Education

School Sport Unit newsletter

Term 2 2024

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Dear colleagues

We're off to a fantastic start and the energy is palpable as we progress through what promises to be an exciting Term 2. Plans are underway to roll out a variety of opportunities aimed at inspiring and supporting students and schools throughout the term.

Last term, the NSW Primary School Sports Association (NSWPSSA) through the School Sport Unit (SSU) proudly hosted the state swimming event, the first of the major state championship for the year. The championship was live streamed as 1,500 students competed across 62 events. Over 3,000 enthusiastic spectators cheered on participants from their schools.

This week, the SSU is hosting the third 'Magic Round' in Newcastle. At this unique event, 4 state championships–Boys' and Girls' Hockey and Boys' and Girls' Basketball—are being held at the same time in the same location. The atmosphere is bustling as students have converged in Newcastle, contributing to a significant boost in business activity for the regional city.

The SSU remains committed to providing unparalleled sporting experiences for our students. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all the teachers who generously volunteer their time to support and manage our programs. Your passion is the cornerstone of our ability to offer diverse learning opportunities for our students, and it's truly inspiring to witness everyone's unwavering dedication to sport and wellbeing.

To stay updated with what's happening at the SSU, we encourage you to follow our Facebook page and website

Regards,

Peter Banks
Leader, School Sport Unit

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2024 School Sport Unit Awards

The SSU is looking forward to broadcasting this year's School Sport Unit Awards on Thursday 12 December 2024. The awards aim to recognise colleagues around the state who consistently support our students to achieve their best through sport and physical activity. Nominations will be open from Monday 22 July 2024, Term 3 Week 1.

Visit School Sport Unit Awards Ceremony for more information

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'Thinking while Moving in mathematics' – teaching resource

The SSU is excited to announce the release of the "Thinking while Moving in mathematics" resource, aligned to the new Mathematics K–10 Syllabus. This resource contains physically active mathematics activities for teachers to use as consolidation tasks to deepen student understanding and knowledge, practise skills and develop fluency while also increasing students' physical activity levels.

Teachers may use 'Thinking while Moving in mathematics' activities as:

- a component of a planned mathematics lesson
- a classroom energiser
- a resource in guided numeracy groups
- a consolidation activity
- support for number talks to spark student engagement and curiosity.

The 'Thinking while Moving in mathematics' resource can be accessed on the Teaching and learning resources page on the School Sport Unit website.

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Support for athletics carnivals

The Teacher resource hub has a range of new resources to support schools in planning their athletics carnivals.

The guides aim to support carnival convenors with the knowledge, tools and strategies necessary to facilitate a well organised and memorable athletics carnival.

The Athletics officiating teacher resource includes video guides on how to officiate athletics events. It acts as a one-stop shop for all things athletics

SSU Teacher professional learning in Term 2

The SSU offers a range of workshops to support schools to deliver quality sport and physical activity experiences for all students. These workshops are available on demand. A list of workshops is available at Professional learning. Register your interest in a workshop by emailing sportandphysicalactivity@det.nsw.edu.au. You can request a customised workshop tailored to address your school's specific needs as required

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Live streaming representative events

The live streaming of championships to date this year has been a resounding success. The NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association and NSW Primary Schools Sports Association Championships' streams received an outstanding total of over 28,000 views, demonstrating strong interest and engagement by our school sport community.

We are pleased to announce that in Term 2 we will be live streaming 14 events. You can access the schedule of these events at School Sport Unit live streaming. This provides an excellent opportunity for students, teachers and families to experience the thrill of the competition from anywhere in the world and cheer on their peers and their children as they represent their schools and Associations. All of this year's scheduled events will be streamed through the new School Sport Unit video gallery.

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Statewide school knockouts

The 2024 statewide school knockout competitions are in full swing. These events are only possible thanks to the dedication of hundreds of volunteer teachers serving as Association and state sport convenors, as well as thousands more serving as school-based coaches/managers. This year, the number of competitors for students is remarkable.

In the primary competition, 757 schools are engaged across 12 sports, with a total of 4,350 teams. This represents a potential for 54,929 students to participate in a competitive interschool sporting competition. Approximately 4,329 matches are scheduled between schools, with football and touch football being the most popular, with 1,116 and 880 teams respectively, followed closely by basketball with 615 teams.

