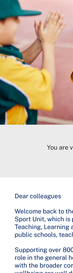
Education



School Sport Unit newsletter

Term 1 2024

You are viewing the **School Sport Unit newsletter.** If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter please fill out this form.

Dear colleagues

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope Term 1 is progressing well for you. The School Sport Unit, which is part of the Student Support and Specialist Programs Directorate within Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing is committed to providing ongoing support for all public schools, teachers and students across the state.

Supporting over 800,000 students in over 2,200 schools, school sport plays a positive role in the general health of the community. Students connect with friends in schools and with the broader community through physical activity. Links between physical activity and wellbeing are well documented, supported by research and immensely important for the health of young people.

In this newsletter, you will find support materials that I hope will be of benefit to your staff and students, including a short video detailing the functions of the School Sport Unit for presentation at a staff meeting.

School Sport Unit overview video

I commend the dedication, passion and commitment that you and your staff continue to demonstrate in support of students to ensure they meet the mandatory physical activity requirements.

Peter Banks
Leader, School Sport Unit

In this issue

- 2023 School Sport Unit award ceremony recap
- School swimming and water safety program celebrates 70 years
- Policy and guidelines
- NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge
- Representative school sport
- Disability and inclusion
- Sport and physical activity professional learning
- Olympics Unleashed

2023 School Sport Unit award ceremony recap

The School Sport Unit Award Ceremony was held virtually on 7 December 2023 to recognise achievements in school sport. Congratulations to the 39 award recipients, as well as all nominated colleagues, for their outstanding contribution to providing sport and physical activity opportunities for NSW students. Visit School Sport Unit Awards Ceremony for the list of recipients.

We look forward to recognising more colleagues in 2024. Stay tuned for further details.

Back to top

School swimming and water safety program celebrates 70 years

Since 1954, school swimming and water safety programs have been crucial for teaching water safety and swimming skills. Each year, over 110,000 students, from approximately 1,300 schools, benefit from these programs, funded by the department.

These programs offer primary students in NSW essential swimming and water safety skills, catering to diverse backgrounds and socio-economic circumstances. Schools can choose between a 5-day survival swimming program, a 10-day swimming and water safety program, or a combination of both to suit different year groups.

Secondary schools can apply for funding to provide learn to swim and water safety opportunities for their students in Stage 4.

Visit School swimming and water safety to register your school.

Back to top

Policy and guidelines

New dedicated email account
We now have a dedicated email account for ongoing support for sport policy related questions and issues. Get in touch with our team directly by email at sportandphysicalactivity@det.nsw.edu.au.

School swimming carnival safety guide
The School Sport Unit has created the School swimming carnival safety guide (PDF 1.371 MB) to support schools to deliver safe and enjoyable swimming carnivals. We encourage schools to share this infographic with staff who will be supervising school swimming carnivals.

Supervision requirements for school swimming carnivals
While swimming carnivals are generally considered a structured aquatic activity, appropriate supervision is still required. At least one staff member must have a suitable rescue competency. However, this requirement can be waived if a qualified lifeguard is present and is supervising the school activities exclusively.

Suitable qualifications that include the rescue competencies are:

- Royal Life Saving Society basic water rescue accreditation
- any pool lifeguard qualification
- Bronze medallion (open and still water)
- any of the learn to swim qualifications.

Schools are strongly encouraged to avoid free swimming activities. Structured novelty events are more suitable.

Supervising aquatic activities
The requirements for the supervision of aquatic activities will be revised in Term 2 2024. There are no changes to the current advice in the swimming and water safety guidelines.

Important information regarding external providers
Schools and teachers have a duty of care, at all times, for activities undertaken by their students. Schools cannot relinquish their supervisory responsibilities if the activity is being undertaken by an external provider, even if the provider has teaching qualifications.

