

From The Sports Desk – Week 4 of 2nd Term 2022

We are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel. Sport is back up and running. And, if all things go well, we will be back to normal in May, with no public holidays and a full month of sporting activities. It has been an extremely disruptive first 4 weeks, but we look forward to some fluidity as we manage the remainder of the term.

A major concern, however, is the amount of children missing training sessions, and even more so, those who have quit a sporting code all together without telling a single coach. This has an impact on team selection, coach allocation and match fixturing. Please can you encourage your child to openly communicate with coaches or myself. We are mindful of assessment time and, when the assessments come around, those children who choose to study rather than attend practice are welcome to do so – there are also no matches in this time frame. However, that is only for the 2 weeks of assessments and we expect the children to remain committed to their sporting code until such time as they are allowed to miss due to studies.

Parents on the side-line. Most parents have been supportive but not overwhelming on the side of the field. This is great to note, especially after so little sport over the past 2 years. I am more than pleased with the parents “behaviour” and willingness to support without crossing boundaries. However, I do need to highlight a few essentials as a spectator.

1. Please remain off the playing area and away from the team huddle, both at half time and at full time. This is the team and coaches time.
2. Trainings sessions are not spectator friendly. Please may I ask that you honour this time as a time for the players and coaches to get things right for the fixtures.
3. What we say – I was horrified to hear the words coming out of the mouths of some of the spectators at a recent U11 fixture (a fixture which did not involve Virginia and was not even in our province – it was a live broadcast online). Just a reminder - please keep in mind that there are little ears around.
4. Remember that it is a primary school fixture. Yes, we play to win. But at the end of the day that is not the most important aspect of a sporting code at this age group.

Rugby

A tough round of fixtures met the boys this past weekend, with a big score or 2. The boys can be proud of their efforts as some of them played their first match ever. We have a number of fixtures to look forward to, all of which have varied opposition strength. We will continue to redevelop the sport at Virginia, including the fixture list. One thing that would be beneficial to all players is taking the time to watch professional fixtures, both live or via media. This will allow them to learn a lot about the game.

Results vs. Penzance:

U10A vs. Penzance U10B	Won 25-5
U11A vs. Penzance U11B	Lost 12-15
U11B vs. Penzance U11C	Lost 10-15
U13A vs. Penzance U13A	Lost 0-61
U13B vs. Penzance U13C	Lost 14-22

Road Running

Road running has been delayed further due to the challenges we face while running after the recent floods. Damage to the roads and pavements mean that our children would have to run in the road at certain points and would need to avoid potential hazards on the routes. I will continue to navigate these routes in my spare time to monitor and will get road running started again once I feel we have at least a couple of routes which we can run without risk of harm to our children. Please watch this space before committing to a morning of road running.

Netball

Netball is in full swing and our girls are getting some good game time. It is wonderful to see a netball season in full swing after so many disruptions. There are a number of fixtures coming up and we look forward to more hard work from our girls this season.

Fatima Netball Festival results:

U10A vs. Atholton U10A	Won 2-0
U10A vs. Penzance U10A	Won 2-1
U10A vs. Glenwood U10A	Drew 0-0
U10A vs. Fatima U10A	Drew 0-0
U10A vs. Northlands U10A	Drew 0-0
U10A vs. D.N.P. U10A	Drew 1-1
U11A vs. Atholton U11A	Won 2-0
U11A vs. Penzance U11A	Won 2-1
U11A vs. Glenwood U11A	Lost 0-2
U11A vs. Fatima U11A	Lost 2-3
U11A vs. Northlands U11A	Won 2-0
U11A vs. D.N.P. U11A	Won 6-0
U13A vs. Atholton U13A	Won 6-3
U13A vs. Penzance U13A	Lost 7-9
U13A vs. Glenwood U13A	Lost 4-11
U13A vs. Ashton U13B	Lost 6-8

The final U13A match was meant to be vs. D.N.P. U13A. With the opposition not attending, the girls picked up another mid-day match and played the last match as a filler fixture where they got to try out new positions and have a bit of fun in their netball. It was a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces in this time.

Netball results vs. Fatima:

U10A vs. Fatima U10A	Won 2-1
U10B vs. Fatima U10B	Drew 2-2
U10C vs. Fatima U10C	Drew 1-1
U10D vs. Fatima U10D	Lost 0-1
U11A vs. Fatima U11A	Lost 2-8
U11B vs. Fatima U11B	Lost 1-8
U11C vs. Fatima U11C	Lost 0-8
U11D vs. Fatima U11D	Lost 0-10
U12A vs. Fatima U12A	Lost 8-12
U12B vs. Fatima U12B	Lost 5-6
U12C vs. Fatima U12C	Lost 0-4
U12D vs. Fatima U12D	Lost 2-4
U13A vs. Fatima U13A	Won 7-5
U13B vs. Fatima U13B	Drew 3-3
U13C vs. Fatima U13C	Won 1-0
U13D vs. Fatima U13C	Won 5-1

Hockey

Hockey trials tomorrow are for all u12 and u13 players who wish to attend.

Soccer

Soccer at Virginia is very popular and the numbers registered for the season are much larger than most, if not all schools we play against. This provides a challenge in the season, finding fixtures for all our teams. I will continue to search for as many fixtures as possible. However, it does become difficult when some schools are only offering us 2 or 3 teams while our open age group can boast 8 teams in that age group alone.

A major concern is the number of children missing training sessions for a variety of reasons. Children need to remain committed to their training sessions and make sure that the coaches do not have a headache trying to find the players each day.

I would like to apologise for the misprint of the fixtures today against D.N.P. Unfortunately, once we saw the strength of the school, we knew that our A teams would be far too strong and thought it would be a great opportunity to give more of our children a chance to play in a fixture. In my haste to get these fixtures out, I failed to change the teams listed, publishing as A instead of B or C teams playing. I thank you in advance for your understanding of this error and I will endeavour to make sure I eradicate these going forward.

Soccer Results vs. Atholton:

U10A vs. Atholton U10A	Won 5-1
U10B vs. Atholton U10B	Lost 0-2
U11A vs. Atholton U11A	Lost 1-2
U11B vs. Atholton U11B	Won 4-1
U13A vs. Atholton U13A	Won 3-1
U13B vs. Atholton U13B	Won 3-1
U13C vs. Atholton U13C	Drew 0-0
U13D vs. Atholton U13D	Lost 1-2

Tennis

Our tennis players have stepped up a gear after the first ever Virginia tennis tour. Moving forward, we are excited to be growing the sport and will continue to explore more avenues where we can improve this sporting code. I have also received positive feedback from our tennis specialists that there is a massive improvement from where we were this time last year to now. While our scores do not reflect it, our boys and girls put in a huge effort against some strong opposition. This is also the first year we are entering an intermediate team (4th team) as we focus on growing more competitive tennis players. There were also compliments for our spectators – something I am very pleased to hear. I look forward to getting out to more of our tennis matches going forward.

Tennis Results:

1 st team vs. DPHS 2	Lost 27-36
2 nd team vs. Highbury 2	Lost 27-36
4 th team vs. Clifton	Lost 73-79

Non-School Sport – Bodyboarding

Slade Niven and Dean Hart have been selected to represent KZN in the 2022 SA Bodyboarding Champs to be held later this year. Well done boys, and good luck.

“Every day is a new beginning. Take a deep breath and start again.” – Anon

Yours in sport
Gavin Skevington – Sports Director