

SPORT PARTICIPATION POLICY

Reviewed by the Board: 19 May 2025

Scheduled review date: May 2027

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

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

There are 3 specific sport participation options.

1. Mixed Teams
2. Modification to Championship Rules & Guidelines
3. Age Dispensation

1. Mixed Teams

A mixed team may be entered in a School Sport Australia Championship. A Member Body who is unable to meet the minimum number students from their State/Territory may include students from another State/Territory.

The team must have more than 50% of students from the Member Body they are representing.

Application Process

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

- The Member Body requiring additional students must first contact the host Member Body, or for the SSA Games, contact the Member Body where the games are being played, to request additional players. The request must outline any relevant information such as positional requirements, age etc.
- If the host Member Body is unable to provide additional students a request may be made to other Member Bodies;
- If additional students can be sourced, the team's Member Body will be responsible for the following:
 - Obtaining approval from the School Principal and informing the Member Body who supplied the student of that approval.
 - Communicating financial, Code of Conduct, uniform, and team requirements to the student family. SSA encourages Member Bodies to treat the students the same as local students but acknowledges that each

Member Body may have specific requirements for the interstate students. *Attachment 1 can be used as a template.*

- The NPC is to be informed of the 'mixed team' plus it must be advised in Championship bulletins.
- If additional students cannot be sourced, the Member Body must inform SSA, the Championship Host member Body, and National Sport Advisor, that the team will be withdrawn.
- 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.

4. 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

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

- 1

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Nil

AUTHORISATION



Signature of Executive Officer

ATTACHMENT 1

Member body and SSA logos to be inserted.

APPROVAL FOR PLAYER TRANSFER

Dear Student Name and Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in the Member Body Age Sport team.

I am pleased to inform you that Student Name has been selected to compete in Location and Date as a supplementary interstate transferred player.

To accept and secure your place on the team, please:

1. Read the attached Code of Conduct and Player Agreement and sign the form below to agree to the Code. (Attach your Member Body Code of Conduct)
2. Have your school Principal (or delegate) sign the form below to approve participation in the championships and associated absence from school.
3. Agree to pay the associated costs listed below prior to the championships and complete the sizes required for uniform items. Note that any travel and accommodation costs for players and accompanying parent/guardian needs to be organised and paid for by each player's family (this is not organised or paid through Member Body).
4. Inform the Member Body if you DO NOT wish for your child's name and/or image to be made public in operational and promotional material, social media, multimedia and/or online results. If we do not hear from you about this, we will assume you consent to publication of your child's name and image.

Please return signed forms to Member Body by Date

Once we have received the above, team officials will be in contact with further information about the team and championships. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Member Body:

Member Body and Team Contact Information

Championship Information (dates, times, draw etc)

Kind Regards,

Member Body Representative

1. Acknowledgment receipt of Member Body Code of Conduct

Student Name: _____

Student Date of Birth: _____

Parent Name and Signature: _____

Date: _____

2. School Principal Endorsement

I am aware that the nominated child above is requesting to attend the specified School Sport Australia Championship to represent the Member Body, and I support participation in that representative opportunity.

Principal Name and Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name of School: _____

3. Schedule of Costs Information and Uniform

Member Body Codes of Conduct and or Player Agreement