

SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Policy number	NPC-006	Version	2.1
Policy Group	National Programs Committee	Recommended by the National Programs Committee	14 February 2024
Drafted by	Liz Yuen	Approved by the Board Reviewed by the Board	18 February 2020 1 July 2022
Responsible person	Executive Officer	Scheduled review date	December 2024

INTRODUCTION

School Sport Australia acknowledges that some of its member bodies may struggle to field teams at School Sport Australia Championships because of, but not limited to, the following reasons:

- 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.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to enhance the participation experience and engagement of students attending School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships.

POLICY

Where considered appropriate, provision can be made for the granting of anyone, or more, of the sport participation strategies listed below.

AUTHORISATION



Signature of Chairperson of National Programs Committee

SPORT PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

Procedure number	NPC-006	Version	2.0
Drafted by	Liz Yuen	Approved by Executive Officer	14 February 2024
Responsible person	Executive Officer	Scheduled review date	December 2024

RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Officer, National Sport Advisors and State / Territory Executive Officers / Unit Managers to implement this policy and monitor its effects.

SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICY OPTIONS

1. *Mixed Teams*

The creation 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:

- The Member Body is to ask the host Member Body for additional students to supplement their team. If the host Member Body is unable to do so a request may be made to other Member Bodies;
- If additional students can be provided both Member Bodies will together coordinate the process to obtain the approval of the Principals of the students involved; acknowledgement of transfer of Duty of Care to the team officials of the Member Body requesting the additional students; and negotiate any payment of fees;
- The NPC is to be informed of the ‘mixed team’ plus it to be advised in Championship bulletins.
- Additional students supplied by the host Member Body, or other Member Body, will be restricted to the number of students in the initial request from the Member Body requiring additional students. Late additions may not be able to be included.

2. *Modification to Championship Rules & Guidelines*

The inclusion of amendments or modifications to the rules and guidelines of a sport, as agreed by the National Sport Advisor 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 body, as a recommendation to the relevant National Sport Advisor 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 Sport Advisor;
- 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

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 up to three years.

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 three (3) months prior to the relevant Championship, in the year prior to implementation.

PROCEDURE APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION

For Sport Participation Policy Options 1 there is no approval process. It is an agreement between two or more Member Bodies.

For Sport Participation Policy Options 2 and 3 the NPC, in consultation with the specific sports' National Sport Advisor, will consider each request and determine the most appropriate sport participation strategy to be utilised.

If approved the National Sport Advisor 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 Sport Advisor 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 Sport Advisor.

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

ATTACHMENTS

- Nil

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Nil

AUTHORISATION



Signature of Executive Officer