



THE ORCHID SCHOOL

Baner, Pune

Sports Policy (For students)

AY 2026-27

A. Objective:

- **Sports Promotion:** The aim is to create a positive sporting culture within the school by encouraging maximum student participation, promoting physical fitness, and fostering an active lifestyle among students.
- **Clarity of Selection Criteria:** This ensures a transparent and fair selection process for all teams and competitions. The policy emphasizes the importance of clear guidelines, equal opportunities, and unbiased decisions during every selection.

B. Scope:

- a. **Students:** All students from Grade Nursery to XII.
- b. **Staff:** Physical Education teachers and school sports coaches.

Applicable Locations: The policy is applicable within the school campus, during:

- Regular sports periods
- After/Before-school coaching sessions
- House events
- Inter-house competitions
- Inter-school or external sports tournaments where the school is officially represented.

Coverage: The policy covers various aspects related to sports, such as:

- Sports participation
- Practice sessions
- Selection trials
- Discipline
- Use of sports equipment
- Safety guidelines
- Injury reporting
- Code of conduct during both practice and competition
- School and individual responsibilities.

C. Sports option offered:

Class I- V

- ✓ Fundamental skills of sports
- ✓ Introduction to sports
- ✓ Foundational sports knowledge
- ✓ Elementary sports understanding
- ✓ Sports basics
- ✓ Basic rules and skills of games
- ✓ Primary level sports learning
- ✓ Essential sports concepts
- ✓ Beginner sports knowledge
- ✓ Basic gameplay understanding
- ✓ Fundamental rules of games
- ✓ Introductory sports education

Class V-XII

The school provides a comprehensive and well-rounded sports program for students from Classes 6 to 12, with a focus on developing essential skills, fitness, teamwork, and discipline. The sports options offered to these levels are:

1. Volleyball

- **Focus Areas:**

- Skill enhancement for all positions.
- Court movement and positioning strategies.
- Teamwork and communication on the court.
- Game techniques, including serving, passing, setting, and spiking.

2. Basketball

- **Focus Areas:**

- Development of individual basketball skills like dribbling, shooting, and passing.
- Court movement, positioning, and spacing.
- Team strategies, including offensive and defensive formations.
- Improving fitness levels for agility and endurance.

3. Cricket

- **Focus Areas:**

- Batting skills: Technique, footwork, and shot selection.
- Bowling skills: Proper bowling action, speed, and spin techniques.
- Fielding: Catching, throwing, and positioning.
- Match awareness: Understanding game situations and tactics.
- Age-appropriate formats for matches to ensure developmental growth.

4. Football

- **Focus Areas:**

- Ball control, dribbling, and passing techniques.
- Shooting skills and finishing.
- Game strategies for both offensive and defensive play.
- Promoting safe gameplay and sportsmanship.

5. Athletics

- **Focus Areas:**

- Sprinting techniques: Speed work, starts, and finishes.
- Relay races: Baton handling, coordination, and team strategy.
- Field events: long jump, high jump, and throwing events (discus, shot put).
- Focus on building stamina, speed, agility, and technique.

D. Goals of the Sports Program:

1. **Skill Development:**
Each sport is designed to enhance specific skills tailored to the sport (e.g., ball control in football, shooting techniques in basketball).
2. **Fitness:**
Physical conditioning is emphasized across all sports to build endurance, strength, and agility.
3. **Teamwork:**
Encouraging collaboration and communication through team-based sports like Volleyball, Cricket, Basketball, and Football.
4. **Discipline:**
The program instills the importance of self-discipline, time management, and respect for rules and coaches.
5. **Participation and Confidence:**
Students are encouraged to actively participate, which helps build their self-confidence and fosters a sense of achievement.
6. **Competitive Preparation:**
The sports program prepares students for inter-house, inter-school, and competitive sports events, giving them opportunities to test their skills in a competitive environment.

Additional Features:

- **Age-Appropriate Training:**
The coaching sessions are customized to match the skill levels and physical development of students in different age groups.
- **Focus on Comprehensive Development:**
The program is designed not only to improve technical skills but also to emphasize overall physical development (speed, agility, endurance).
- **Exposure to Competitive Events:**
Students are provided with opportunities to participate in inter-house competitions, inter-school matches, and external competitions to apply what they've learned in real-world settings.

