

District/Representative School Sport at DPSS

General information for kids turning 10 and older in the current calendar year¹

The below is generic information which has been provided to the best of our ability but may be subject to change.

For simplicity, there are 2 forms of district sport at DPSS

1. Selection via school event:

- a. Cross Country
- b. Athletics (Track and Field)

You do not need to do anything!

Your child should be present and participate in the school cross country or athletics carnival to qualify. The district has minimum event standards each child must meet to qualify, so coming first in these event/s at the respective carnival does not automatically qualify your child to represent at district level. There is generally a limit of 2 children for each age and gender² for cross country. There is generally a limit of 3 children for track events and 2 for field events per age/gender². If your child has met these standards or is very close (at the discretion of the school), the school will approach the child and/or parent with an offer for them to represent the school if they also meet behavioural standards.

2. Nomination of Children who participate in club sport at a HIGH to VERY HIGH level (see table below for available sports in 2024)

If your child already plays their chosen sport/s at a **high** level (as a guide they will likely be one of the best in their club team/age group or meet minimum times for sports like swimming), they may nominate to represent the school at district selection trials. For swimming, you will be asked to submit times (preferably from club meets/swim central) for your nominated events – keep this in mind in December as district trials for swimming are usually in the first 2-3 weeks of school.

You need to join our DPSS District Sport WhatsApp group via the link sent around by the school at the beginning of term 1 or via your WhatsApp class group. This will be used as the primary avenue to gauge interest and collate a list of interested children. The school can nominate direct from this list or run internal trials.

A call-out for each interested individual sport will be made both at the beginning of the year and again within a month of the designated trial.

Overview of the process as a whole:

The school is responsible for selecting and nominating (generally) 2 representatives per age/gender². Most sports are a combined ages 10 to 12 (see table below for individual sports), so frequently the 10yr olds will miss out but would be unlikely to be selected anyway). The school's decision is final

¹ Please ensure you make special note to the co-ordinator if your child turns 13 or older this year and wishes to nominate, as nominations and scheduling are different for these age groups.

² Children who are gender diverse will be supported to nominate in the gender category they are most comfortable.

and will be based on skills, fitness, attitude, and appropriateness to act as a representative of the school. DPSS actively discourages any student from nominating for more than 2 sports (excluding swimming, cross country and track and field) as this creates too much disruption to the school year for both the individual student and their respective class/es.

The below is a very generic idea of what might be required in terms of commitment from the parent/child if they are selected (keep in mind all sports vary!):

District trials (to be selected for Mt Gravatt district) – usually an afternoon or 2 for the selection process (a whole school day for sports like swimming), whereby approximately 2 individuals for individual events or 1 team is chosen for team sports (through a combination of drills and mini-game play and generally a “possibles vs probables” final game). Parents must take or arrange all aspects of your child attending these trials. This will then progress to regional selections trials.

If your chosen sport indicates “paper nomination” in the table below, it is generally because there are usually insufficient children participating in the sport to warrant district trials. Selection goes direct to the regional level. If they happen to get unusually large interest, they reserve the right to revert to district trials. It is then often a whole-day trial.

Regional trials (to be selected for Metropolitan East) – usually a more intensive selection (sometimes a whole day off school or weekend) where they may do a combination of game play/round robin comp, drills/skills assessments. Some sports require you to purchase a uniform but mostly not. Again, this is a process of culling chosen children down to a final team which will represent our region (Met East) at State championships. Again, parents are solely responsible for all aspects of their child attending these trials.

State championships (representing Met East to be selected for nationals if applicable) – In the lead up to state championships, your child will be expected to prioritise training with their regional team over club sport and other commitments – non-attendance at training session will generally result in omission from the team. They must purchase a uniform (generally more than \$100), and to pay fees to be a part of the competition for insurance, venue hire etc. Frequently championships are outside the Brisbane area, and you will also be solely responsible for all costs of transport, supervision, behaviour and attendance.

Funding - The state government is currently offering grants in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics and if your child is chosen to represent at STATE level or higher, you may be eligible for a \$500 - \$600 grant if you are required to travel more than 170km from your home.

National championships: If your child is chosen to represent Queensland at Nationals, they will be required to buy a new uniform (generally more extensive, and thereby expensive, than the regional uniform) and pay additional costs for travel, venue hire, insurance etc. – Again – most sports are at least \$300 out of pocket before transport/accommodation etc. Some teams stay as a group and you will have flat fees applied, but generally, you will need to arrange it all yourself.

Now that the practicalities are out of the way, I will say it is an exceptional way for your child to grow as an individual and as part of a team. It can make them proud of hard work in a way they haven't previously experienced. They make new friends, often across age brackets, get exposed to different coaching styles and get a taste of what sporting representation might look like if they pursue it as a career. If your child is out of catchment, it may also give them valuable experience/exposure when applying for sporting selective entry to BSHS or BSSSC (AFL).