

2026 ACS Competition Rules

Last updated 27 January 2026

MATCHES

- 1 ACS Competition Rules apply to all sports played in ACS and take precedence over sport specific body rules. This includes examples such as; that no penalty points shall be awarded for late arrival of teams but forfeit rules apply as per rule 2.3.
- 2 Games shall start at 2.15pm (except for cricket which commences at 2.00pm and all St Leonard's games will commence 2.30pm) and continue until completed. All sports should be completed by 4.00pm and 4.30pm for cricket.
 - 2.1 It is the responsibility of the home team school that appoints the umpires to ensure umpires are provided with a copy of the ACS Competition and relevant ACS sport rules and are clear on local ACS sport specific rules. ACS is responsible for briefing senior football and senior cricket umpires.
 - 2.1.1 Finals arrangements are the responsibility of the home team. In the event that scores are equal at full time the home team must ensure that umpires and venues are booked to accommodate extra time.
 - 2.2 Coaches and umpires must meet before matches to ensure all match and ACS Competition Rules are adhered to. This includes ensuring umpires are clear in understanding any local ACS sport rules, including finals arrangements as per rule 2.1 above. Coaches and umpires must meet after matches to sign scoresheets (as per rule 4).
 - 2.3 The home coach must greet and welcome the away coach, captain and team to affirm that the match be played in the spirit of fair play.
 - 2.4 Notification of a forfeited match to the opposition school should be **no later than 12.00 pm** on the day of the match. Any team not ready to play by 3.00pm shall forfeit the match and a 'friendly' shall be played. However, Directors/Heads of Sport, by mutual agreement, have the discretion to allow a live match to go ahead if the reasons for the delay are extraordinary and out of the control of the late arriving school. Details of forfeits must be forwarded to the ACS office. The official ACS scoresheets for both home and away teams must be signed by both team coaches and umpires/referees as a true and correct record of the match prior to a 'friendly' commencing or the match will be considered a live game. These signed scoresheets must be returned to the Directors/Heads of Sports. HOS/DOS must advise ACS office with reasons for Forfeits.
 - 2.4.1 Forfeit points for an arrival after 3.00 pm will equal points for a loss (0)
 - 2.4.2 Forfeit points for a pre-departure from school forfeit will equal (-2)
 - 2.4.3 Match abandonment due to transport breakdown (in transit) to the match will be a loss (0)
 - 2.4.4 No penalty scores shall be awarded for the late arrival of teams
 - 2.4.5 Early abandonment of a match by one team will equal points for a loss (0)
 - 2.5 A mandatory warm up time of 5 minutes will be provided if a school arrives late but it must be a physical warm up, not a coaching opportunity. Teams must take the field/court promptly after the warm up.
 - 2.6 A team not ready to play with mandatory safety gear will forfeit the match with points for a loss applied (0).
 - 2.7 Strictly no mobile phones on any sport field or court.
 - 2.8 The application of a sports body's suspension of any athlete will not apply to ACS except at the discretion of the individual school of the athlete concerned.

3 RESULTS

Results are managed through the Clipboard Compete platform. This is the link to the desktop platform for Sports Administrators: www.go.clipboard.app . [For more information on Clipboard Compete contact the ACS Office.](#)

All match and venue information must be entered correctly into Clipboard for 2025. This will be the anchor point for all match information including: Venues, times etc.

All scores must be entered into Clipboard Compete by the coaches BEFORE leaving the venue. These scores must match for a game to be verified. If there is a genuine disagreement about final scores and a discrepancy is entered into Clipboard then HOS/DOS must submit a report (including account and reason) with signed scoresheets by 12pm the following day.

All forfeits must be submitted to ACS in writing including reason.

4 Scoresheets and Scorers

Scorers for all sports must sit together as the home team scoresheet is the official record of the match, not the scoreboard.

The ACS scoresheet is the official record of the match

The home team is responsible for collecting, collating and storing the official ACS scoresheet. Scoresheets must be stored for 12 months and be made available to the ACS office and opposition team upon request. Scoresheets must be fully completed and must include the following or **risk forfeiture of match points** for the team that fails to provide or collate the required information (0 points applied).