E. Skills (Primary, MD, SSS):

The sports program at the school is organized into developmental stages for different grade levels, each focusing on specific domains to help students progressively build their skills and knowledge in various sports and fitness areas.

PRE- PRIMARY & PRIMARY (Class Nursery–IV)

1. **Fundamental Motor Skills:** Basic movements like running, hopping, skipping, jumping, and balancing.
2. **Basic Manipulative Skills:** Introduction to throwing, catching, rolling, kicking, and simple dribbling.
3. **Basic Fitness Skills:** Coordination, flexibility, agility, and endurance, Speed, Balance, Reaction Time.
4. **Social & Play Skills:** Teaching the importance of following rules, sharing, turn-taking, and basic teamwork and safety.

MIDDLE SCHOOL (Class V–VIII) –

1. **Advanced Movement Skills:** Developing sprint start, agility, reaction time, and jumping/landing techniques.
2. **Basic Sport Skills** (for 5 games):
 - **Volleyball:** Underhand serve, forearm pass
 - **Cricket:** Basic batting, bowling, fielding
 - **Basketball:** Dribbling, passing, lay-up
 - **Football:** Dribbling, short pass, shooting
 - **Athletics:** Baton exchange, running form
3. **Fitness Skills:** Speed, endurance, strength (bodyweight), balance, flexibility, and coordination.
4. **Game Understanding:** Understanding the basic rules and positioning in different sports:
 - **Volleyball:** Rotation, positions
 - **Cricket:** Field positions
 - **Basketball:** Basic defense
 - **Football:** Basic formations
 - **Athletics:** Track rules

SENIOR SECONDARY (Class IX–XII)

1. **Advanced Sport Skills:**
 - **Volleyball:** Overhand serve, spike, block
 - **Cricket:** Advanced shots, bowling variations
 - **Basketball:** Cross-over, jump shot
 - **Football:** Long pass, curve shot, tackling
 - **Athletics:** Advanced jumps/throws
2. **Performance Fitness:** Plyometrics, strength training, speed endurance, and mobility.
3. **Tactical & Strategy Skills:**
 - **Volleyball:** Systems & formations etc.
 - **Cricket:** Match strategy etc.
 - **Basketball:** Zone defense, fast break etc.

- **Football:** Pressing, counterattack etc.
 - **Athletics:** Race strategy etc.
4. **Sportsmanship & Professional Skills:** Emphasis on fair play, discipline, leadership, first aid basics, and mental preparation.

This systematic approach ensures that students develop not only the physical skills needed for sports but also the strategic and mental readiness to excel in competitive environments.

F. Matches:

Students participate in the matches as per their abilities and skills. School help enroll students in various team and individual games. Matches for which students will be enrolled are:

Matches / Tournaments

- Intra-house
- Inter-school
- ZP matches.
- CBSE tournaments
- Other private tournaments (Individual/ Team)
(Basis: tournament level)

G. Sports Participation & Selection Policy:

1. General Eligibility for Sports Participation

- The student must be a bona fide and regular student of the school.
- Regular school attendance is mandatory for participation in any sports activity.
- The student must be physically and medically fit to participate in sports events.
- Submission of a medical fitness certificate is compulsory wherever required.
- The student must maintain satisfactory behavior and discipline in school.

2. Mandatory Participation Policy

- Participation in Physical Education (PE) periods and sports sessions is compulsory for all students unless medically exempted.
- Participation in Annual Sports Day events is mandatory,

3. Practice and Training Rules

- Students selected for teams must attend all prescribed practice and training sessions regularly.
- Late coming or absence from practice without valid reason shall not be permitted.
- In case of injury or illness, the student must immediately inform the Coach or Physical Education Teacher.
- Repeated absence or lack of commitment may lead to removal from the team.

4. Game-Wise Participation Norms

- Once selected, participation in scheduled matches, tournaments, or competitions is compulsory.
- Player replacement shall be permitted only in cases of injury, medical unfitness, or serious disciplinary issues.
- **The decision regarding participation, replacement, or withdrawal shall rest with the Coach and School Sports Committee.**

5. Discipline, Behavior, and Sportsmanship

- Students must maintain discipline, fair play, and sportsmanship always.
- Respect towards coaches, officials, opponents, teammates, and school authorities is mandatory.
- Any act of indiscipline, misconduct, or violation of rules may result in immediate disqualification.
- Students must strictly follow safety instructions and game rules.

