, and which venue you would like to use and duration of booking
- You will be advised if it is available or not
- The Facility Bookings Schedule is located in the Sports Co-ordinators office

Tents & Marquees

We have a number of tents and marquees available to be used at sporting events. Please contact the TIC or Sports Co-ordinator with details of your requirements and the event being attended

Venue

Priority for venue bookings/use will go to Sports that normally compete on/in that venue (ie, Basketball in the Action Centre, Hockey on the Turf, Football on the Fields, Netball on the outside courts)

Sport

- Priority for Facility use will be given to Summer Sports during Terms 1 & 4
- Priority for Facility use will be given to Winter Sports during Terms 2 & 3

Team

- Priority will go to Senior Teams (A, then B, then C, etc)
- Priority will then go to Junior Teams (A, then B, then C, etc)
- Out-of-Season Sports Teams may then fill in, as per above.

Outside sports clubs

The Aquinas Action Centre is co-owned and managed by Bay Venues. Aquinas has use of the venue each weekday from 7.00am until 4.45pm. Outside of these hours, Bay Venues hires the venue to outside clubs and sporting community. If your team wishes to use the Centre outside school hours, you will need to contact Bay Venues direct and check availability and hourly cost. Contact Bay Venues :

Mike Rendall Ph: [07 577 8564](tel:075778564)E: michael.rendall@bayvenues.co.nz

Responsibility of tics and club officials

The facilities bookings are recorded by the Sports Co-ordinator. They are to consider the above policy, the time slots available and requests from their sports coaches.

There may be times when your practice has to be re-scheduled due to special school activities. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

How to book school vans and covered trailer

1. Contact TIC or Sports Co-ordinator by email outlining date/time needed, what event vehicle is needed for and venue.
2. They will check availability of vehicle on the school system and if available, make the booking.
3. If the vehicle is unavailable, make contact with the school office to book through our preferred car hire company – Thrifty. Thrifty offer Aquinas a reduced rate..
4. A Van Agreement form (available from School Business Manager or Sports Co-ordinator) needs to be signed and given to the School Business Manager (together with a copy of a driver's license) before using the vehicle. A Van Agreement form can be found on the School Website or emailed to you by the Sports Co-ordinator.
5. The TIC or Sports Co-ordinator will arrange to have the key and log book to you on your booked day. Please return this when finished to the school office or if outside school hours, to the school property manager's mailbox situated at the gate.
6. **Log Book:** Please complete with start and finish kms and tick the column if the toll road has been used.
7. **Fuel:** The vehicle should always have at least half a tank of fuel. Please fill using the Caltex fuel card provided before returning if need be.
8. All rules outlined in the Van Agreement form must be adhered to.

Procedures



Entering Events – “Representing the School”

All individual competitors or teams can only be entered into events via the college. Please do NOT enter any individual/team into an event directly. Please do NOT pay any sporting fees directly to the event organisers.

If there are events happening that you wish an individual/team to enter and feel the college is not aware of the event please contact the Sports Co-ordinators or TIC directly.

Draws

Most sports are provided (by their sport association) with a draw for the whole or part of season play. They can usually be accessed online – check with your association or ask the TIC for details. The school's website will have links to each codes draws on it.

Notices

It is recommended that the Team Manager sets up a group email/text for the team and send messages regarding games, trainings (and cancellations) etc.

Another way of reaching your team is through daily notices. These notices are read out in class/tutor time. They reach the students before lunch so having meetings at lunchtime is possible. Please ask the Sports Co-ordinator or TIC to place your message in the daily notices.

Wet weather and Sports Cancellations

If you need to cancel a game or training please:

1. Contact the Sports Co-ordinator or front office and advise
2. Have the Manager contact players and parents via text/email

Please note ... When we are notified of a cancellation, the Sports Office will update the school website immediately. Any cancellations will be put up on the Gym doors and school office noticeboard located in the foyer.

Parents, please have a wet weather plan sorted with your child to ensure after school arrangements are in place.

