**NORTH WOLLONGONG GALA DAY POLICY**

**PURPOSE:**

**Gala Days provide an opportunity for students to participate in interschool sport at a reduced overall cost and minimised disruption to normal school routines. They also enable a full competition to be conducted over a day. The underlying principle should be maximising the participation time and enjoyment of each student.**

**GUIDELINES FOR ACTION:**

* Gala Days should be included in the District Sports Calendar as early as possible to enable schools to avoid clashes with other planned events and activities.
* In mixed competition, the convener shall stipulate the minimum number of girls on the field.
* Schools should nominate in advance the number of teams for each sport.
* The draw should be organised so that playing time is maximised for all students.
* Flexibility should be built into the draw so that where possible, teams should play other teams of similar ability.
* Draws (and redraws) should be sent to the Gala Day Co-ordinator the week prior to the Gala Day.
* Draws for all games should be at schools no later than the start of the week of the Gala Day.
* Results and point scores should be distributed to all schools participating in the competition as soon as possible after the Gala Day just conducted.
* Where possible, competent umpires/referees should be organised for the day.
* If competition is conducted at split venues, conveners should appoint a contact person at the other venue/s.
* The conduct of the competition should be clearly outlined at the district meeting or via email to all schools prior to the first Gala Day.
* The convener should distribute the appropriate section from *Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools, 1999* to all participating schools.
* A canteen, providing appropriate hot and cold food and drinks should be organised by the convener.
* A Gala Day report is to be forwarded to the Secretary at the conclusion of the competition.

**IMPLICATIONS FOR TEACHERS**

* Students participating should be given the skills and knowledge to participate in the particular sport.
* Ensure students have the appropriate safety equipment.
* Ensure that the District Codes of Conduct for Players, Coaches, Parents and Spectators are followed.
* Ensure that the playing areas are safe for participants.
* All schools should take a first aid kit and mobile phone to the ground.
* All results are to be given to the convenor on the day of the competition.