H. Levels of competition

I. Inter House Competitions (School Internal)

Eligibility

- Regular school attendance
- Basic discipline record
- Participation in PE periods and Sports Classes.
- Class Teacher approval (if required)
- Medical fitness (only if required)

Selection Criteria

- Skill level demonstrated during PE classes and Sports Classes.
- Performance in house-wise trials
- Fitness, effort, and teamwork
- Behavior and discipline
- Final decision by Coach / Physical Education Teacher

Participation Rules

- School uniform and house T-shirt are compulsory.
- All students are encouraged to participate.
- Fair play and discipline are mandatory.
- No rough play or misconduct
- Attendance at scheduled house practices is compulsory.

Documents Required

- School ID Card
- House team list

- General parent consent (annual)
- Trial/selection sheet (if applicable)

II. Inter / Intra School Competitions (Between Schools)

Eligibility

- Regular attendance and good discipline record
- Minimum fitness level.
- Selection through trials only.
- Medically fit to represent the school.

Selection Criteria

- Game-specific skill assessment
- Fitness tests (speed, agility, endurance)
- Performance during trial matches
- Commitment to attend all practices.
- Final decision by Coach and Selection Committee

Participation Rules

- Prescribed school sports uniform is mandatory.
- Attendance at all practice sessions before matches is compulsory.
- Respect towards officials, opponents, and teammates is mandatory.
- Punctuality and discipline must be strictly maintained.
- Injuries must be reported immediately.

Documents Required

- School ID Card
- Aadhar Card Copy
- Transfer Certificate (New Admission Students)
- Birth Certificate / Age Proof
- Parent permission letter
- Medical fitness certificate
- Passport size photographs
- Team entry form signed by the principal.
- GR copy of previous school. (As per ZP norms)

III. CBSE / Cluster / Zonal / State / National Level Competitions

Eligibility

- Compliance with CBSE / DSO age eligibility norms
- Bonafide student of the school
- High discipline and attendance record
- Consistent sports performance
- Physically and medically fit

Selection Criteria

- Advanced skill testing
- Fitness benchmarks as per the sport
- Performance in previous tournaments
- Commitment to complete training schedule
- Final selection by Coach and Selection Committee
- Priority to top-performing athletes

Participation Rules

- CBSE / DSO rules must be strictly followed.
- Official school sports kit is compulsory.
- Travel punctuality and discipline are mandatory.
- Any misconduct shall result in immediate disqualification.
- Attendance at all pre-tournament camps and all training sessions is compulsory.
- Safety protocols and warm-up routines must be followed.

Documents Required

- CBSE / DSO Official Entry Form
- Birth Certificate (mandatory)
- Bonafide Certificate
- School ID Card
- Aadhaar copy
- Medical fitness certificate
- Parent consent for travel
- Passport size photographs in school uniform (4–6 copies)
- Eligibility Performa (CBSE format)
- Team list signed by the principal.
- Trial attendance sheet
- Coach's recommendation (if applicable)
- Competition entry forms and photographs
- Emergency medical information
- Health and travel insurance copy

I. Authority and Final Decision

- All rules shall be implemented as per the school Sports Policy and governing body regulations.
- The decision of the School Management, Sports Committee, and Coach shall be final and binding in all sports-related matters.

J. Tournament Levels & Responsibilities:

Tournament Levels

The school shall encourage and facilitate student participation in sports competitions at various levels, as outlined below:

1. Inter-House Tournaments (L1)

Inter-House tournaments are competitions conducted within the school among all Houses. These tournaments aim to promote maximum participation, basic skill development, teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship among students.

- A. Registration- not required.
- B. Travel- School bus
- C. Food- Students will bring own food.
- D. Accommodation- Not required.
- E. Medical- The school shall provide basic first-aid facilities. In case of emergency school will take the child to the nearest hospital. The expenses of the hospitalization will be borne by the parents.

2. Inter-School / Intra-School Competitions (L-2)

Inter-School and Intra-School competitions include matches and tournaments conducted between different schools.

Students shall be selected through transparent trials based on skill level, fitness, performance, and discipline.

Only selected students meeting eligibility criteria shall represent the school.

