

CHAMPIONSHIP ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

Reviewed by the Board: 19 May 2025

Scheduled review date: May 2027

INTRODUCTION

The School Sport Australia (SSA) program provides students participating in the SSA program the opportunity to maximise their learning experience and achieve positive educational outcomes. To achieve these outcomes, SSA requires students attending SSA championships or SSA Games to attend for the full duration of the event. All SSA Championships including the SSA Games consists of the following three components:

- Opening Ceremony
- Championship Team Experience
- Closing Ceremony

PURPOSE

SSA understands that from time to time a student may not be able to attend all components of the program at an SSA Championship and/or SSA Games.

This policy acknowledges that there are program differences between Individual Sports Championships as compared to Team Sport Championships.

With acknowledgement of these differences, this policy outlines the process through which consideration may be given for students to be exempted from a single component of the championship.

This policy considers the two different categories of sport competition within the SSA program.

- individual sports (Cross Country, Track & Field, Swimming, Diving, Triathlon and Aquathlon)
- team sports (All other SSA sports)

For **team sports** it is the requirement that all participants attend all the components of the Championship.

For **individual sports** (listed above), it is the requirement that the student attend the Opening Ceremony and Championship Team Experience. To ensure duty of care responsibilities are met, all Parents and Carers are required to inform their State or Territory team officials if they determine that their child will not be attending the Closing Ceremony.

POLICY

Consideration will be given to applications for exemption on the following basis:

- medical grounds
- Officials' error (miscommunication)
- transport/logistics (e.g. late airline directed flight change)
- Religious and /or cultural responsibilities
- compulsory educational assessment an authorised school event, including but not limited to, exam or significant school activity.
- compassionate grounds such as an unexpected change in family circumstances
- competing at the same time in an alternative sport at National Level or above.

AUTHORISATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter R. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Smith" clearly distinguishable.

Signature of Chairperson of National Programs Committee

CHAMPIONSHIP ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

RESPONSIBILITIES

It shall be the responsibility of the Member Bodies to implement this policy and for the SSA Executive Officer to monitor its effects.

PROCESSES

Non-attendance at the Championship with prior advice

Apply for Exemption

- Requests for students to not attend part of an SSA Championship & SSA Games are to be directed to the Student's Member Body for decision.
- The application must be submitted to the Member Body or their appointed representative prior to the Championship except for exceptional circumstances.
- The student and or Parent is to submit the request from the student with all supporting evidence, as required by the Member Body, provided to them, e.g., medical certificate, letter from school.
- The Member Body is to provide a list of exemptions given and the reason to SSA including NSA & Executive Officer on the reasons for why they approved the exemption and for a list of, where possible, request not granted and the reason for the same.
- On receiving notification of the exemption, the Executive Officer will make a record of the exemption and have the database open for NPC members to view.
- If request is approved it is to be announced at the Pre-Championship meeting by the NSA.

Notification

- At the earliest convenience, the Member Body is responsible for notifying the SSA, NSA & Host Body, through Championship Convenor, of an exemption granted which includes prior to or during championships.
- The Member Body is responsible for notifying the student who made the request of the decision.

Non-attendance at the Championship without Exemption granted.

Process

1. Any Member Body staff or officials that become aware of students not attending any part of a SSA Championship or SSA Games are to notify the NSA and Championship Convener immediately.
2. The NSA, or Championship Convener if the NSA is unavailable, is to contact the Team Manager of the student's team to confirm they have not attended part of the program and collect the name of the student.
3. The NSA, or Championship Convener if the NSA is unavailable, is to notify SSA Executive Officer that students have been absent from the Championship program without approval or notification.
4. The Executive Officer or the NSA if the Executive Officer is unavailable, is to notify the relevant Member Body that students from their team have not attended the whole program of the SSA Championship without prior notification.
5. The relevant Member Body will implement consequences to students that do not participate in the whole program as regulated by their own jurisdiction.
6. With any breach of the Championship Attendance policy the school of that student or teacher is to be informed of the breach and any sanctions imposed.

Sanctions

The following sanctions are **recommended** to be applied by all Member Bodies and used as a framework for the application of consequences.

1. If a student misses the Opening Ceremony without communication with team management – Not allowed to play the first two matches or one individual event of the championship OR the first two matches or one individual event they are in attendance for.
2. If a student misses a match without communication with team management – Not allowed to play the next two matches or one individual event they are in attendance for.
3. If a student misses the Championship Team Experience without communication with team management – Not allowed to play the next two matches or one individual event they are in attendance for.
4. If a student misses the Closing Ceremony without communication with team management – Not allowed to represent their State/Territory at future SSA events.
5. If a team official authorises a student to miss any component of an SSA Championship & SSA Games without consultation with their State/Territory School Sport Office- the student and team official are not allowed to represent their State/Territory at future SSA events (Please note: a medical certificate would remove the need for the team official to consult with their State/Territory School Sport Office).
6. If a student misses any component of the Championship program, with a reason that is considered not to warrant a further consequence, e.g. the provision of a medical certificate, a Member Body may issue a warning.

ATTACHMENTS

- Nil

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Nil

AUTHORISATION



Signature of Executive Officer