Schools should refer to the section on supervision in the 'Requirements for all sport and physical activity' (PDF 467 KB) (updated September 2020) and the 'Guidelines for using contracted external providers to physical education and school sport' (PDF 906 KB). Both policy guidelines are available via School Sport Unit: External providers.

Concussion management
The School Sport Unit is reviewing the concussion management advice and permission note statements. Once finalised, updated advice and mandatory statements will be provided for schools.

Back to top

NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge

Registrations for the 2024 NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge will open Term 1 Week 6. Please refer to 10 week Challenge and How to run the 10sC for more details. Schools wanting to complete the 10 week Challenge in Term 2 need to complete their registrations by Wednesday 3 April to receive their PSC starter kit (logbooks and resources) by Term 2 Week 1.

Back to top

Representative School Sport

The School Sport Unit is hosting a series of trials to select area teams for the following state selection pathway programs for primary school students:

- NSW Australian Football Primary All Schools Girls 12 Years and Under Selection Pathway.
- NSW Netball Primary All Schools Boys 12 Years and Under Selection Pathway.

To participate in a trial, parents/carers must register their child. The registration form and other information for each event can be found on the NSWPSSA event calendar. Parents/carers must only register their child for one of the trials. Please contact Darren Lang, School Sport Unit Sport Strategy and Planning Coordinator, if you have any further enquiries by email: darren.lang@det.nsw.edu.au or phone: 0447 808 678.

Live streamed events in 2024
To connect school communities to their students who are competing in the Representative School Sport Pathway, the School Sport Unit has identified a range of State Championship events to be live streamed this year. The events scheduled for live streaming will be promoted at School Sport Unit Live streaming, as well as the School Sport Unit Facebook page.

Back to top

Disability and inclusion

The School Sport Unit offers a variety of fun, competitive and non-competitive opportunities for students with disability.

Entries are now open for the:

- Boccia competition
- Come-and-Try Athletics event
- Tenpin Bowling competition.

Multi-Sport days will also be offered for students in Terms 2, 3 and 4. Registrations for these events will open later this year – stay tuned.

Visit School Sport Unit: Participation opportunities for more information and to register your school.

Back to top

Sport and physical activity professional learning

Term 1 Professional learning workshops
The School Sport Unit is delivering School Athletics Officiating Workshops in Term 1.

These workshops aim to deepen participants' understanding of Athletics' rules and officiating roles, while also providing valuable guidance on organising and executing a successful school athletics carnival.

The workshop dates and venues are:

- Wednesday 20 March at Revesby South Public School
- Monday 25 March at Maitland Regional Athletics Centre
- Tuesday 26 March at Dubbo North Public School
- Wednesday 27 March at Teven-Tintenbar Public School
- Thursday 28 March at Griffith Public School
- Tuesday 2 April at Brighton Le Sands Public School

Enrolments can be made through MyPL.

2024 Sport Organisers Conference
Following the success of the inaugural event last year, the Sport Organisers Conference is back in 2024. Incredibly, the first event, conducted in Week 5 reached capacity in less than 5 days.

For those who missed out, a second conference will be held in Parramatta in Term 4.

Back to top

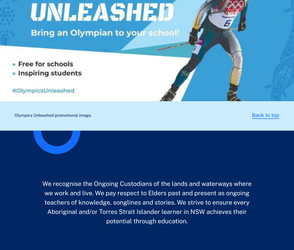
Bring an Olympian to your high school

Kick off 2024 with an Olympian visit to your classroom! Olympics Unleashed is bringing Olympians to Year 9 classes across NSW and your school can be next.

Free for schools, your students will learn directly from athletes how to set goals, overcome challenges and follow their passion to reach their own personal best.

In 2024, this opportunity is also available for primary schools.

Find out more and register at Olympics Unleashed.



Olympics Unleashed promotional image.

Back to top

We recognise the Ongoing Custodians of the lands and waterways where we work and live. We pay respect to Elders past and present as ongoing teachers of knowledge, songlines and stories. We strive to ensure every Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander learner in NSW achieves their potential through education.