

**2020 SPC Soccer Tour to the United Kingdom
Wednesday March 27 – Tuesday 8 April**

Selection Policy and Criteria

Introduction

The St Patricks' College Soccer program is planning its inaugural international tour to the United Kingdom (England and Scotland) during the Term 1 holidays in 2020. The tour proposes to indulge our SPC senior soccer players in a variety of aspects of soccer in its traditional home, the United Kingdom. These aspects include visits to numerous top tier British soccer clubs, training sessions at elite-level facilities with highly qualified coaches, attendance of three top tier soccer matches and three friendly matches against local youth sides (school / club). This tour is offered in line with the College's Overseas Trips Policy, which is available on the College website.

Objectives of Tour

The tour would have the following educational objectives:

1. Training sessions with high-level coaches at professional club and other facilities;
2. Friendly matches (3) played against Scottish and English youth teams;
3. Visits to numerous stadiums through official stadium tours, taking in the history, geography facilities, identity and culture of well-known British soccer clubs;
4. Attendance of high level (Scottish Premier League / English Premier League / English Championship) soccer matches (3, TBC);
5. To strengthen relationships between students and staff in, and the culture of the SPC Soccer program through these unique and enriching experiences;
6. To give SPC students a detailed insight into the inner workings of soccer at a high level, and to educate and inspire them with regard to the standard of play, training and infrastructure / facilities they will experience;
7. To interact with British players and coaches at various levels;
8. To instill in our boys confidence to travel internationally, so that this tour may encourage them to further pursue their passions in the future.

Tour Planning Committee

The Tour Planning Committee will consist of the Headmaster, The Deputy Headmaster Student & Staff Wellbeing, the Director of Sport and the Coordinator of Soccer.

Selection Criteria – Students

All boys wishing to attend the tour will need to submit a formal application via the application survey, which can be found on the SPC Soccer section of the St. Patrick's College official website. Boys will be asked to respond to specific questions in line with the tour objectives, in particular an appreciation of the purpose of the tour as an Edmund Rice educational experience, as well as make a commitment to abide by all College expectation and tour rules.

Applications will be assessed by the Headmaster and members of the Tour Planning Committee. Invitations to apply to attend the proposed tour will be issued to the following students within the College community:

- Students with a demonstrated record of participation within the College's soccer program from Years 9-11
- Boarding or new students entering the College at Year 10, 11 or 12 will be considered for the tour in line with commitment to soccer at their previous school and upon analysis of their tour application

- Students in Years 9, 10 or 11 (2019) who have a demonstrated record of supporting the SPC Soccer program through provision of referee, coaching or leadership roles

The number of students able to attend the tour will be dependent upon a number of factors. The tour will be limited to a maximum of 20 players. It should be noted that 14 students is the minimum viable number for the trip to proceed (any number under 20 will slightly increase the price of the tour). In line with the educational objectives of the tour it is preferable to take more rather than less students, given:

- Availability of staff to provide a 1:8 adult to student ratio;
- As this is the first tour of its kind, it is preferable to send *one* travelling team, where any larger numbers would mean less game time for players in their friendly matches;
- Availability of suitable accommodation for tour party;

Should the number of applications from the College's football programme exceed the number of places available on the tour the following selection criteria will be applied by the Tour Planning Committee:

1. The tour is a part of the SPC Soccer senior program. In line with this the Committee will select its best team to represent the College, provided that players considered for selection are making sound academic progress and have a behavioural record that suggests they would represent the College in the manner expected of St Patrick's College students.
2. The committee will be responsible for the selection of students based on their soccer merit. Factors taken into account include but are not limited to:
 - a. Regional, state or national representation in soccer or futsal
 - b. Playing soccer at local club level
 - c. Having played and shown consistent and positive commitment to SPC Soccer and futsal at junior, intermediate and / or senior level during their time at SPC
 - d. The necessity for a travelling team to have all on-field positions represented by at least one player
 - e. Attendance of SPC Soccer events in a non-playing capacity – E.g. as a supporter, official, attendee at meetings, attendee at presentation nights
 - f. Showing a positive interest in soccer through their everyday interactions around the College
3. The Committee will also take into account student involvement in non-soccer-related activities around the College. These might include involvement in extra-curricular activities and groups, house and other sports, positions of leadership, community service, etc.
4. Parents/Guardians of Tour participants must have appropriate financial arrangements (a fee payment schedule) in place with the College and be up to date with fee payments to enable their son to be considered for the tour.
5. The Headmaster will have discretion to select or omit students for the tour in light of circumstances communicated to him in confidence.

Checklist for Candidates' Applications

Applications will be reviewed by the Tour Management Committee.

Applicants will be assessed upon the following criteria:

- Academic progress
- Behavioural progress
- Sporting representation of the College
- Cultural representation of the College
- Leadership skills evidenced

How to Apply

Applicants will be required to submit their application using survey accessible via the following link:

<http://www.stpats.vic.edu.au/en/students-parents-staff/sport/soccer/>

Selection Criteria – Tour Staff Members

As noted the recommended staffing ratio for the trip will be one staff member for every 8 students. Staff selection for the tour will be prioritised according to the required needs of the students, the tour's coordination requirements and the educational objectives of the tour.

Staff Role Descriptions

With the exception of a medical practitioner, preference for these positions will be given to staff members of St Patrick's College. Where positions cannot be filled by staff an application process will be advertised amongst parents and friends within the St Patrick's community.

Tour Leader:

- Will coordinate all pre planning of the tour
- Will coordinate day to day activities on the tour
- Will be responsible for the operations and behaviour expectations of the tour
- Will be the point of contact for families

Logistics/First Aid person:

- Will be responsible for all College owned property
- Will assist the tour manager in all areas and be responsible for hands on day-to-day issues arising
- Will assist the soccer operations with respect to property
- Will negotiate the washing of apparel including match jumpers
- Will ensure that medical kit is adequately equipped at all times
- Will provide first aid to players and other staff where necessary and facilitate further medical care

Leadership/Communications:

- Will be responsible for liaison between the official tour party and accompanying guests/friends of St Patricks
- Will be responsible for regular communication back to the College and tour participant's families via phone, official social media and email
- Will be responsible for taking the students through a series of leadership opportunities and heighten their awareness of the charism of Edmund Rice
- Will act as a tour spokesperson / liaison and an official representative of St. Patrick's College/

Key Dates

6 March 2019	Student applications open
29 March 2019	Student applications close
5 April 2019	Student selections confirmed
22 April	First deposit (\$1800.00) due, following 3 instalment to be paid tri-monthly (dates TBC)
Late April / early May	Confirmation of flights