



School Sport Australia Sport Participation Policy

Rationale

Where considered appropriate, provision can be made for the granting of any one, or more, of the following sport participation strategies in the effort to enhance the participation experience and engagement of students attending School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships.

The strategies outlined in this policy can be granted and implemented based on a number of reasons including;

- a reduced population of appropriately aged students in a specific sport.
- a small general population from which to select students from in the State/Territory seeking approval.
- a specific sport is in growth phase of development, with further work with the State Sporting Organisation (SSO) required.

Sport Participation Strategies

1. The devising of a mixed state team to ensure the ability to attend a Championship. This team should always be represented by a majority of eligible players/competitors from the “home” state/territory and invitation for additional competitors should first be extended to the host state/territory in alignment with current SSA Policy.

Application Process

States or Territories wishing to implement Strategy 1, must follow the procedures outlined below;

- Application must be submitted to the National Programs Committee (NPC for consideration utilising the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Strategy Application form.
- Applications must be individualised for each sport / team and address specific details regarding rationale and request.
- The application must be submitted as soon as viable. This will most likely take place immediately after the selection trial has determined insufficient numbers and the parent group have confirmed their support of continuing to attend with interstate players.
- The application submission will be preceded by confirmation from the host state they will be able to provide additional students. If the host state declines the offer, other states will then be offered the opportunity.
- If interstate players are incorporated into a team their ‘home’ state is to establish Principal approval and an acknowledgement of transfer of Duty of Care to the ‘visiting’ state’s team officials. Payment of fees can be negotiated.

2. The inclusion of amendments or modifications to the rules and guidelines of a sport, as agreed by the National Secretary and the NPC, in an effort to equalise competition and enhance the positive experience of participants. These amendments could include;
- a points/margin, seeding and/or handicap system,
 - inclusion of a 'mercy rule' to enable both teams a scoring opportunity,
 - changes to the restart of a game after scoring or
 - modifying the duration of games in the round robin format.

Application Process

States or Territories wishing to implement Strategy 2, must follow the procedures outlined below;

- Application must be submitted for consideration utilising the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Strategy Application form.
 - Applications must be individualised for each sport and address specific details regarding rationale and request.
 - Application must be a motion put forward from a member state office, as a recommendation to the relevant National Secretary for consideration, via email, prior to the Pre-Championship meeting. The SSA Executive Officer and NPC Chair should also receive notification of the motion at the time of submission to the National Secretary.
 - The application will be discussed at the Post Championship meeting, and by the NPC, in accordance with the jurisdictional voting process and a determination made.
 - If successful, any modifications to the Rules and Guidelines will not be implemented until the following year's Championship, and maybe implemented solely as a one-year trial for further evaluation.
3. Age dispensation of a maximum of 6 months, for up to 50% of the total team number can be requested if required, but only if that 50% is less than the starting line-up of the specific sport. For example, 50% dispensation cannot be granted for Basketball where the maximum squad size is 12 and the starting line-up is 5 students. This can be granted to States and Territories where the provision is deemed necessary. Age Dispensation would be granted on a sport by sport basis, with an option of one year or three years requested period.

Note: Age Dispensation is not approved for the contact sports of Australian Football and Rugby League.

Application Process

States or Territories wishing to implement Strategy 3, must follow the procedures outlined below;

- Application must be submitted for consideration utilising the School Sport Australia Sport Participation Strategy Application form.
- Applications must be individualised for each sport and address specific details regarding rationale and request.
- The application must be submitted to the NPC at least 3 months prior to the relevant Championship, in the year prior to implementation.

Strategy Approval and Implementation

The NPC, in consultation with the specific sport's National Secretary, will consider each request and determine the most appropriate sport participation strategy to be utilised.

If approved the National Secretary will ensure the host state officer informs attending officials and parent community of the implementation of a strategy in Championship Bulletins and Program.

The implementation of a specific strategy will be reviewed after no more than 3 years.

Reporting

Any State or Territory, having been granted permission to implement a sport participation strategy, must provide an annual brief written summary report of use and outlining any progress or improvements. The summary report is to be shared with the NPC and the sport specific National Secretary by the end of each respective calendar year.

A full review of all implemented sport participation strategies will be required after no more than 3 years and a report shared with the NPC and sport specific National Secretary.

Failure to meet any of above mentioned procedural requirements may jeopardise future approvals and any further utilisation of a sport participation strategy.