



Re: Commitment to Knox Grammar and Saturday sport

Dear Parents,

The Knox Sport and Aquatic Academy (KSAA) has been receiving a small number of requests asking for student “exemptions” from Saturday sport. I hope the following helps clarify the school’s position going forward.

The following extract is a reminder of **point 13** on the “Conditions of Enrolment” form which all families signed prior to committing to Knox Grammar School.

“We accept that the School may determine which particular courses and activities are offered and/or provided at any time and which of these courses and activities are compulsory. All students must participate in and/or attend the following activities, as determined by the Headmaster:

- a) *Religious education classes and Chapel;*
- b) *Co-curricular activities including all school camps and cadets in year 9;*
- c) ***The School sports program including twice weekly training, playing when chosen, and supporting the school teams as required – both after normal school hours and on Saturdays;***
- d) *Important School functions such as Presentation Day, Anzac Day and other events as required by the Headmaster from time to time;*
- e) *Various excursions that occur from time to time as an integral part of the School curriculum”*

Point 13c is particularly relevant to the number of requests we are currently receiving. The KSAA understands boys and families are put into very awkward situations where a coach at a Club or an ‘Academy’ pressures students to make a choice or take a certain pathway if they wish to pursue a sport professionally.

We firmly believe here at the KSAA that we have as good a program as any ‘Academy’ or sporting club in Sydney. We have much to offer each and every single boy here at Knox:

- A full time Athletic Development Manager. Mr Oliver Scott is currently screening each and every boy in the Senior School and will track that boy’s development and suggest a tailored program pending his chosen sport with constant follow-up. All results are also linked into their PDHPE profile.
- Eight full-time dedicated Directors of sport who work tirelessly to prepare and coordinate programmes for every team in their sport
- A dedicated Head Coach for each sport

- Facilities – second to none
- Dedicated teams of coaches that could match any club or Academy in NSW
- Most importantly, as a member of the school, the welfare of each child is paramount in ensuring their overall wellbeing

As well as the obvious benefits of playing regular Saturday sport for the School, it is also a timely reminder that schoolboy sport is in fact a genuine pathway to elite sport and a possible career.

We have many boys currently playing sport at the very top level that have benefitted from our Knox Sports Academy such as Footballers playing in the English Championship and National Youth League, Commonwealth Games swimmers, Super 15 Rugby players, a Big Bash cricketer contracted to the Thunder and playing Sheffield Shield cricket, 2016 Olympians, Tennis and Basketballers currently on US scholarships. This list could go on and the opportunities are endless if you trust and commit to our programs.

We are also about to announce more exciting overseas scholarship opportunities for boys leaving Year 12 based on academic and sporting achievements at Knox Grammar.

Whilst the school will remain flexible in all requests where we have a clash with a national competition, please consider the above before applying to the KSAA for any exemptions from Saturday sport.

Sincerely,

Martin Haywood
Head of KSAA