- 4.1.1 First and last names of every player from **both** teams must be listed. Do not include the names of any players that will not take part in the match.
- 4.1.2 Full match scores relevant to the sport (final scores must be agreed upon before signing)
- 4.1.3 Signatures of both Coaches
- 4.1.4 Signatures of Umpires/Referees

5 Player Behaviour and the Process for Reporting and Recording Serious Incidents

If a referee/umpire has to send any player off the playing area for any reason or severely reprimand a player then the coach of that player must have the referee/umpire complete details of the incident in the ACS Sports Incident Report. The ACS Sports Incident Report (on page 28) must then be forwarded to the player's Heads of Sport, who shall forward copies to the Heads/Principals and Deputy Heads/Principals of both schools involved in the match, and the ACS Executive Officer. The matter must be completed within 7 days.

ACS senior football umpires will make their reports through the ACS Football Director of Umpiring who will forward reports to the ACS office. The Cricket Umpires Convenor will forward reports to the ACS office.

Incidents of a serious nature through either injury – whether deliberate or accidental and/or unacceptable behaviour and where further action is required by a school must be reported and recorded by any official that witnessed the incident; this includes but is not limited to, the umpires, coaches and if present, team managers or teachers. If an umpire does not witness or report the incident, the coach(s) or other school official such as the team manager or teacher will make the report.

5.1. Process for Reporting and Recording serious incidents

- 1) The ACS Sports Incident Report (on page 28) must be completed by all officials who witnessed the incident immediately after the match. As much detail as possible must be provided. **This report must be completed in addition to a school's own incident report, within 48 hours of the match.**
- 2) The report(s) must be passed on to the Head of Sport of the reporting school as soon as possible.
- 3) The Head of Sport will immediately notify the Head of Sport from the other school and the ACS.
- 4) Both Heads of Sport must notify their Principal as soon as possible.
- 5) The Principal from the school making the report will contact the Principal of the other school to develop a joint plan of action in consultation with the Heads of Sport and will notify the ACS.
- 6) The matter is to be resolved as quickly as possible **within 7 days** and every attempt is made to find a satisfactory outcome for all involved.

Arbitration process: In the event the matter is not resolved it is referred to the Chair of the Association with the option of forming a panel of non-involved schools.

5.2. Process for Independent Investigations involving allegations against officials, other volunteers or contractors appointed by ACS

Process for managing incidents or allegations involving officials, volunteers or contractors appointed to ACS sports or events and not under the jurisdiction of a member school. *This process is separate to any investigations regarding Child Safety allegations which fall under the ACS's Child Safety Policy.*

- 1) The ACS Sports Incident Report (on page 27 & 28) must be completed by all who witnessed the incident immediately after the match or event. As much detail as possible must be provided. **This report must be completed within 24 hours and emailed to the ACS Office.**

- 2) Once all reports are received; the ACS Executive Officer will confer with the ACS President to determine if the situation calls for an independent investigation. The Executive Officer will undertake appointing an independent investigator as soon as possible, when it is warranted.
- 3) Principals/Head of the School must be notified of the investigation and kept informed of all stages of the process.
- 4) Where students make allegations against officials, they may be required to be interviewed and will be accompanied by a school staff member.
- 5) The investigation shall be completed in a timely manner, within 7 days with cooperation from those involved.

5.3 Process for breach of the Code of Ethics and sport rules

Where there is a breach of the Code of Ethics or rules by coaches or staff, the following process shall be followed: This is a particular area of responsibility for the Deputy Heads / Deputy Principals.

- a) Complainant shall complete the **ACS Sports Incident Report** and supply any additional information and send a copy of the report to the Director/Head of Sport of the school concerned, both Deputy Principals and to the ACS Executive Officer.
 - b) The ACS Executive Officer will liaise with the complainant to fully understand the issue and seek a written response to the complaint from the other school involved to be distributed to both schools Deputy Principals, Directors/Heads of Sport, and the ACS. If it remains unresolved, then an online meeting shall be arranged with the Deputy Principals, Directors/Heads of Sport and ACS Executive Officer to discuss and work through the complaint for a suitable resolution.
- 6 Any player bleeding must leave the field of play and stem the blood flow. They may not return until the appropriate time for each sport. The blood flow must have stopped and signs of the flow should have been removed from the person's skin. *Refer to 5. Infectious Diseases Guidelines on page 26 for more information.*

ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF A BLOOD SPILL (*excerpts from SMA Infectious Diseases Policy*)

In an accident where bleeding occurs and if:

- i. Skin is penetrated or broken, the immediate first aid is to clean the wound with soap and water only. If water is not available a 70% alcohol hand rub should be used.
 - ii. Clothes are bloodstained, they should be changed for clean ones once the wound has been treated. They should be handled with rubber gloves and treated as above.
 - iii. Blood gets on the skin, irrespective of whether they are cuts or abrasions wash well with soap and water.
 - iv. Eyes are contaminated, rinse the area gently but thoroughly, with the eyes open, with water or normal saline.
 - v. A player is wearing contact lenses:
 - Leave the contact lenses in while the eye is irrigated with water or normal saline, the contact lenses are acting as a barrier to the eye.
 - When the eye has been adequately irrigated for several minutes, remove the contact lenses and clean in the normal manner.
 - They can then be reused. They do **not** have to be cleaned any differently than normal and they do not need to be discarded.
 - vi. Blood gets in the mouth, spit it out and rinse the mouth with water several times.
- 7 If in any sport an extra player is found on the field or court, the score achieved during that half of play shall be removed.
- 8 Students can only participate at their own year level in all sports.
- 9 Junior School students cannot be used as Year 7 students.
- 10 **Rules for Years 7 and Intermediate:** Best players should play in the A team. Students cannot play in A and B teams or another sport on the same day. Once a player takes the court/field in a sport or grade that is their official match for the day. Should that player then take the court/field in another sport or grade then that match will be forfeited with zero points applied.

- 10.1 Fielding the 'A' team in competition is priority. Should squad numbers be diminished on a given day allowing only one team to compete, the 'B' team shall forfeit to allow the 'A' team to play.
- 10.2 Where a team will have lower player numbers on a given match day, it is the responsibility of the Director/Head of sport to initiate a conversation with the opposing team's Director/head of Sport (or representative) prior to the match. If no conversation takes place, no modification can be expected. The purpose of the conversation is to advise the opposition team of the lower team numbers and come to an agreed match modification that will allow for the match to continue and not adversely impact either team. **This rule cannot be used in Grand Finals**
- 10.3 Mercy Rules where noted for certain sports apply for all competitions except 1st Seniors.

11 Rules for senior teams: Mercy rules do not apply for 1st grade senior competitions but do apply for all other senior grade competitions.

- 11.1 For the integrity of the senior competition, schools must field their best available players in the first team and grade second, third or fourth teams as accurately as possible.
- 11.2 If on the day of the match, unforeseen circumstances prevent the first team from playing; then the remaining teams are permitted to play but no member of the first team can play in a lower grade on that day. Failure to abide by the above will result in forfeiture of the match; including lower levels.
 - 11.2.1 Unforeseen circumstances under this rule is defined as:
 - Extreme weather situations that prevent a match being played
 - A transport issue in transit to the match
 - A field or court determined as unsafe for play upon arrival to the match
- 11.3 Where squad numbers are reduced due to a school's internal matters such as but not limited to; other co-curricular events, camps or illness and injury then adjustments to teams are required. The priority is to always field the first team. The number of players in the firsts takes precedence over second, third or fourth teams. First team numbers must be equal to or greater than the next grade team numbers. If the first team forfeits or cannot complete the match then all the lower level teams will play 'friendlies' and points will be awarded to the opposition.
- 11.4. Where a team will have lower player numbers on a given match day, it is the responsibility of the Director/Head of sport to initiate a conversation with the opposing team's Director/head of Sport (or representative) prior to the match. If no conversation takes place, no modification can be expected. The purpose of the conversation is to advise the opposition team of the lower team numbers and come to an agreed match modification that will allow for the match to continue and not adversely impact either team. **This rule cannot be used in grand finals.**
- 11.5. Students cannot play in more than one team or another sport on the same day. Once a player takes the court/field in a sport or grade that is their official match for the day. Should that player then take the court/field in another sport or grade then that match will be forfeited.
- 11.6. Any student that plays a sport at a representative level i.e. district, state under age or a higher level must only play in the first school team of that sport unless an exemption is granted from the ACS. Any exemption requests must be put in writing at least 48 hours before the match.
- 11.7. **Player movement between senior teams:** Players can only move one grade up or down per week. For example, a 2nd Basketball player cannot play in 4th Basketball competition the following week. Should a player take the court/field in another grade greater than one up or down, then that match will be forfeited unless an exemption has been obtained from the opposition Director/Head of Sport prior to commencement of the match.
See FINALS rule 4 for finals eligibility.

