

## PSSA AT JOHN PALMER PS

### What is PSSA?

PSSA stands for the Primary Schools Sports Association. Schools across Sydney and NSW are organised into zone groups. John Palmer Public School is part of the Ridges Zone PSSA competition group.

Ridges Zone covers 15 schools - John Palmer, Kellyville Ridge, Ironbark Ridge, Rouse Hill, Parklea, Schofields, Oakville, Riverbank, Kenthurst, Riverstone, Quakers Hill East, Galungara, Northbourne, Marsden Park and North Kellyville.

Website: <https://ridgespssa.com.au/>

Each zone is part of a larger area. Ridges Zone is part of the **Sydney West School Sports Association**.

Website: <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/SydneyWest>

All sporting areas are part of the NSW PSSA Association.

Website: <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/NSWPSSA>

### How Are PSSA Teams Organised?

PSSA sport options are offered to all students in Years 3 to 6.

PSSA teams are organised according to age. Sport teams have a junior and senior age group.

Junior teams are for children who are turning 8, 9 or 10 in that calendar year (Years 3, 4 and some Year 5 students).

Senior teams are for children who are turning 11 or 12 in that calendar year (Year 5 and 6 students).

### What PSSA sports are offered in our Zone?

Summer PSSA Sports (Terms 1 and 4)	Senior Softball/Junior Tee Ball (girls only) Junior and Senior AFL (mixed boys and girls) Junior and Senior Cricket (boys only) Junior and Senior NRL Tag (mixed boys and girls)
Winter PSSA Sports (Terms 2 and 3)	Junior and Senior Rugby League (mixed boys and girls) Junior and Senior Boys Soccer Junior and Senior Girls Soccer Junior and Senior Netball (mixed boys and girls) Opens Newcombe Ball (separate boys' and girls' teams)

### How are our school teams selected?

As per the School's EXTRA CURRICULAR POLICY. This policy was created in consultation with the school P&C and is available on our website: <https://johnpalmer-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/about-our-school/documents-and-policies.html>

A minimum of two trial sessions are held for the selection for each PSSA sport team for students who indicate an interest in a team where there are more students than positions.

The selection process for PSSA teams is taken seriously and great effort is made to make the process as fair and equitable as possible. The coach's (Supervising teacher) responsibility is to give every student a chance to demonstrate their skills and sporting knowledge, allowing each student a fair chance to be selected. The coach will look for students who can demonstrate skills that are required in the chosen sport and their ability to work hard as part of a team. Only skills demonstrated at the trials will be taken in to consideration and not the student's playing history outside of school. It is very important to remember that the coach is not a professional coach, but a teacher who has volunteered to help and supervise the students while they participate in a sport they love.

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### Other Guidelines:

- Children do not have to participate in this sport outside school to be eligible to try out for the team.
- The selections will be made according to performance at selection sessions.
- At least two teachers are present at the trials and make the decision together.
- If a child is absent for one of the selection days or away due to illness or other school commitments i.e. Zone Sports or Selective High School Tests, then another trial will be held to determine if he/she is worthy of being selected.
- Students must sign and adhere to the player's code of conduct or they may be removed from the team.
- Students are expected to attend regular training sessions as set by the organising teacher.

### Does every student make a PSSA team?

- Unfortunately, no. Soccer, cricket and netball are the most popular sports with many students wanting to trial for these sports.
- Yes, we understand this means there are students who are disappointed and upset, but this is part of the sporting selection process and teachers are happy to give feedback to students to encourage further efforts next time. Students will still be participating in sporting activities at school on Friday mornings.
- These decisions are also difficult for our teaching staff who volunteer their time and effort in coaching PSSA teams.
- PSSA is seen as an extension program for students who display a high level of skill in certain sports so these students are often selected in both summer and winter teams.

### Costs

All students will pay a PSSA fee to cover the cost of buses, uniforms, equipment and membership levies. Students will not be able to attend if the fee has not been paid before the first game.

### Information about Ridges Zone Trials and Sydney West Area Trials

There are a number of zone and area trials held throughout the year for many sports such as netball, AFL, rugby league/union, basketball, softball, cricket, tennis, touch football, hockey, etc.

Students with highly developed skills in these sports may trial against other students in our zone and/or area for a position in a team which will represent Ridges Zone at a Sydney West Area carnival, or Sydney West at a NSW PSSA carnival.

Only a limited number of students from each school can trial for these teams. If there are many students who demonstrate the necessary skills in the chosen sport/s, school-based trials are held to select the most talented students. Usually, students are in Years 5 and 6 as these teams are open age. The majority of Zone and Area teams are selected in Term 1; however, some trials are held later in the year. The school sports co-ordinator will make regular announcements to students when trials are approaching.

Students must have a signed permission note from the school sports co-ordinator to attend Zone and/or Area trials.