

## **Policy for all Boys and Elite Athletes representing Bolton School in Sport**

The general codes of conduct followed in School, in particular dress and behaviour, apply when a boy represents school in sport. However, it is important to emphasise certain points that relate specifically to representative sport at Bolton School which is reinforced by the clause in the Parent Terms and Conditions.

The Code of Conduct Rule 16 states that:

‘When a boy is selected to play for the school team, or represent the school, he must do so. In exceptional circumstances, the school may give permission for a boy to be excused from this commitment. If this is to be granted, then a formal letter requesting leave of absence and addressed to the Headmaster must be submitted at the earliest opportunity through the member of staff in charge of the team or sport’

The Parent Terms and Conditions Clause 50 states that:

‘The parent will ensure that the pupil’s participation in school sports takes precedence over commitments to sports and other clubs outside the school. Any waiver of this condition shall be at the sole discretion of the Head following the Parents written request.’

These two clauses are fit for purpose for the vast majority of mainstream cases. However they do not cover adequately the bespoke situations of elite athletes; such as those playing national and county sport and those involved at the fringes of professional sport, especially football. In these circumstances we occasionally may wish to actively remove such athletes from school sport, for their own good and to allow a proper balance of our philosophy of excellence for some and sport for all. It is also true that in the case of elite athletes the issue is almost always going to extend to their academic life in school and require a more holistic response. Different expectations and codes will therefore apply for mainstream cases and for elite athletes.

All principles apply to senior and junior school and apply to all sports.

### **For mainstream cases the following codes will apply**

- Boys will be systematically informed of the rules around school representation in sport, every year, in an appropriate way to be agreed between the Head of Schools and the Head of Games.
- Any boy who knows that he will be unavailable for a fixture must let the Master i/c know as soon as possible. Planned absences should be known well in advance; the Monday of the week previous to a Saturday fixture and an equivalent of five school days in advance for midweek fixtures is the minimum date for passing such information.
- Boys should be told to try to ask their teachers affected for permission to miss their lesson, out of courtesy. This may not always be practical and is not considered therefore to be a necessity.
- The explicit expectation is that boys will actively catch up on work missed in these lessons.
- Teachers who have justifiable academic grounds for objecting to a boy missing their lesson should approach their colleague leading the activity, in a reasonable time before the activity takes place.

- Boys who are absent from school on medical grounds, the day prior to a fixture, will not be included in the team for that fixture.
- A boy brought off injured on one day will not be available for selection the next day.
- All members of squads are expected to attend training /coaching sessions regularly, as directed by the Master i/c of the team concerned. Those failing to do so should not expect to be considered for selection.
- When there are clashes with other school activities, boys should inform all staff involved, who will attempt to accommodate such cases.
- Attendance at school fixtures will be in school uniform. This includes arrival at and departure from school, travel to and from away fixtures on the school provided vehicles and the taking of refreshments at either home or away.

### **The following procedure will apply for Elite Athletes**

Bolton School Boys' Division is committed to catering for the specific needs of pupils who show a particular aptitude in Physical Education and Sport and to work with external partners to cater for those pupils who are involved in high level sporting activities outside of school.

- An elite athletes' register will be created and maintained in school by the Elite Athlete Programme coordinator. This will be a subset of the talented register already kept by the Heads of Games/PE and covered by their departmental Gifted and Talented Policy.
- Boys will be entered on the elite register only after discussion arising from the need being identified either by a member of staff, the boy or a parent. The discussion will involve the parents, the boy, the Master in charge of the sport, Head of Games, the Elite Athlete Programme coordinator, in liaison with the Senior Teacher and Deputy Head (Admissions and Achievement).
- Once entered on the elite register, the Elite Athlete Programme coordinator will consult with relevant parties, including Heads of year and external agencies (where appropriate) to tailor an appropriate approach for each boy. This will take into account their academic progress, sporting commitments, level of representation involved and time pressures an elite athlete may face.
- The agreement will be placed in the boys file. All agreements will be subject to a termly review or whenever a change of circumstance is identified by the school, parent or boy.
- Elite athletes will undertake a programme of lectures offered by the Foundation
- Elite athletes will still be expected to follow the codes that apply for mainstream cases, where they are still applicable.

### **Breaches of the Code of conduct in Sport**

On occasions where boys breach the general codes of conduct there is a sliding scale of actions and sanctions that can be applied. The majority of such breaches normally relate to either behaviour or where boys have attempted to withdraw from school teams.