Messages will not be sent to individual students during the day.

Results

Results from tournaments or any outstanding performances should be given to the Sport Coordinator and/or TIC as soon as possible. They can then be sent to relevant newspapers and/or be promoted to the whole school through School Newsletter, School Assemblies plus the School Website. Some of these results may also be used in the School Yearbook.

Procedures



Uniforms

Uniform issuing and returning is not the responsibility of the coach. This will be done through the TIC and Sports Co-ordinators.

The College Accounts Department will administer any invoicing to students for lost or damaged uniforms with the assistance of the Sports Co-ordinators. The Sports Co-ordinators will have a complete list of all students and what uniforms they have borrowed.

Tracksuits – Aquinas College tracksuits are available for purchase from the NZ Uniforms Store on Elizabeth St. Tracksuits must be purchased as a set and only Aquinas tracksuits may be worn at sporting events where a student is representing our college.

Hoodies are also available and are very warm and excellent quality. The student may choose to have their surname and sporting codes on the back. The hoodie order form is available on the school website and outlines the costs as well. Please note that the Hoodie is an optional item and not part of the school uniform.

Sports Gear

Sports gear (including practice gear and match play gear) will be issued to the coach by the Sports Co-ordinators. They will be responsible to undertake a stock take of all gear at the beginning and end of season. Your assistance in stocktaking is not required but would be greatly appreciated.

If sports gear requires maintenance or replacement it is the Coaches responsibility to notify the TIC or Sports Coordinator and they will action replacements.

The College accounts department will administer any invoicing to students for lost or damaged sports gear.

Procedures

Sports Awards

Aquinas College holds an annual Sports Awards Evening in Term 4 each year. This evening is about celebrating the Sporting Achievements of both individuals and teams who represent the College.

Major Sports Awards

Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year awarded at Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Year 11-13. This award recognises performance across a range of sporting codes. It acknowledges service and support of sport at Aquinas College and unashamedly aims to reflect the College Touchstones.

Criteria for these awards are:

- The amount of support for Aquinas College sport (the number of codes/teams represented)
- Performance in the major school-wide sports events (Athletics, Swimming, Cross Country)
- Performance at local, regional, national and/or international events
- Awards/achievements awarded over a season
- Service to sport at Aquinas (unpaid voluntary work)

Sports Team of the Year- awarded at Year 7/8, Year 9/10 and Year 11-13.

This award recognizes the most significant performance by an Aquinas College Sports Team.

Criteria for this award is:

- Level of competition (local, regional, national, international)
- Qualification requirements for competitions
- Placing at an event/s

Sporting Performance of the Year (Male and Female Awards Year 11-13)

This award recognizes the best sporting performance over the year by a Senior student.

Some codes also hold their own prize giving to celebrate their season.

Sport Bay of Plenty also hosts the Bay of Plenty Secondary School Sports Awards and a number of Sporting Associations hold annual Awards with Secondary School categories. Our students can be nominated for these Awards through contacting our Sport Co-ordinator or visiting the Sport BOP website.

Procedures

First Aid

In any sport there is a risk of one of your players injuring themselves in practice or when competing.

As a coach you should have:

1. A first aid kit (issued by College).
2. A basic knowledge of what to do in case of an injury or accident.

Suspected Head or Neck Injuries

- Don't move the player
- Keep the player warm
- Seek medical attention immediately

Bleeding

- Apply pressure to the wound
- Protect yourself and others from contact with blood
- Raise the affected body part so that it is above the heart, if possible

CPR

If trained in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), remember the Dr ABC rule

Danger
Response
Airway
Breathing
Circulation

Soft Tissue Injuries

Sprains and bruising can be treated using the method known as:

P.R.I.C.E.D. =

- P**revention
- R**est
- I**ce
- C**ompression
- E**levation
- D**agnosis

- prevent further injury by ceasing activity as soon as injury occurs
- place crushed ice in damp towel
- apply for 20 minutes – apply oil if skin is sensitive to stop burning
- use bandage to hold ice pack in place and raise limb
- after 20 minutes remove ice and apply pressure bandage
- keep limb raised (on stool or cushions) between ice treatments
- repeat ice treatment and pressure bandage every four hours for first 24 hours
- after 24 hours exercise gently and follow ice treatment
- if there is no improvement in two days, see a doctor for diagnosis

Coach Development

There are a number of different coaching courses which are available to you. These courses run at different times throughout the year. Some courses are specific to sport codes, others are New Zealand certified and are general information for all coaches. If interested in doing any coaching courses please contact the Sports Coordinator. Wherever possible the College will assist with any costs involved.

The following is an overview of the New Zealand certified courses that can be sourced through Sport Bay of Plenty.

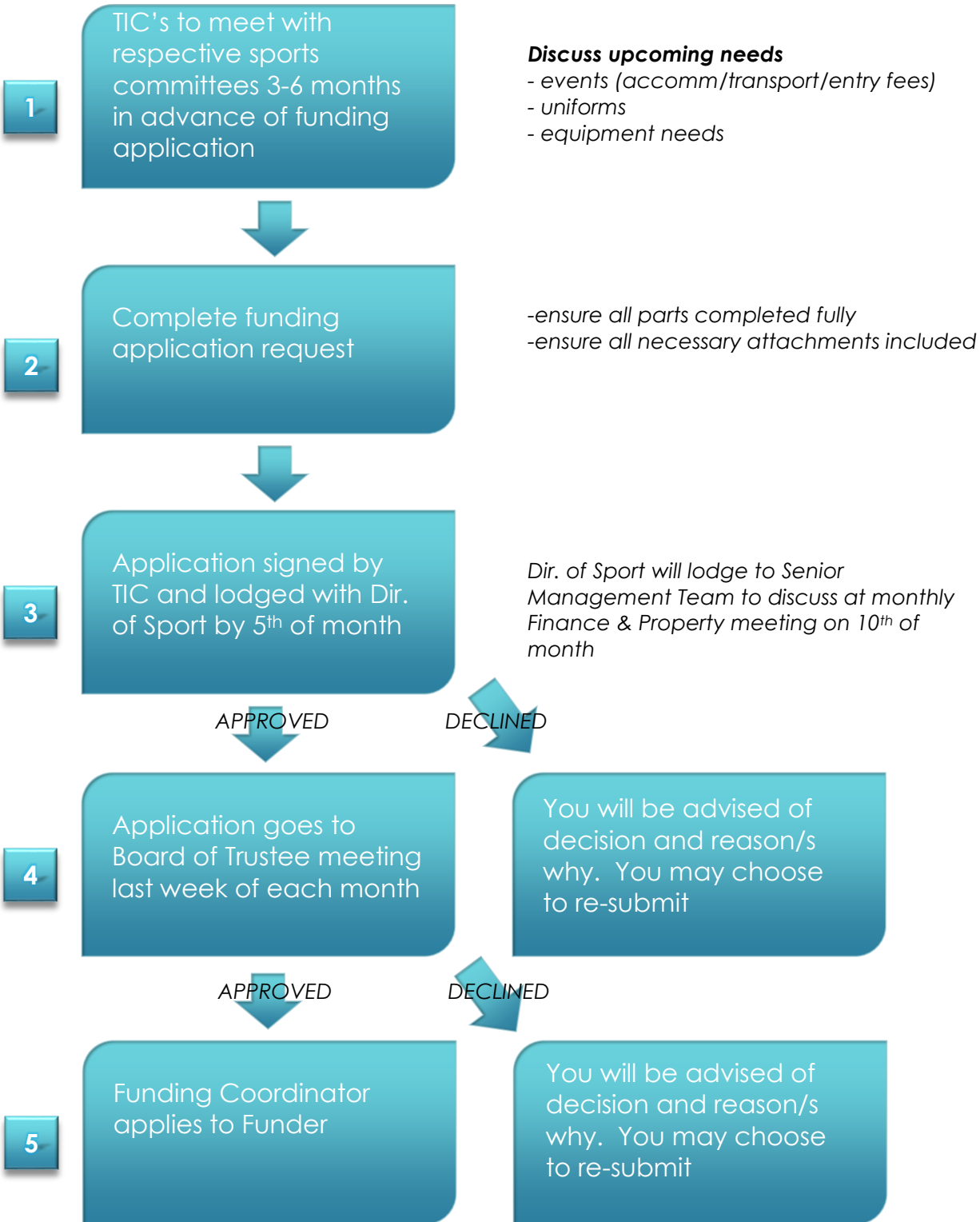
- CNZ Level 1
- Coaching role and process
 - Anatomy
 - Sport Safety
 - Communication
 - Coaching skills
 - Skill analysis
 - Physical preparation

