PUBLIC ENTITY SABA

Tolerance Agreement for Student Sports Travel

School Year 2026-2027 | Date: 25 August 2026

Dear Coaches and Parents/Guardians,

Sports play a real part in how our students grow, both in skill and in confidence. The Public Entity of Saba, together with Saba Comprehensive School and Sacred Heart School, wants to support students who compete in sports events, especially since Saba doesn't have a top level sports academy of its own. Travel for these events gives students opportunities they wouldn't otherwise get.

We've been flexible with this kind of travel in the past. In recent school years we saw a rise in sports related absences, so we're setting clearer guidelines to keep things fair and manageable for everyone.

> There's also a legal side to this. Under Article 20 of the Leerplichtwet BES, students can only be excused from school for specific reasons, including "other serious circumstances" (part g). Sports doesn't automatically fall under this, which means neither the schools nor the Truancy Officer can grant leave for sports travel on their own. This tolerance agreement is how we handle that gap fairly and consistently.

To be clear, sports travel doesn't count as an official excuse to miss school under the law. Under this agreement, neither the Truancy Officer nor the school will take action against these absences, as long as the conditions below are followed. If they're not followed, the absence will be treated like any other unexcused absence.

1. **Travel Limit:** Each student may travel for sports events a maximum of two times per school year.
2. **Approval Process:** The school must approve the trip in advance. The Truancy Officer maintains oversight to make sure the conditions of this agreement are met.
3. **Planning Requirement:** Coaches and organizations should submit an annual schedule of proposed travel dates where possible. Since some tournaments and events aren't known that far in advance, requests must be submitted at least one month before travel in those cases.
4. **Timing Restrictions:** Travel is not allowed during job training periods, shortly before or after school vacations, exam weeks, or the weeks leading up to exams.
5. **Group Travel:** If a group of students is traveling together for the same event, such as a tournament, one coach may submit a single travel request on behalf of the entire group instead of separate requests per student, provided written consent is received from each student's parent or guardian.
6. **Appeals:** If a travel request is denied, the coach or parent may ask the school to review the decision. The school's decision after this review is final.

Approval for each trip will be based on these conditions and reviewed on a case by case basis.

We want students to enjoy what sports can give them, while still keeping up with their education. That's the balance this agreement aims for.

This agreement continues automatically each school year unless the parties agree to change or end it.

For questions or more details, reach out to the school administration.

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