



FRIDAY AFTERNOON SPORT PROGRAM - Frequently Asked Questions by Parents

Why does The Gap State School participate Friday afternoon sport?

The long-standing commitment to the program has been given to provide to all students in years 4 – 6 the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills and positive attitudes to playing sport or participating in physical activity for fitness and well-being.

The program in its current form in semester one provides opportunities for competition against other schools and non-competitive learning opportunities. In semester two competition is school based only.

Why are the costs different for different sports?

Some sports require travel to other venues to compete. Bus, participation costs and equipment costs may vary between sports. For tennis, professional coaches are also a cost factor – offset by students walking to the venue.

Why have costs increased?

In 2024, bus prices have significantly increased. Some of the other charges, e.g., participation fees, issued by the organisers of the competitive sports, North West District Sport, have also increased.

Why are costs charged for semester 1 sport and not semester 2 sport?

Semester 1 sports include off-site competitive opportunities playing against other school teams. The school provides teachers and additional teacher aide staff to support the program. Parents pay where applicable, costs for buses, participation fees, coaches and equipment.

Semester 2 sports are all onsite and facilitated by staff using current available resources and learning spaces, at no cost to parents.

What contribution does the school make to the cost of Friday afternoon sport?

The program is heavily resourced to ensure all students have access to this opportunity. An annual cost of \$10 000 for teacher aides and support teachers to attend and support students is allocated. These costs are paid from the school budget and are not passed on to parents.

Why do some sports have training and some don't?

To meet Department of Education risk assessment requirements for sports classified as semi-contact, training is a requirement to play. Training also improves skill development and team work.

Why do some sports have special equipment and some don't?

To meet Department of Education risk assessment requirements for some sports special equipment is a requirement to play, e.g., mouthguards for water polo and shin pads for competitive soccer.

What is the most cost - effective option for our family?

A lower cost, school-based option is provided. This semester it is school based volleyball and soccer.

Why can't all children have access to all sports?

There are set numbers required in different sports to allow competitions to operate. The teams need to be filled to meet these requirements. Students and parents are given input by putting forward preferences.

Why do we need to provide preferences? Why can't my child just choose a sport?

Please see above.

How are the sports chosen for semester 1 sport?

The sports selected are from options provided by North West District Sport for the competitive options. Local and school-based options The Gap State School has established e.g., water polo competition with Ashgrove State

School which also has a pool, and The Gap Tennis Club as an accessible resource.

How are the sports chosen for semester 2 sport?

The above considerations are taken into account as well as feedback from students to the PE teacher in the previous and current year as to interests and trends. The nominations by other schools to participate in the competitive sport options also impacts the creation of the draws, the number of away and home games and whether byes are also required to make the season competition work.

How long is the sport season? Who decides the length of the season?

North West District Sport determines the length of the season for the competitive sports, which is 10 weeks of play. Typically, two weeks are also added to the season to make up for lost play due to wet weather.

Why doesn't The Gap State School always play every week of the sport season?

As is common practice for all schools, if The Gap State School has a school camp scheduled during the season, we do not play that week. This semester The Gap State School will participate for 9 weeks, due to the year 6 camp. All teachers and students are required for the program to operate as teachers and students are spread across the year 4 – 6 teams for Friday afternoon sport. The cost for each sport is for the Friday afternoon sport program, for the semester.

Why is sport sometimes cancelled when it isn't or is hardly raining in The Gap?

If a venue used for one of the sports e.g., soccer decides that conditions of the field in that suburb are not suitable for play, the whole program may be cancelled. The program cannot operate with only some teachers and students excluded due to the cross-year level structure and staffing to make Friday afternoon sport operate. North West District sport makes the cancellation decision for any given week.

How does wet weather effect water polo?

Please see above.

Are missed weeks of sport due to wet weather made up?

Typically, two additional weeks are factored in make up Friday sport sessions lost due to wet weather.

Are refunds provided if weeks of sport aren't able to be made up due to wet weather?

Sometimes due to wet weather conditions over the season, not all weeks can be played. Parents may request a credit for the weeks of sport not able to be undertaken due to wet weather.

How are the draws organised?

North West District sport creates the draws based on the number of teams and sports nominated by district schools.

Can parents go to watch the games?

Yes. Draws are available. Please check in with the teacher upon your arrival at the grounds, as you would if visiting a classroom. The parent code of conduct applies.

Does my child still get to have lunch when they go to sport at 12.15pm?

Yes. A brief break is provided before students move to sport. Students can also typically eat and drink as needed during breaks in play. They take their school bags with them as needed.

Why are the buses sometimes late back to school?

Sometimes due to traffic congestion or if there has been a significant incident buses may be delayed. Every effort is made for all teams to be well organised and punctual to support buses running to time. Unexpected traffic congestion is beyond the influence of the bus company or school.

Does the school let parents know if buses will be late?

Facebook posts are provided if the expected delay in the return of a bus is significant.