

Sport in 2026

Sport is compulsory at Rathkeale. All students must participate in a summer sport and a winter sport.

In summer, you can choose from any of the options available. However, if you select a sport with limited space, you will need to select a second option in case you are not successful with your first choice.

In winter, all boys must participate in a 'main team sport'. You may choose to participate in a second sport (in addition to your main team sport) if you wish.

At Rathkeale we have three categories of sport:

Tier One Sports

These are sports which traditionally have high participation, and which can give students the opportunity to participate at different levels. We provide coaching, have good facilities and provide a pathway for development. Our Tier One sports are:

Rugby

Football

Hockey

Basketball

Cricket

Tennis

Tier Two Sports

These are sports which have lower participation. We provide opportunities to try these sports, have fun with friends, and play in local competitions where available. We will provide information and opportunities to those who want to extend themselves via opportunities outside the school. All sports options offered (excluding Tier One sports) are Tier Two sports.

Tier Three Sports

These are sports which we do not have the capacity to deliver due to lack of facilities or expertise. We will do our best to support students who wish to participate in these sports, but these activities will be student and parent led. Students participating in Tier Three sports are expected to play a Tier One or Two Sport in summer and winter.

Inter-house Sport

In addition to playing summer and winter sports, boys are expected to participate in all Inter-house sport competitions. These include athletics, cross country and swimming. The boys who perform well in these events will be given the opportunity to progress, representing the school at Wairarapa, Regional, North Island and National level.

To help choose your sports, please look at the information below. Please note this is a short summary. Costs are based on 2025 costs and are only an estimate. They do not include costs for tours or out-of-district tournaments. If your son plays in the 1st team, costs will be much higher. For more information, check the school website or contact the Sports office.

Summer Sport Information

Ag Sports

Limited Numbers

Estimated cost \$50.

Wednesday afternoon (to allow boys to participate in other sports). A hands-on programme focused on: fencing skills, handpiece skills and water reticulation. Includes visits to farms and competitions. Exit routes to education and farm work.

Athletics

Estimated cost \$20 for the year.

Train Tuesday and Thursday, learning and developing a range of athletic skills. Exit routes – to local clubs where boys can compete regularly if they wish.

Cricket (Tier One Sport)

2025 cost \$60 for the year.

Practice Tuesday and Thursday. Six teams in 2025, offering social and competitive cricket at a range of levels. Off-season specialist coaching available. The 1st XI will tour Sri Lanka in 2026.

Golf**Numbers Limited**

Estimated cost \$120.

Practice Tuesday and Thursday, all golfers must have their own clubs and join Lansdowne Golf Club. Basic coaching provided and some competitions. Exit routes – local club, coaching and competitions.

Gym

Estimated cost \$30.

Numbers limited

Train at the school gym on Tuesday and Thursday (access available at other times). Students will learn to train safely and effectively. Exit routes to local gyms and competitions where available.

Mountain Biking**Numbers Limited**

Estimated cost \$200.

Tuesday and Thursday, a mixture of riding, bike maintenance, trail making and upkeep. Trips to Rivenrock MTB park and other trails. Social riding and competitive opportunities. Exit routes to MTB clubs and wider competitive opportunities.

Outdoor Skills**Numbers Limited**

Estimated cost \$50 (excluding trip costs).

Tuesday and Thursday, a mix of outdoor skills to grow confidence, competency, and safety in wild New Zealand, supporting Duke of Edinburgh and leading to outdoor sporting and leisure activities. Students enrolled in DoE have preference (students can participate in DoE without taking the Outdoor Skills option).

Touch

Estimated cost \$50.

Tuesday and Thursday training, working on basic rugby skills, fitness and touch specific skills. Entry into local and regional competitions where available.

Tennis (Tier One Sport)

Estimated cost \$150 a term.

Tuesday and Thursday, plus competition days. We offer tennis lessons, competitive and social Tennis Ladders, and access to competitions and tournaments at a range of levels. Player pathway from beginners to high performance players.

Volleyball

Estimated cost \$30.

Tuesday practice plus competition days. We offer the opportunity for students to enjoy playing volleyball, sharing a fun experience with friends and playing in the local schools' competition.

Winter Sport Information

Rugby (Tier One Sport)

2025 cost \$50.

Training Tuesday and Thursday, game days vary but usually Saturday Colts, Wednesday 2nd XV and Development XV, Saturday 1st XV. Playing opportunities across various levels, supported by an experienced coaching team led by Robbie Robinson. Colts play during Tournament Week, 1st XV toured South Africa in 2025.

Football (Tier One Sport)

2025 cost \$160.

Training Tuesday and Thursday, plus Wednesday for the wider 1st XI squad. Playing opportunities from 'in-house', social and competitive levels (6 teams in 2025). Experienced coaching team led by Paul Ifill, including specialist goalkeeping training by New Zealand Goal Keeping Coach, Alex Britton. 1st XI will tour Australia in 2026.

Hockey (Tier One Sport)

2025 cost \$150.

Training and game times vary based on access to the Clareville turf facility. Coaching and playing opportunities from local social to regional and national level. Coaching

team led by Pete Sigvertsen and Willie Schaefer (former New Zealand Age Group Coach).

Basketball (Tier One Sport)

2025 cost \$100.

Training is based on gym availability, but generally Tuesday and Thursday. Teams play in the local schools' competition with the Senior A team playing during Tournament Week. Coaching team led by Phil Roach.

Badminton (Secondary Sport – must also play one of the main team sports)

Estimated cost \$40.

Numbers Limited

Training times 3 – 4 pm Monday and Wednesday. Teams play in the local schools' competition in Term 2 and selected tournaments. Exit routes to local clubs and other competitions.

Shooting (Secondary Sport – must also play one of the main team sports)

Cost per session based on ammunition used.

Numbers Limited

Sessions at the Masterton Gun Club held on Tuesday evening. Individuals and teams can enter a number of competitions. Exit routes to clubs.

Neil Perry

Director of Sport

Rathkeale College