A. Registration

- All tournament registrations, entry forms, online submissions, and official communication shall be handled by the Sports Department. (Only for team games).
 - Students must submit required documents such as School ID card, age proof, passport-size photographs, and within the stipulated timelines.
 - Parents and students are responsible for submitting accurate, complete, and valid documents. Any discrepancy may lead to cancellation of participation.
 - If the student backs out, the parent will have to pay the refund amount to the school (if applicable).
- B. Travel- School bus
 - C. Food- Students will carry own food.
 - D. Accommodation- Not required.
 - E. Medical- The school shall provide basic first-aid facilities. In case of emergency school will take the child to the nearest hospital. The expenses of the hospitalization will be borne by the parents.

3. CBSE Cluster / Zonal / National Level Tournaments (L-3)

CBSE Cluster, Zonal, State, and National Level tournaments are official competitions conducted under the CBSE Board or other authorized bodies.

Participation in these tournaments shall strictly follow CBSE eligibility norms, age criteria, rules, and documentation requirements.

Responsibilities During Tournaments

A. Registration and Documentation

- Registration of the students for the tournament will be done by the school.
- All tournament registrations, entry forms, online submissions, and official communication shall be handled by the Sports Department.
- Students must submit required documents such as School ID card, age proof, passport-size photographs, and CBSE-mandated forms within the stipulated timelines.
- Parents and students are responsible for submitting accurate, complete, and valid documents. Any discrepancy may lead to cancellation of participation.

B. Food and Accommodation (Outstation Tournaments)

For all outstation tournaments, the following provisions shall apply:

- If accommodation is not provided by the organizing authority, or if the accommodation provided is considered unsafe, unhygienic, or otherwise unsuitable by the School, the School shall arrange safe, hygienic, and appropriate accommodation for the participating students and coaches.
- The accommodation shall be selected by the school based on safety, hygiene, security, and proximity to the tournament venue. Once finalized, no change in accommodation shall be permitted unless approved by the Coach-in-Charge or the School in exceptional circumstances.
- The entire cost of accommodation and meals for the participating student shall be borne by the parents/guardians. The school shall only facilitate the booking and coordination of suitable accommodation and meal arrangements.
- The school shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that students are provided with safe drinking water and hygienic meals during the tournament; however, all related expenses shall be payable by the parents/guardians.
- *Parents/guardians are advised to provide their child with a reasonable amount of cash or other approved means of payment to meet personal or emergency expenses during the tournament. The student shall be solely responsible for the safekeeping and use of such money or valuables.*

C. Transport

- The school shall arrange transport for students and team officials for inter-school and CBSE level tournaments wherever feasible.
- For long-distance or outstation events, the school may arrange hired buses or appropriate vehicles as per availability and requirement.
- **Travel Expenses for Long-Distance Tournaments:** For long-distance tournaments, the school will cover the costs of travel by bus or train. However, if the team is required to travel by flight, parents will be responsible for 50% of the total flight expenses.

- If the student backs out for any reasons, the parent will have to pay the refund amount to the school which will include 100% of accommodation and travel charges.
- Students are expected to always follow travel discipline and safety instructions.
- **Luggage Charges:** Students are expected to carry luggage strictly within the weight limits prescribed by the airlines. Any excess baggage charges arising from exceeding the permitted limit will have to be borne by the students.

D. Medical Expenses and Care

- The school shall provide basic first-aid facilities during tournaments.
- In case of minor injuries, immediate primary treatment shall be provided by the Physical Education staff or Coach.
- In case of an injury requiring medical tests (such as MRI, X-ray, CT scan and any other) or a emergency procedure, the coach or team in charge shall proceed only after informing the parents and obtaining their consent, except in life-threatening situations requiring immediate medical intervention.
- In the event of serious injury or medical emergency requiring hospitalization, expenses shall be borne by the parents or covered through the student's medical insurance, as per school policy.
- Parents are required to share details of any medical conditions or allergies of their ward prior to travel. If the child is on regular medication, parents should ensure that the necessary medicines are provided to the child and sent along during the journey.

E. Insurance (Travel and Medical):

Travel Insurance (optional)

- For all outstation tournaments, students traveling as part of the school team must be covered under basic travel insurance by their parents.
- Travel insurance shall include coverage for travel-related risks such as accidents, loss of baggage, delays, or emergency situations.

