

INVITATION TEAM POLICY

Reviewed by the Board: 19 May 2025

Scheduled review date: May 2027

INTRODUCTION

School Sport Australia offers an invitation to all member bodies to enter one team per sport age division and gender division. There may be specific circumstances where a member body may enter a second team in a sport division.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance for the event hosting member body when a member body is not able to be represented in a championship.

POLICY

Participation at School Sport Australia Championships

a) Member Bodies

At any School Sport Australia Championship, each School Sport Australia member body shall be entitled to enter one team unless alternative arrangements are agreed to as specified below.

b) Invitation Teams

Where there is a Championship, that does not fulfil the eight (8) team entries or an even number of team entries [minimum four (4) teams being one (1) team from four (4) SSA member bodies] and a bye occurs, the following happen (in priority order):

- i. The Host Member Body may leave the bye intact.
- ii. The Host Member Body may field an invitation (2nd) team from their State / Territory, which subsequently must be approved by the SSA National Programs Committee.

The intention to field an invitation (2nd) team must be notified to all SSA member bodies through the SSA National Programs Committee and subsequently through Championship bulletins.

This team and its members shall compete on the same basis as all other teams.

- iii. If the Host member body cannot field an invitation (2nd) team, then the Host body is to issue an invitation to all competing SSA member bodies to field an

invitational (2nd) team. If more than one SSA member body wishes to take up the invitation, then the National Programs Committee, in consultation with the relevant National Sport Advisor, will decide on the invitation entry.

The intention to invite an invitation (2nd) team from another SSA member body must be notified to all SSA member bodies through the SSA National Programs Committee as soon as possible (preferably in the previous year). This team and its members shall compete on the same basis as all other teams.

Process if more than one member body applies for an invitation to compete

If multiple member bodies apply for an invitation team to participate, then the following process will apply,

- a) If one or more of the member bodies have participated as an invitation team previously, they will be excluded from entering an invitation team for the relevant Championship. A rotation process will then begin amongst the member bodies for invitation team opportunities at future Championships.
- b) If the member bodies have not previously entered invitation teams, the member body with the average higher finishing position at the previous three Championships will be the member body selected to enter the invitation team at the Championship.

If results of the member bodies are equal over the three year period then the member body finishing higher at the previous Championship will be used to identify the invitation team at the Championship. If they finished equal at the previous Championship then the result of their game(s) at the previous Championship will be used to identify the invitation team at the Championship.

For following years, the member bodies will rotate their attendance at the Championships if there is again an offer for an invitation team. Any additional member bodies that increase the numbers applying for an invitation team will be inserted into the rotation after the original member bodies have each participated with invitation teams at the same number of Championships. Member bodies can however come to an agreement that alters the rotation.

- iv. If i., ii. and iii. in item b) above are not met, then the Host Member Body, in consultation with other member bodies and the National Sport Advisor, may consider the use of the Mixed Team option within the Sport Participation Policy.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- International Team Invitation Policy
- Multiple Team Policy
- Sport Participation Policy

AUTHORISATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter R. Smith', written in a cursive style.

Signature of Chairperson of National Programs Committee