- CNZ Level 2
- Role of the coach
 - Skill acquisition
 - Physical preparation
 - Sports psychology
 - Skill analysis
 - Anatomy
 - Nutrition

Throughout the year the College is able to hold coaching sessions of various types if we know what it is you are wanting and we have enough interest to support it. If there is something you want to know more about then please contact the Sport Coordinator – it is their job to make your job easier to do!

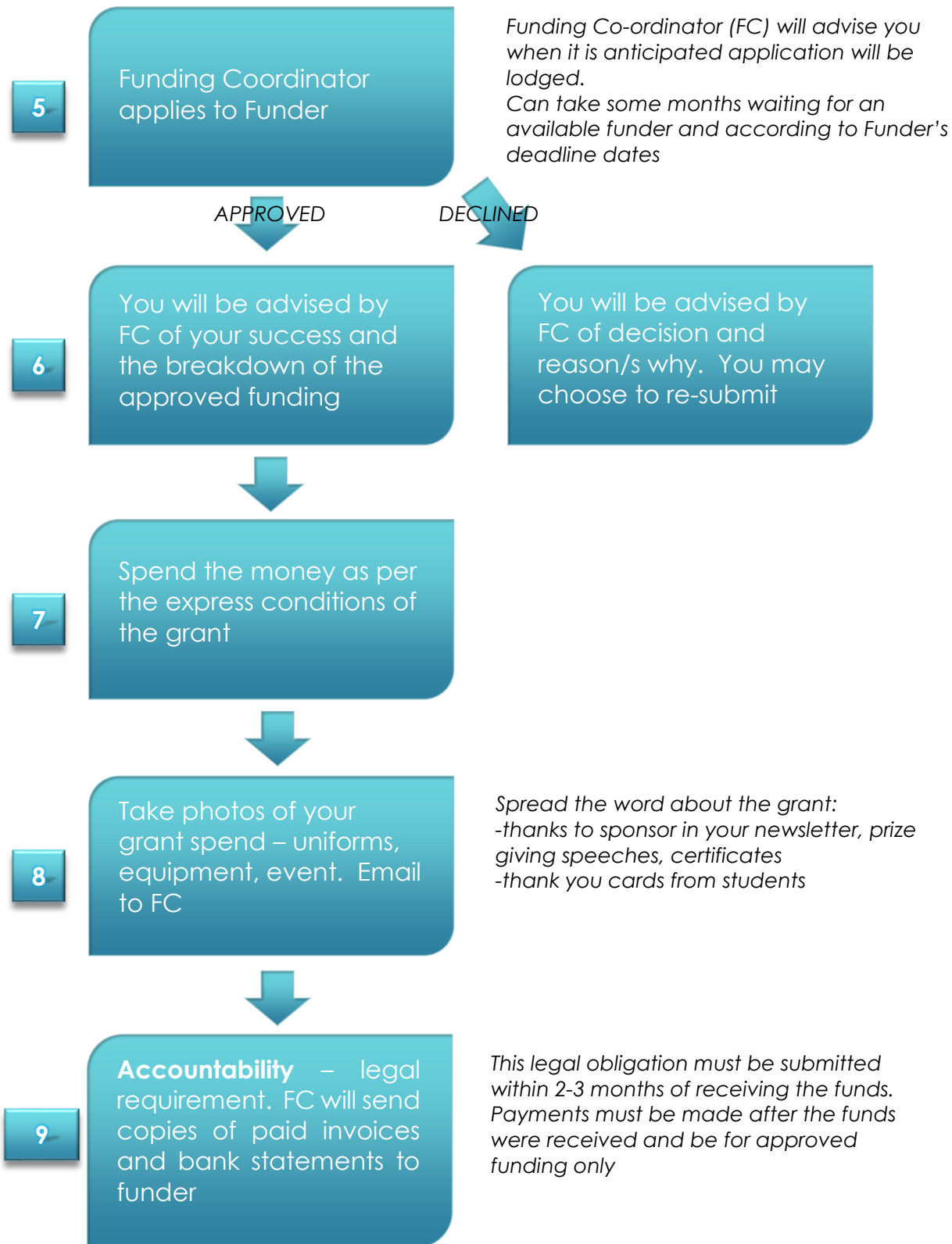
Grants Funding Process

For all codes who wish to apply for funding, please follow this process.



Funding Coordinator (FC) will advise you when it is anticipated application will be lodged. Can take some months waiting for an available funder and according to Funder's deadline dates.

Grants Funding Process Continued





THE RULES FOR ALWAYS BEING A GOOD SPORTSPERSON

PLAY BY THE RULES

PRACTICE HARD EVERYDAY

ALWAYS PLAY FAIR

ACCEPT OFFICIAL RULINGS

ENCOURAGE TEAMMATES

LISTEN TO YOUR COACH

LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES

BE A TEAM PLAYER

DON'T MAKE EXCUSES

NO TRASH TALKING

STAY POSITIVE

AVOID ARGUMENTS

ALWAYS BE MODEST

RESPECT YOUR OPPONENTS

DON'T BE TOO HARD ON YOURSELF

FOLLOW DIRECTIONS



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHILD ...

I am a youth athlete.

I am brave and strong and talented.

But I'm still just a kid. I am not perfect. I am a work in progress. I need you to be patient while I test the limits of my body and work through the emotions that come with success and failure.

When I make a mistake, I wonder if you'll be disappointed. When I reach my goals, I look to see if you are watching. I am a young athlete. I love my sport. You call it competition. I call it playing the game. I want to win and have fun. I am a youth athlete. I am YOUR youth athlete.

