BASIC BELIEF
The school’s Interschools Snowsports program enables students to further their snowsports experience, and develop team and social skills in a non-school setting. Interschools Snowsports program has an outdoor and physical education emphasis and is an important aspect of the educational programs offered at our school.

IMPLEMENTATION
• The Interschools Snowsports program is defined as any activity involving participation in Interschools Snowsports competitions, whether overnight accommodation is involved or not.
• Participation in Interschools Snowsports competitions is voluntary. No school student or family will be pressured into participating.
• The program will be available to students in Years 3 to 6. Participation of younger students will be at the Principal’s discretion.
• School Council will ensure that all parents are made aware that participation in Interschools activities is expensive, however will endeavour to maintain them at the most reasonable and affordable cost possible, and comply with all Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) requirements.
• The school newsletter will provide parents with dates and approximate costs associated with the year’s Interschools activities as early as possible. Parents will be notified of the exact costs and other relevant details of individual competitions as soon as practicable.
• All families will be given sufficient time to make payments. Parents will be reminded of the need to finalise payment before commencement of the program. Children whose payments have not been finalised at least five school days before the departure date will not be allowed to attend unless alternative payment arrangements have been organised with the Principal. Any family who has not met the required alternative payment arrangements for a previous program will be unable to participate in further programs until the outstanding payment is finalised.
• Parents experiencing financial difficulty, who wish for their children to attend Interschools competitions, will be required to discuss their individual situation with the Principal. Decisions relating to alternative payment arrangements will be made by the Principal on a confidential case-by-case basis.
• Interschools Snowsports activities are an outdoor education activity and as such, are subject to specific planning and approval guidelines. School Council is responsible for approval of all snowsports excursions and camps. The organising staff will comply with all relevant DEECD guidelines when planning and seeking approval for Interschools activities and ensure that time permits for the matter to be placed on a School Council agenda and, if approved, that the online Notification of School Activity form then be submitted three weeks prior to the activity.
• School Council requires that a report be tabled after each Interschools Snowsports program, detailing feedback regarding the event, in particular any mishaps or areas for future improvement.
• Due to the nature of Interschools Snowsports competitions in an often hostile environment, a high ratio of parents to students is required. Parent volunteers will need to be prepared to assist with all aspects of the competition. The teacher in charge will allocate duties to parents attending. These may include, but not be limited to:
  • Supervision of both their own children and the children of others whilst skiing/boarding
  • Supervision of children in the place of accommodation
  • Team Manager duties
  • Interschools volunteer official duties
• The teacher in charge will ensure that parent volunteers understand the responsibilities of the above duties and the importance of children being supervised at all times.
• Parents, staff and children attending Interschools Snowsports events must understand and comply with all Snowsports Development Foundation rules and codes of conduct.
• Parents must read, sign and comply with the Mansfield Primary School Parents Code of Conduct at Interschools Competitions. Refer to Appendix 1.
• Parent volunteers will be required to pay their costs, e.g. accommodation, meals, lift tickets and transport.
• Parents whose children win and take home an individual perpetual trophy will be required to return the trophy, after engraving, to the school by the beginning of Term 2 of the following year to allow time for the school to return it to the Snowsports Development Foundation.
• Interschools teams will be decided by the teacher in charge, in consultation with the Principal. Selection will be based on:
  • Interschools results from the previous year
  • Any current year race results that are known and endorsed by the school
• Interschool Teams will not be changed when competing in the Victorian and National competitions unless a participant withdraws from the competition.
• All children attending Interschools Snowsports competitions need to have a parent taking responsibility for them. Parents who are unable to accompany their own children should have another parent or adult agree in writing to take responsibility for their children.
• Only children who have displayed sensible, reliable and responsible behaviour at school will be invited to participate in the Interschools Snowsports program. Parents will be notified if a child is in danger of losing their invitation to participate in an Interschools experience due to poor behaviour at school. If the unsatisfactory behaviour continues, the child will then be excluded from the Interschools. The decision to exclude a student will be made by the Principal, in consultation with the classroom teacher.
• Parents will be requested to collect their child from the interschools competition if their child exhibits behaviour that is considered unacceptable. The Teacher in Charge, in consultation with the Principal, will make this decision. Costs incurred will be the responsibility of the parent.
• The primary references that must be consulted when considering all activities is the Safety Guidelines for Outdoor Education Activities website: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/schooloperations/edoutdoors/default.htm and the Vic Govt. Schools Reference Guide 4.4.2.2 – Student Safety & Risk Management.

This policy was ratified by the Mansfield Primary School Council on – 6th June 2011

Review Date: 2014
MANSFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENTS
CODE OF CONDUCT AT
INTERSCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

1. Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.

2. Place the safety and welfare of the participants above all else.

3. Provide quality supervision for all students in your care.

4. Show appreciation and be courteous to snowsports coordinators, teachers, parents and students.

5. Respect all the support people involved with Interschools events.

6. Be a good sport yourself. Your behaviour and comments should be positive and supportive.

7. Provide positive focus on the child’s efforts and performances rather than winning or losing.

8. Promote respect for all opponents and sporting behaviour.

9. Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every student regardless of their gender or ability.

10. Compliment and encourage all participants.

11. Respect the rules that resorts have put in place. Your safety and those around you is at stake.

12. Do not interfere with the conduct of any events.

I agree to abide by the above Code of Conduct while my child is participating in Interschools competitions.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________