Medical Insurance

- All students participating in sports tournaments must possess valid medical insurance.
- Medical insurance should provide coverage for injuries, emergency medical treatment, and hospitalization, if required, during training sessions or tournaments.
- In the event of an injury during a school-approved tournament, the school shall provide immediate first aid; further medical treatment shall be processed through the student's medical insurance policy.

School's Responsibilities

- To maintain copies of insurance documents (digital or physical) during travel and competition periods.
- To provide immediate support in case of medical or travel-related emergencies and coordinate with parents/guardians for further action.

Parents' Responsibilities

- To ensure that their child holds an active and valid medical insurance policy throughout the academic year.
- To submit accurate, complete, and updated insurance information to the school.
- To cooperate fully with the school authorities during medical or travel-related emergencies.

4. Individual Sports Competitions

For individual sports competitions such as Athletics, Swimming, Chess, Badminton, Table Tennis, Tennis, Archery and similar events, the following provisions shall apply:

A. Registration and Documentation

- Registration of students for individual sports competitions shall be carried out by the school through the Sports Department.
- Students and parents shall submit all required documents within the stipulated timelines.
- Any discrepancy in documents may lead to cancellation of participation.

B. Travel

- The school shall bear 100% of the student's travel expenses when travel is by bus or train for officially approved sports tournaments.
- Where air travel is necessary, the airfare shall be shared equally between the school and the parents, with each bearing 50% of the total airfare for the student.
- Any parent or guardian accompanying the student shall bear all their own travel, accommodation, food, and other incidental expenses.
- Any excess baggage charges, seat selection fees, priority boarding charges, or any other optional or additional services charged by the airline shall be borne entirely by the parents/guardians.
- If air tickets have been booked and the student withdraws from the tournament for any reason, the parents/guardians shall bear all cancellation charges and any non-refundable portion of the airfare attributable to the student.
- Any refund received from the airline shall be adjusted against the actual expenses incurred by the school, and the balance, if any, shall be refunded to the parents.

C. Parent Accompaniment

- It shall be mandatory for the parent/guardian to accompany the student during individual sports competitions.
- The accommodation, food, local transport, travel, and any other expenses of the parent/guardian shall be borne entirely by the parent.
- A coach and/or Physical Education Teacher appointed by the school shall also accompany the students during the tournament.

A. Other Provisions

- All existing provisions related to medical care, discipline, safety, accommodation, and conduct mentioned under CBSE Cluster / Zonal / National Level Tournaments shall remain applicable to individual sports competitions unless otherwise specified by the school

K. Code of Conduct:

The following Code of Conduct shall apply to all students, coaches, and staff members involved in school sports activities, training sessions, and tournaments.

Uniform

- Students must wear the approved school sports uniform/ jerseys during travel, and official sports events.
- The uniform must be clean, neat, and worn correctly as per school guidelines.
- Players must use appropriate sports shoes, protective gear, and sport-specific equipment as required.
- Failure to follow uniform guidelines may result in restriction from practice sessions or participation in tournaments.

Behavior and Discipline

- Students must maintain respectful behavior and high standards of discipline during practices, competitions, travel, and accommodation.
- Respect towards coaches, referees, teammates, opponents, and school staff is mandatory at all times.
- Arguments, abusive language, disobedience, misconduct, or disrespectful behavior shall not be tolerated.
- Students must report punctually for training sessions, team meetings, and tournaments.
- Repeated acts of indiscipline may lead to suspension from the team or further disciplinary action as per school rules.

Anti-Bullying Policy

- The school follows a zero-tolerance policy towards bullying in sports activities.
- Physical, verbal, emotional, or online bullying is strictly prohibited.
- Teasing, threatening, harassing, isolating, or intimidating any player is not permitted.
- Students are expected to promote teamwork, inclusiveness, and a positive sporting environment.
- Any incident of bullying must be reported immediately to the Coach or Sports Coordinator.
- Strict disciplinary action shall be taken against individuals found guilty of bullying.

Sportsmanship

- Players must demonstrate fair play, honesty, and respect during all competitions and sporting activities.
- Winning shall be accepted with humility, and losing shall be accepted with dignity.
- Arguing with referees, questioning official decisions, or unsportsmanlike conduct is strictly prohibited.