Winning feels great, but your praise feels infinitely better. Please remember these things, and I promise to do my best to make you proud.

Your child's success or lack of
Success in sports does not indicate
What kind of parent you are.

But having an athlete that is
Coachable, respectful, a great teammate,
Mentally tough, resilient and tries their best
IS a direct reflection of your parenting.



Aquinas College Touchstones

Catholic Character is the very core of all that we do at Aquinas College, symbolised by the monstrance in our crest, to remind us that Christ is at the centre. The Touchstones of truth, scholarship, joy, family, service, and prayer are our founding principles.

Prayer: Valuing and using prayer in its many forms.

Truth: A continual search for truth and integrity in our lives and relationships.

Scholarship: A determination to seek and attain excellence in all we do, realizing that hard work is necessary.

Service: A commitment to use our talents for the good of others (part of our Christian heritage)

Joy: A positive outlook to others and to our environment.

Family: At Aquinas, we enrol families, not just students. We believe students achieve best when family and college work closely together. We appreciate the involvement of families: supporting faith development at College and Parish liturgies, ensuring students wear their uniform with pride, visiting the College for Parent/Teacher Interviews.

These Touchstones are reflected in the truth of the Gospels and permeate through every facet of college life. They are visible in our relationships, our curriculum, and in our fundamental belief of service. They highlight our focus on restorative practice, cultural responsiveness and social justice.