12. ACS Ladders: All ACS ladders will be calculated using the standard points system.

For all sports points will be:

Win	Draw	Loss	Cancellation	Forfeit Loss	Forfeit Loss
			Due to rain, heat, etc	Forfeit Loss (Rule 2.4.2)	Post departure
4 Points	2 Points	0 Points	2 Points	-2 Points	0 Points

13. Resolving Match Disputes:

- 13.1. Coaches must resolve match disputes and results according to ACS rules at the conclusion of the match.
 - 13.2. If the match is unable to be resolved it must be recorded on the **ACS Match Dispute Form** (page 16) and reported immediately to the Directors/Heads of Sport who will notify the ACS by the following day.
 - 13.3. The ACS will make a decision based on the ACS rules. If the situation is not covered by ACS rules then the Arbitration process is enacted.
 - 13.4. Arbitration: If a school appeals the decision of the ACS, it must be appealed in writing within three days of being notified of the decision. If a match dispute is not covered by ACS rules or a school has appealed an ACS decision, then a panel is formed of the Directors/Heads of Sport not involved in the match to review the reports and decision.
 - 13.4.1. The panel will convene via an online platform or teleconference to discuss the reports from both parties. Both parties will have the opportunity to address the panel during the teleconference once the panel has discussed the reports and appeal.
14. For Guidelines for the cancellation of ACS sport, please refer to ACS Sport Policies on page 17.
 15. In all sports, schools can supply more umpires/referees/linespeople than the minimum number if the ruling sporting association allows it.
 16. Prior to the game umpires/referees should be given a copy of the ACS rules. This is the responsibility of the home team.
 17. Where there is a similarity of colours the home teams should change or provide an alternative bib.
 18. Uniform numbers (or bibs) are required for basketball and football but are optional for hockey and soccer.
 19. Coaches are expected to ensure that their players are in correct school sports uniform and are required to report any uniform infringements to their sports coordinator.
 20. All players should be reminded to take frequent drinks and wear sunscreen and hats where it is appropriate. It is recommended that mouthguards be worn.
 21. Staff and coaches should be aware of the rules of each sport.
 22. It is recommended that schools provide coaches with a form of identification, whether as a school tracksuit and/or badge.
 23. All scoresheets shall be kept for 12 months.
 24. Bathroom facilities must be available for all ACS matches, or an alternative venue must be used.

ACS Penalty Scores

In the event of a forfeited match

Sport	Penalty Score	Max Score Differential
Badminton	16 – 0 (Seniors) 12 – 0 (Years 7-9)	
Basketball	50 – 0	50
Cricket	Forfeiting team: 20 overs and all out (10 wickets) Winning team: 0 overs; 0 wickets and 0 runs	
Football	60 – 0	60
Futsal	8 – 0	8
Hockey	7 – 0	7
Netball	20 – 0	30
Soccer	7 – 0	7
Softball	10 – 0	
Table Tennis	15 – 0	
Tennis	12 – 0	
Touch Football	10 – 0	
Volleyball	3 – 0	

Maximum Score Differentials: These are considered part of the ASC Mercy Rules and therefore only apply to all levels EXCEPT Senior 1st Grade.

If a match is not completed with the mutual agreement of the two coaches, then the penalty score can be applied if the difference is greater than the score when the match was stopped.

