5.1 "Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Sport in Schools"

This NSW D.E.T./C.E.C. document is an essential reference for any teacher conducting sporting/physical activities in schools.

Each diocesan school was issued a copy in 2000.

Each diocesan school was emailed a copy in 2002.

However, all schools are strongly advised to ensure they are referring to the most recently updated version by going online to


Peter Ryan's introductory letter (2000) to the: 
*Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools*

PR:jj: 3/00/1411

20 March 2000

Dear Principal,

Please find enclosed a copy of the Guidelines for the Safe Conduct of Sport and Physical Activity in Schools. This handbook was the result of cooperation between the Catholic Education Commission (NSW) and the School Sport Unit in the Development and Support Portfolio, NSW Department of Education and Training which developed the material for the Guidelines.

While it is beyond the authority of this Office to give directives as such to schools, you should note that this handbook comes with the *strongest possible advice* that it be adopted at school level as policy to be followed by all staff.

Now that this handbook is available to you, I believe that failure to follow its contents would leave the Trustees, parish, school and individual teachers very open to legal action in the case of an accident.

You will find throughout the Guidelines references to Departmental memoranda containing policy, guidelines and/or agreed practices for Departmental schools. Please disregard these references as the Diocese does not have the same policies or agreements. However this does not take away from the importance of the information contained in the handbook.

You may also notice that if you follow the page numbers, it appears that some are missing. This is not the case – the original has blank dividers that are counted as pages, however these were not photocopied.
I suggest that you:

a) discuss the handbook with your Sports Coordinator;
b) present the handbook to all staff at a general staff meeting;
c) ensure a copy is readily available to staff at all times.

Given the importance of this material, presentation to staff should be made in some detail, rather than as a mere reference to its availability.

This exercise should be repeated at least annually with all staff.

Also please note the information contained in the memorandum from the Catholic Education Commission to Diocesan Directors which is included at the beginning of the document. The memo gives a summary of legal and insurance advice received by CEC.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Ryan  
Director of Catholic Schools