

## STUDENT ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Reviewed by the Board: 19 May 2025

Scheduled review date: May 2027

### INTRODUCTION

School Sport Australia (SSA) Championships are open to eligible students. To be eligible to participate students must:

- satisfy the age criteria for a Championship;
- attend an affiliated school of an SSA Member Body.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the integrity of SSA Championships and maintain an educational focus.

### POLICY

#### 1. Ages

- a) Age Eligibility for all Championships shall be as follows:
  - i) 12 Years and under Program - 12 years and under in the year of competition and a minimum of 10 years of age in the year of competition, unless there is a sport governing body rule that specifically restricts the allowable age group (for example, a ten (10) year old is not allowed to compete against a twelve (12) year old in a particular sport).
  - ii) 19 Years and under Program - 19 years and under in the year of competition and a minimum of 13 years of age in the year of competition, except where other specific age eligibility is applied.
- b) School Sport Australia member bodies retain the right to decide the appropriate method of team selection that best meets the educational needs of the students in their state/territory, in accordance with School Sport Australia Rules and Guidelines.
- c) In any calendar year students may only participate in one School Sport Australia sport specific championship, at either the 12 years & under age group, or the 19 years & under age group. Students are not able to participate in two age divisions in one sport, in the same calendar year.

#### 2. Students

- a) Students representing state teams must attend schools or other educational institutions affiliated to the School Sport Australia member body in that state.
- b) If a student has been selected in a state team, and the selection process has already been completed in the State they are moving to, he/she shall retain the right to be part of his/her original state team for that year only, provided:
  - i) Written consent is obtained from the parents.

- ii) The original member body is prepared to accept responsibility for the student.
- iii) Permission is obtained the from the new Principal.
- c) Students selected in teams attending a School Sport Australia Championship must attend for the duration of the Championship. Students must participate in all programmed activities during the Championship unless exempted as per the Championship Attendance Policy.
- d) In exceptional circumstances where a member body requires additional students to field a team, an application must be made to the SSA office (Refer to Strategy 1 of the Sport Participation Policy). The decision to 'top up' with students will be made in consultation with the host state, which has the first option to fill the vacancy.

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Championship Attendance Policy

Sport Participation Policy

## **AUTHORISATION**



Signature of Chairperson of National Programs Committee