The secondary competition, known as Statewide Competitions, encompasses 18 sports, offering opportunities in open categories and for students in junior high school years. This year, 423 schools are participating with 6,906 teams. An impressive 6,863 matches will be scheduled between schools, providing an opportunity for approximately 86,171 students to engage in competitive sport. Basketball leads the participation rate with 1,268 teams (12,680 students), followed by netball (726 teams, 8,712 students), touch football (694 teams, 9,716 students) and football (634 teams, 10,144 students).

Good luck to all schools involved.

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Premier's Sporting Challenge

Has your school registered for this year's Premier's Sporting Challenge? More than 1,000 schools have already signed up for this year's 10 week Challenge (10wC). Register by Monday 3 June (Term 2 Week 6) to receive your starter kit packs in time for Term 3. The final day for registrations is Friday 5 July 2024.

Kick off the challenge in your school by showing students the 10wC launch video. This year's challenge is hosted by 2 Olympians, Nick Timmings and Emma Jeffcoat. Access other resources, such as the printable and digital logbooks, wall charts and a guide to the 10wC activity tracker web app via "How to run the 10wC".

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Opportunities for students with disability

The SSU's boccia competition is up and running, with more than 500 teams from across NSW competing for the title of state champions. This sport has experienced tremendous growth over the past 4 years and is one of the state's biggest sporting events on offer.

Later this term, we will be hosting multi-sport events across the Riverina, Central Coast, Sydney and South Coast regions. For more information and to register, visit Disability and Inclusion Participation Opportunities.

Multi-class events provide students with disability the chance to compete in the representative sports of cross country, athletics and swimming. To compete, students must first obtain a classification. To learn more and access application forms, visit Classification and Multi-class.

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School swimming and water safety

Schools that have not registered for the upcoming swimming sessions (Terms 3 and 4 2024 and Terms 1 and 2 2025) can still do so by completing the online registration form.

Program details for the upcoming sessions will be finalised soon, and schools will receive information about their program allocations towards the end of Term 2.

Check out our Let's be water safe! classroom resources, which are currently available for Stages 1, 2 and 3. The learning sequences, animations and classroom worksheets provide comprehensive teaching resources for water safety education in the classroom.

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Policy and guidelines

There are several policy and guideline changes rolling out across 2024. The following sections provide new information about concussion management. There will be further updates regarding changes to policy and procedures early next term.

Updated concussion acknowledgement

At the beginning of 2024, the community standards for managing concussion were adjusted. The standards added more details regarding rest periods following a concussion and recommended longer periods of contact-free training.

The department, in consultation with the Sydney Children's Hospital Network, has updated its concussion statements for inclusion in all sport and physical activity permission notes. This information is aligned with expert advice to ensure that schools and teachers are following current best practice in managing concussion.

The NSW Department of Education requires teachers to take immediate action when caring for students that have suffered a concussion or a suspected concussion. Only doctors can diagnose a concussion and provide medical clearance for a student to return to play.

Concussion acknowledgement for Representative School Sport Pathway
Permission notes for Representative School Sport Pathway programs and events must include the updated concussion acknowledgement below:

Concussion acknowledgement:

- "I acknowledge that if my child has sustained a concussion in the lead-up to the event, I must provide medical clearance to the school or the supervising teacher prior to commencing competition."
- "I understand that if my child sustains a concussion or suspected concussion during a NSW Department of Education sporting event, they will be removed from competition until medical clearance is provided to the supervising teacher."

Schools can access the updated 'consent must haves' sample consent templates and sport-specific extracts at Risk management and permission.

Concussion follow-up care supporting resource
The SSU has created concussion follow-up care supporting resources to help parents understand the department's concussion management protocols when caring for a student who has a suspected concussion. There is one for school use and another for the Representative School Sport Pathway (RSSP) programs.

Teachers or school staff are encouraged to complete the concussion follow-up care to give to parents/carers of students who have a suspected concussion.

- Concussion follow-up care supporting resource - Schools (PDF 85.2 KB)
- Concussion follow-up care supporting resource - RSSP (PDF 145 KB)

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Get set for Paris 2024 with the TeamAUS Schools Hub

Have you planned for the Paris 2024 Olympics? The Games begin on 26 July. Immerse your classroom in the Olympic spirit with the Paris 2024 TeamAUS Schools Hub and education resources, now available to schools across NSW.

The TeamAUS Schools Hub is an interactive and engaging platform for students to connect with and draw inspiration from the Olympic movement. Framed around 3 core pillars of 'strive, support and connect', the resources explore the concepts of personal growth, resilience, teamwork, community, inclusion and respect. They cater to students from Kindergarten to Year 10.

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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.