Attendance and Punctuality

- Attendance at scheduled practices, fitness sessions, team meetings, and briefings is compulsory.

- Students must report on time for matches, travel, and official sports events.
- Uninformed, irregular, or repeated absence may adversely affect team selection and future participation.

Respect for Facilities and Equipment

- Students must handle sports equipment with care and return all issued items after use.
- School grounds, courts, fields, and sports facilities must be kept clean and undamaged.
- Any intentional damage to school property or equipment shall result in disciplinary action and recovery of costs, if applicable.

Use of mobile phone

- Students travelling outstation are allowed to carry their mobile phones. However, they will use the phone as per the directions provided by the coaches accompanying them.
- Students will make calls to their parents/guardians at the time fixed by the coaches.
- Mobile will not be allowed at the time of practice/ event.
- A strict action will be taken against the students in case the cell phone is used for illegal or dangerous activity, for purposes of harassment, or in ways that violate the cyber law will result in strict action.
- Students is not allowed to upload any content on the social media pertaining to the travel, stay, practice or events.

L. Consent from Parents (Inter-School / Cluster / National Level):

Before sending students for any inter-school, cluster-level, zonal, state, or national-level tournaments, written consent from parents or guardians is mandatory.

The consent ensures that parents are fully informed about travel arrangements, accommodation, supervision, medical responsibilities, and applicable school rules.

General Consent

- Parents/guardians must submit a duly signed consent form permitting their child to participate in the specific tournament or training sessions.
- The consent form must be submitted within the prescribed timeline; failure to do so shall result in the student being ineligible to travel or participate.

Homesickness and Emotional Readiness

- Parents/guardians must confirm that their child is emotionally prepared for outstation travel and stay.
- If a student experiences severe homesickness during the tournament, the school shall provide reasonable support and care.
- Any early return due to homesickness shall be arranged at the parents' responsibility and expense.
- Parents shall be informed immediately if the student is unable to adjust to the tournament environment.

Medical Consent

- Parents/guardians must declare that the student is medically fit to participate in sports tournaments.
- Details of any existing medical conditions, allergies, asthma, medication requirements, or ongoing injuries must be clearly stated in the consent form.
- Parents/guardians must authorize the school or coach to provide basic first aid and to seek emergency medical treatment if required.
- Any medical expenses not covered under the student's insurance policy shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardians.

Travel and Stay Approval

- Parents/guardians shall agree to the travel arrangements, accommodation facilities, supervision, and safety measures planned by the school.
- After attending any tournament, students will be dropped back at the school. Parents are required to pick up their children from the school thereafter.
- In exceptional or emergency situations, if parents request that a student be dropped off a route, such drop-off shall be done strictly at the parents' request and responsibility. Once the student is dropped off at the requested location, the school, coaches, and accompanying staff shall bear no responsibility whatsoever for the safety, supervision, or well-being of the student.
- Students must strictly follow all school rules, discipline norms, and instructions during travel, stay, and participation in tournaments.
- Any cost incurred due to food, travel or any other personal expenses will be borne by the parents only.

M. Cancellation Policy (Travel and Registration):

- Once a student is selected and officially confirmed for a tournament, any cancellation must be communicated in writing by the parents or guardians, clearly stating the reason for cancellation.
- Registration fees for individual events paid to tournament organizers are non-refundable unless a refund is approved and processed by the organizing authority.
- Travel and accommodation arrangements made by the school, including bus, train, flight tickets, or stay bookings, shall be treated as non-refundable once confirmed, and the entire amount incurred shall be fully borne by the parents.
- In cases of medical emergencies, parents/guardians must submit a valid medical certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner. Any refund, if applicable, shall be subject to the actual amount recoverable from the service providers.
- Last-minute cancellations without valid or genuine reasons may adversely affect the student's eligibility for future selection and participation in school sports events.
- If a tournament is cancelled by the organizing authority, the school shall process refunds only to the extent of the amount received back from the organizers or service providers.

Please note: *The school's sports policy is formulated with the best interests of students in mind and is subject to revision or modification as and when required. Changes may be made based on practical considerations, safety requirements, availability of facilities, governing body guidelines, or other prevailing circumstances. Parents are requested to note that the policy may be updated without prior notice, and the school's decision in this regard will be final and binding.*
