Elite Performers

Related Merici Policies
Nil

Rationale/Purpose
Merici College is committed to holistic education and offers a range of academic, spiritual, social, sporting, leadership and intellectual opportunities for its students. The College recognises the efforts and time commitments of elite Competitors’ and commends these students for their dedication to developing their God-given abilities.

The aim of this policy is to:

• clarify the school’s role in supporting students who compete outside school at an elite level in a performance-based activity.
• assist students in finding a balance between their academic responsibilities and their area of competitive expertise.

Definitions

Elite
For the purposes of this policy, “elite” refers to competition in a sport or performance-based activity at state level or its equivalent.

Policy

The College aims to support students in their elite-level competitive pursuits. Students need to apply for support, preferably in the first two weeks of a semester. All applications will be considered on their individual merit, and the level of support offered will be commensurate with the needs of the student.

Procedures

Students may be committed to many hours of training in their weekly schedules. Increasingly, outside agencies such as dance schools, sports organisation and private tutors timetable events and lessons that may impinge on the school day. There may also be an expectation that students have a reduced workload at school to assist them in their competitive endeavours. These situations can put students under intense pressure to both perform in their area of giftedness and to maintain their effort and engagement at school.

Students in Years 7 to 10 are bound by Every Chance to Learn and the Australian Curriculum, and the requirement to have sustained opportunities to learn in mandated areas of the curriculum. Students undertaking a Year 10 Certificate must meet the criteria as specified by the ACT Department of Education. The Principal must be able to state that a student has met school expectations in regard to attendance and assessment.
Three levels of support are provided.

**LEVEL 1: GENERAL ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION**
Teachers will be informed officially that the student may need to have extensions for assessment tasks or reduced homework expectations to ease the workload during times of intensive training or competitions. It will be the student’s responsibility to communicate with each teacher as the need arises.

**LEVEL 2: ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATION**
The student will attend all classes and experience all learning opportunities, but may be granted exemptions from homework or assessment tasks that require out of school research and preparation, in one or a number of classes, during intensive periods of competition. Exemptions will be in negotiated with the Junior School Coordinator (Years 7-9) or the Senior School Coordinator (Year 10) in consultation with teachers.

**LEVEL 3: LINE ALLOWANCE OR PARTIAL LINE ALLOWANCE**
The student will be given a one line allowance or partial line allowance to work independently. The student will be registered with the Information Centre by the Junior School Coordinator. On the exempted line, the student must sign into the IC to carry out independent study. A review of the student’s commitment to independent learning will be made each semester.

Students may be exempted from one elective line or from the practical classes only of Physical Education. The decision of line will be made on an individual basis; personal preference and the type of elite activity will be taken into account. Students on reduced lines may not continue to do an elective class in the same area as the elite competition. If students are granted an exemption from practical lessons of Physical Education, they are expected to attend and actively participate in sports carnivals.

An interview with the Junior or Senior School Coordinator (as appropriate) and the Principal/Assistant Principal - Curriculum is required if training is planned to occur during scheduled lesson time.

**CRITERIA**
A student seeking extraordinary processes needs to:
- be of good standing in the College community
- have demonstrated independent learning skills
- have a commitment to participating in the College community and
- maintain a cooperative manner in dealing with staff.

For a student to be included in the elite Competitors’ program she must meet all the following criteria:
- competition at a state or national level
- intensive training or coaching for a minimum of 20 hours during the average school week
- weekend commitments

Any teaching or coaching undertaken by the student will be considered as a part-time job, not as part of her elite Competitors’ program.

Academic consideration or exemption is granted for a semester, although an extension into Semester 2 of the same academic year can be granted following a positive review of the student’s conduct, academic application and regular attendance at school.

Students seeking inclusion into the program need to complete the Elite Competitors’ Application Form, with attachments, and return this to the Junior School Coordinator in the first two weeks of the semester.
A panel consisting of the Junior School Coordinator and representatives from the Physical Education and Behavioural Sciences and Expressive Arts Departments will meet to discuss and recommend inclusion in the program and the level of support offered.

References

Nil

Forms

Elite Competitors’ Application form: Years 7-10

Approved by: Merici Executive

Implementation Date: September 2007

Policy last Updated: 30 July 2012

Merici Contact Officer: Assistant Principal – Curriculum
# Elite Competitors’ Application form: Years 7-10

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<th>Student Name</th>
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<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Pastoral Care Group</th>
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<th>Previous concessions as an Elite performer?</th>
<th>Y / N</th>
<th>Year and semester</th>
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<th>Type of concession previously granted</th>
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<th>Competitive Activity</th>
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<th>Institution/club/organisation</th>
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<th>Name of coach or trainer</th>
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<th>Level of competition</th>
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<th>Average hourly commitment weekdays</th>
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<th>Average weekend commitments</th>
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<th>Level of support requested</th>
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<th>For Level 3 support, subject exemption requested for:</th>
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To complete your application, please attach the following:

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<th>Attachments</th>
<th>Attached ✗/✓</th>
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- Schedule or timetable of training/classes
- Dates and times of competition/performance commitments this semester
- Signed letter from coach or trainer supporting the application
- A written statement from the student explaining:
  - the reason for the level of the request (including Subject, if Level 3)
  - their commitment to the community life of Merici College and
  - what it means to them to be an independent learner

I understand that to be considered for inclusion in the Elite Competitors’ program I need to meet the expectations of all students at Merici and conduct myself in a cooperative manner at all times.

Student’s signature: ______________________________________

For Parents/Guardians/Carers:

I/we have read the Elite Competitors’ Policy and support my/our daughter’s application to be considered for the Elite Competitors’ Program.

Name: _________________________________________________

Signature:_______________________________________________

Phone contact:___________________________________________

Email:__________________________________________________________________________