ACS Finals

SEMI FINALS & GRAND FINALS

1. The teams with the highest points will play in the semi finals or grand finals depending upon the number of teams in the competition. See below.
 - 1.1. **4 team competitions:**
1st placed team progresses straight into the grand final & 2nd & 3rd placed teams will play a semi final – winner of 2nd vs 3rd will progress to the grand final.
 - 1.2. **5 team plus, competitions:**
Teams placing 1st to 4th will play semi finals: 1 v 4 & 2 v 3.
 - 1.3. **For Year 7, Intermediates and Seniors:** If two or more teams finish on equal points, the placings will be determined by:
 - (a) percentages or goal difference where appropriate,
 - (b) then by home/away win/loss record between the teams
 - (c) then by 'For' (highest).
2. The team that finishes highest on the ladder and wins the semi final will host the final (except in 4 team competitions, top of the ladder hosts the grand final). This can be changed by mutual agreement.
 - 2.1. Should the same two schools have the first and second or 'A' and 'B' teams in grand finals (or 'C' and 'D' teams and so on) of a sport then both matches can be played at the home venue of the top placed first or 'A' team. Except for Senior Football where the four competing First and Seconds teams (1 v 2) must be from the same two schools.
3. The host team pays for the final, but the costs will be shared if at a neutral ground.
4. Finals eligibility: Competitions involving Semi Finals and Grand Finals

Games Played Qualification for all Year levels

A player must have played one game more than half of the regular season games in order to qualify to play in a Semi-Final or Grand Final. Matches cancelled due to wet or hot weather are included in this count only if the player was available.

Number of matches in the fixture, not including byes						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Number of matches required for a player to be eligible to play in finals						
If a player has played this many games at a higher grade, they are ineligible to play in a lower grade in a Grand Final						
3	3	4	4	5	5	6

Grade Played Eligibility

In any competition which involves graded teams, a player who has played the number of games as listed in the above table at a higher grade, is ineligible to play in a lower grade in a Semi-Final or Final. This game count also includes a game played in a Semi Final when it comes to qualification for a Grand Final.

Please note: that where a school has two (or more) teams in a competition, but only one makes the final, the above eligibility rules apply to each team separately within that competition. Players cannot be switched into the team that has made the final unless they have qualified to play in that team.

If both the Senior 1st & 2nd or A and B teams make finals, eligibility rules regarding movement players up and down grades do not apply, except for table tennis and tennis where the eligibility rules apply regardless (due to ranking).

This rule also applies in the Senior Competition in situations where the 2nd & 3rd teams or 3rd & 4th teams or other grades where B and C, or C and D, or D and E, or E and F, or F and G grades etc both make the Finals.

Exemptions / Special Consideration

In special circumstances a school may apply to the ACS for an exemption to the qualification /eligibility rules, but appropriate documentation must be supplied to the ACS by no later than 4.00pm on the Friday prior to the Semi Final/Grand Final.

Exemptions for medical reasons (injury or illness) should be supported by medical documentation. Another example of an exemption might be for a new student arriving at a school after the commencement of the season.

Cancellation of grand finals

In the event that grand finals are cancelled due to extreme heat or wet weather, the following will apply:

- If the team that finished on top of the ACS ladder at the end of the home and away rounds is clear from the second placed team on points, the team on top will be awarded the premiership.
- If the two top teams on the ACS ladder are equal on points at the end of the home and away rounds, then they will share the premiership. Percentage or goal difference will not be considered in this situation.

TROPHIES

1. Trophy size I to be used for Cross Country, Swimming and Athletics overall aggregate.
2. Trophy size G to be given for best overall girls and best overall boys at the Athletics, Cross Country and Swimming.
3. Trophy size Medium in the non-tarnishing range to be given for all Senior competitions.
4. Trophy size Small in the non-tarnishing range to be given to all Years 7-9 A competitions. Winning B teams would receive a perpetual shield with their school name engraved on it.
5. At the Cross Country, students who come 1st, 2nd or 3rd in an event will receive a medallion.
6. In the Swimming and Athletics, 1st, 2nd and 3rd in an event will receive ribbons.
7. Pennants to be given to the schools for best boys, best girls, and overall team winners at each year level in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

All Schools now have Hy-Tek Team Manager software and team entries shall be submitted using this software.

Team entries for all Championships must be submitted to the ACS no later than 5 business days prior to the Championships.

Guides to using Hy-Tek Swim Team Manager 8.0 and Track & Field Team Manager are available from the ACS office.

