



# **Sports Competition Policy**

## **May 2025**

**Date of Policy: May 2025**



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SHEFFIELD  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST



## 1. Our Intention

- **Inclusivity:** Every child should have the opportunity to participate in at least one sports competition each year.
- **Transparency:** We want both parents and students to understand exactly how selections are made.

## 2. Procedure

The vast majority of sports competitions follow the procedure outlined below.

### 1. Interest Form

- Prior to an event, we distribute an “Expression of Interest” form to every student in the identified year group/gender for the competition.
- Students return the form to the school office by the specified deadline.

### 2. Initial Shortlist

- We review returned forms, noting each child’s interests and prior participation.
- We also consider in-school behaviour and attitude during PE and other activities.

### 3. Team Capacity

- Most competitions (often coordinated by the Wickersley Trust or external coaches) limit us to teams of eight.
- When we cannot include everyone, we proceed to a further review.

### 4. Final Selection

- **Step 1:** Check which students have already competed this year. Students who have not competed this year are then prioritised.
- **Step 2:** Evaluate recent behaviour, effort, and enthusiasm in sports. This is in conjunction with class teachers and teaching assistants.
- **Step 3:** If spots still remain, we hold a random draw (“names out of a hat”), with the draw conducted in front of the interested students.

## Competition teams

Where a competition has multiple rounds, the same team will progress through each round of the competition. This will happen even if rounds of the competition are on different days. This is to ensure pupils entering tournaments or multi-round competitions gain the experience and value of going through to the next round and enjoy the benefits of a successful game or match.

## 3. Use of trials

Occasionally, sports leads may choose to run trials to select competitors or teams. This is done following consultation with the head/s and is always done overseen by a member of the Local School Board who volunteers to support in these instances.

In these situations, all children in the selected year group are informed of the competition, and the decision to run trials. There will be transparency over the



selection process and decisions for the final competitor and team will be made by the sports leads and the LSB member. Pupils and their families will then be informed of the successful participants.

Any pupil in the correct age range/gender may enter trials for a competition.

### 3. Communication & Oversight

- **Sharing with Parents & Students:** We will publish this procedure on our school website and include it in our termly newsletters.
- **Ongoing Monitoring:** School board members will periodically audit the process and suggest improvements to ensure it remains fair and effective.
- **Pupils** have their say in which competitions they would like to enter each year. They identify 3 sports they would ideally like to participate in, and staff try to ensure that they have an experience in one of those 3 competitions within the academic year. Where this is not possible, this will be discussed with the child and an alternative will be mutually agreed. We are limited by competitions on offer in the local community.