Toukley Public School ASPIRE Sports Program

Selection Procedures

Purpose

The Toukley Public School ASPIRE Targeted Sports Program is a local specialised sporting pathway designed to identify and develop students with demonstrated potential in **Rugby League, Oztag and Touch Football**.

The program provides high-quality coaching, targeted skill development and opportunities for representative competition while maintaining a strong focus on academic achievement, attendance, leadership, teamwork and positive sportsmanship.

ASPIRE was established to provide a High Potential and Gifted sporting pathway within public education, offering families a unique opportunity to access specialised sporting development in a public school setting. The program welcomes students from across the Central Coast and supports the NSW Department of Education's commitment to recognising and developing students' strengths and talents.

For convenience, where possible, program participants will be placed in the same class. The structure and composition of these classes will vary depending on school and program numbers.

Eligibility

Enrolment remains subject to the NSW Department of Education Enrolment Policy and the school's enrolment procedures.

Selection Criteria

Selection into the ASPIRE Sports Program is competitive and based on demonstrated potential rather than current achievement alone.

Students are assessed against a range of criteria, including:

- sport-specific skills in Rugby League, Oztag and Touch Football;
- game awareness, decision-making and tactical understanding;
- athletic ability, including speed, agility, coordination and fitness;
- coachability, resilience and willingness to learn;
- teamwork, communication and sportsmanship;

Previous representative honours, club participation or external achievements may be considered as supporting evidence but do not guarantee selection.

Application Process

Applications open annually and are advertised through the school and associated communication channels.

Parents or carers are required to submit the application by the advertised closing date. Late applications will only be considered where exceptional circumstances exist and at the discretion of the principal.

Trial Process

Applicants participate in practical trials designed to assess the selection criteria.

Trials are conducted by staff with expertise in the relevant sporting areas and are designed to provide each student with an equitable opportunity to demonstrate their skills and potential.

Where a student is unable to attend the scheduled trial due to illness or exceptional circumstances, an alternative trial can be offered where practical. Alternative trials will assess students against the same selection criteria wherever possible.

Selection Panel

Applications are considered by a selection panel comprising members of the school executive, ASPIRE staff and, where appropriate, specialist coaches.

The panel reviews all available evidence before determining successful applicants. Decisions are based on collective professional judgement and are moderated to promote consistency, fairness and equity.

Available Places

The number of places available each year is determined by school organisation, staffing and program capacity.

Meeting the selection criteria does not guarantee placement, as the number of applicants may exceed the number of places available.

Vacancies

Should a vacancy arise after the initial selection process, the principal may determine the most appropriate method of filling the position.

This may include:

- reviewing evidence from recent ASPIRE trials;
- inviting further assessment where appropriate; or
- conducting an additional selection process.

The school does not maintain a ranked waiting list unless this has been communicated as part of the selection process.

Equity and Procedural Fairness

Toukley Public School is committed to providing a selection process that is equitable, transparent and consistent.

All applicants are assessed against the same selection criteria. Selection decisions are based on demonstrated performance, potential and suitability for the program. Selection panel members moderate decisions to ensure consistency and minimise bias.

Reasonable adjustments will be considered for students with disability or additional learning needs to ensure equitable access to the selection process, where appropriate.

Student Expectations

Students selected for the ASPIRE Sports Program are expected to:

- maintain positive behaviour and demonstrate the school's values;
- attend school regularly and engage positively in learning;
- participate fully in ASPIRE training sessions and competitions;
- display respectful behaviour, teamwork and sportsmanship; and
- represent Toukley Public School with pride at all times.

Continued participation in the program is subject to students meeting these expectations.

Privacy

The school respects the privacy of all applicants.

Information relating to individual applications, trial performances or selection decisions will not be shared with other families.

Review of Process

Parents or carers who believe the selection procedures have not been followed may submit their concerns in writing to the principal within ten school days of receiving the outcome.

A review will consider whether the procedures were applied fairly and consistently. Reviews will not involve reassessing student performance or comparing applicants.

Following the review, the principal's decision is final.

Program Review

The ASPIRE Sports Program and its selection procedures are reviewed periodically to ensure they continue to meet the needs of students, align with Department of Education policies and reflect best practice in talent identification and student development.