

Accelerated Sports Program Policy



**Williamstown High
School**

At Williamstown High School we value:

- Excellence and creativity in our achievements and ambitions,
- Integrity and honesty in our actions and relationships,
- Diversity in our curriculum, in each other and in our community,
- Strong and open communication between our school and our homes, and between our teachers, our students and our families,
- A commitment to social justice and a passion to protect and improve our environment and our community.

Rationale

The Accelerated Sports Program was introduced at Williamstown High School in 2001. It has become highly successful through the commitment and collaboration between accelerated sport coordinators, sport coaches, parents and students. This elite program provides an opportunity for young athletes with excellent sporting abilities to advance their established skills while providing a challenging environment that encourages them to reach their full potential. This specialised program operates in conjunction with the mainstream curriculum, ***allowing students to experience academic and athletic success.***

What sports does the Accelerated Sports Program offer?

Elite coaching is available for the following sports:

- Netball
- Basketball
- Triathlon
- Cricket
- AFL

Selection Criteria

Students with demonstrated talent and ability in one of the above sports are invited to complete an application form and sports trial. Some key skills that selectors are looking for include:

- Potential for growth as an athlete
- Basic athletic skills
- Attitude to sport
- Responsible behaviour and teamwork skills
- Leadership capabilities in sport
- A positive record of school conduct and attendance
- A demonstrated commitment to academic school studies.

Ultimately it is at the sports coach and the coordinator's discretion as to who is chosen for the program. Students in the program have had a variety of success, including making national sporting teams. This is due to the hard work of the students, coaches and sports teachers. Our teachers and coaches are professionals, and ***students and parents must trust their judgment.*** Any feedback about the selection process can be directed to the Accelerated Sports Program Coordinator.

What are the costs involved?

There are costs associated with the Accelerated sports program:

1. Families must pay the annual Accelerated Sports Program fees.

The money is used to pay for elite sporting coaches, facilities, equipment and transport. There is also an Accelerated Sport uniform that students are expected to purchase and wear. As this program is run outside the normal curriculum program students who do not pay these fees will be withdrawn from the program

Training sessions and competitions

The training sessions are timetabled during school hours where possible. Care is taken to avoid disrupting other classes, but the accelerated sports timetable can clash with classes at times. Sport coaching occurs once a week and students are entered in various carnivals and tournaments throughout the year. These competitions are in addition to the School Sport Victoria (SSV) Interschool Sports that runs at each year level in every sport that the school offers. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 may also have the opportunity to play in competitions with students from the senior campus (if they are invited by a sports coach). Some of these competitions include:

- *Netball* – Waverley International Championships and Netball Victoria Schools Championships, trial games against local schools.
- *Basketball* – Victorian College Basketball Championships, Mc Donald’s Cup, Hobsons Bay Community Cup.
- *Triathlon* – ETPA triathlon series.
- *Cricket* – Super 8’s, regular game against Catholic and Independent schools.

Schedule of Sessions

Sessions are schedule into the requirements of the availability of supervising staff and coaches. Times may change throughout the year as the school timetable changes. Each sport will have alternating times so student do not miss similar classes each week. It is the student’s responsibility to catch up on any work missed during training sessions. Supervising staff to liaise with teaching staff if an academic issues occur with students in the accelerated program.

Training locations

The training locations can alter depending on the availability. Where possible we try to utilize the facilities of our local community. Some of the locations used for training include:

- *Netball and basketball* – Altona Stadium, Pasco Campus Gym
- *Triathlon* – Victoria University, Bayview campus, Williamstown Beach
- *Cricket* – Newport Digman, Fearon Reserve

Applications for Year 6 Students

All students expecting to attend Williamstown High School at the Year 7 level are invited to apply for the Accelerated Sports Program. Information is sent to all families via the enrolment pack distributed by the school. A link to a google form is provided for families to express interest in the program. Trials will occur in Term 4 for the following year, extra trials may occur in the first few weeks of term 1 the following year if required. All applicants will be invited to attend a trial.

Year 6 Orientation Day

During the Year 6 Orientation Day at Williamstown High School, students will be involved in a variety of sporting activities throughout the day. Physical education and sports teachers may make recommendations to parents and students to apply for the program at the start of the following school year.

Applications for existing and new Williamstown High Students

There is no waiting list for this program - Any students who are interested in trying out for a position in the Accelerated Sport Program will be invited to do so at the beginning of each year, or when positions become available (these places will be advertised in the Daily Bulletin). Students are required to demonstrate talent, ability and passion in any of the offered sports. Details about the trials will be in the daily bulletin.

Students are responsible for following instructions and information communicated in the notices during home group - Trials will be held in the first week of semester or when positions become available. If students are absent during home group, they can collect a copy of the daily bulletin from the office.

Please note places in the program are not secured until the Accelerated Sports Program Coordinator has issued a formal letter of acceptance to the applicant.

Current Accelerated Sport Members

The Accelerated Sports Program is prestigious and elite. Students within the program need to be aware that they are representing the school and are responsible for modelling our values both within the school and with the wider community. Positions for Year 7 and 8 students will not automatically roll over into the following year.

A retrial for the program will occur at the start of each year. Places in the program are not secured until the Accelerated Sports Program Coordinator has issued a formal letter of acceptance to the applicant.

If a student wishes to withdraw from the program, they should inform the Accelerated Sports Coordinator in person and in writing as soon as possible.

Selection criteria for competitions and teams

Selection for competitions and teams is at the discretion of the coaches. Williamstown High selects coaches who are professional athletes to train our students. The Accelerated Sports Coordinator will not interfere in this process unless a breach of behaviour has occurred. The Coordinator will be the liaison between coaches and parents. Any questions about selection results can be directed to the Accelerated Sports Coordinator.

The Coaches

Our coaches are professional athletes who have represented their sport at very high levels. They have links to district sporting representatives and have played in and coached national teams. Please refer to the Accelerated Sports Program page at the Williamstown High School website for the current list of sports coaches and their achievements.

Feedback for students

At the end of each semester students will receive feedback in the form of a tick box evaluation with additional comments. Students in the program are also provided with instant feedback during each training session. Additional feedback is available upon request to the Accelerated Sports Coordinator.

Exclusion from the program

It is a privilege to be in this program, and it is expected that students will exhibit exemplary behaviour and dedication to academic studies as well as sport. *If any of the following things occur the school may not permit the students to participate further in the Accelerated Sports Program:*

- A breach of behaviour,
 - A decline in academic performance,
 - A failure to demonstrate commitment to the program (e.g. not attending training), or
 - Failing to represent the school values.
1. For extreme breaches of conduct a student may be withdrawn from the program.
 2. *A formal meeting and warning process will be conducted with the school, students and families before decisions are made about exclusion.*
 3. If another incident occurs, the student will be excluded from the program. *Parents will receive a formal letter of exclusion.*

Students are responsible for catching up on any class work missed because of sporting commitments. Training is not a valid excuse for not completing work in other subject areas. However, support is available for students needing additional help. Catch-up classes and Homework Club are always there for students needing further support.

Policy updated and ratified by school council on _____

Policy will be up for review in 2023