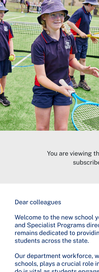
Education



School Sport Unit newsletter

Term 1 2025

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Dear colleagues

Welcome to the new school year. The School Sport Unit (SSU), part of the Student Support and Specialist Programs directorate within Teaching, Learning and Student Wellbeing, remains dedicated to providing valuable support to all public schools, teachers and students across the state.

Our department workforce, which supports almost 800,000 students in more than 2,200 schools, plays a crucial role in promoting the overall health of the community. The work we do is vital as students engage with their peers within schools and connect with the broader community through physical activity. The positive impact of physical activity on wellbeing is well-established through research and remains essential for the health of young people.

In this newsletter, you'll find helpful resources that I hope will be valuable to your staff and students.

I'd like to acknowledge and commend the ongoing dedication, passion and commitment you and your staff show in supporting students to meet the mandatory physical activity requirements.

Peter Banks
Leader, School Sport Unit

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2024 School Sport Unit award ceremony recap

The School Sport Unit Award Ceremony took place virtually on 12 December 2024, celebrating the incredible achievements in school sport across NSW. We want to give a big shout-out to the 431 award recipients and all the nominees for their outstanding efforts in providing sport and physical activity opportunities to students.

Check out the full list of recipients on the School Sport Unit website.

Nominations for next year's awards will open through the same link in Term 3 –we look forward to recognising even more of our amazing colleagues!



The staff of Crescent Head Public School, winners of the 2024 NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge Excellence Award.

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School swimming and water safety program

Now in its 71st year, the school swimming and water safety programs continue to play a vital role in teaching essential water safety and swimming skills. Every year, more than 110,000 students from around 1,300 schools take part in these programs, all funded by the department.

These programs provide NSW primary school students with crucial swimming and water safety skills, catering to a wide range of backgrounds and socio-economic circumstances. Schools can choose from a 5-day survival swimming program, a 10-day swimming and water safety program, or a mix of both, depending on the needs of different year groups.

Secondary schools can also apply for funding to offer learn-to-swim and water safety opportunities to Stage 4 students.

Registrations for the 2025/2026 programs are now open. Head to the School swimming and water safety webpage to register your school today.

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Policy and guidelines

The Sport and physical activity policy has now been consolidated into the Student Health and Wellbeing policy as part of the policy review process undertaken in 2024.

A key component of the new Sport and physical activity procedures is the addition of support for schools in gaining permission from parents/carers for participation in weekly sport and physical activity.

Permission
In Term 4 2024, the new permission resources were launched to commence in 2025. The resources are designed to save time in schools and enhance the compliance and permission processes related to the provision of school sport as a mandatory part of the school week.

A key component of this resource is the Permission 'must haves'. These statements are mandatory inclusions for accident insurance and concussion management which must be included on all permission notes.

Permission templates have been created and are available on the School Sport Unit website. They are divided into 3 focus areas:

- Weekly school sport, including updated sport-specific mandatory permission inclusions for aquatic activities, collision sports and snow sports
- Carnivals, gala days, knockouts, external providers
- Representative School Sport Pathway events

Concussion management
The School Sport Unit has updated concussion management advice. This updated advice is available on the School Sport Unit website.

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 External providers in Supporting tools and resources on the School Sport Unit website.

Resources
The Supporting tools and resources have been updated and are available on the School Sport Unit website. During 2025, the team will also be updating the Specific sport and physical activity guidelines and the Requirements for sport and physical activity.

Policy-related email account
The policy team has a dedicated email account for ongoing support regarding sport policy-related questions and issues. Get in touch with our team directly by email at sportandphysicalactivity@det.nsw.edu.au.

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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 and carers must register their child. The registration form and other information for each event can be found on the NSWPSSA event calendar. Parents and 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 at darren.lang@det.nsw.edu.au or phone on **0447 808 676**.

Live streamed events in 2025
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.

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Disability and inclusion

The School Sport Unit offers a range of fun, competitive, and non-competitive opportunities for students with disabilities. This year, we're excited to introduce a new competitive team sport opportunity: representative tenpin bowling. Students with disabilities can trial for their regional association team and compete as a team at the State tournament.

To learn more about the trials, including eligible impairments and the tournament structure, visit the Competitive sport page on the School Sport website.

Entries are also now open for the following participation events:

- boccia competition
- Come-and-Try Athletics event
- tenpin bowling school competition.

Multi-Sport Days will be offered for students in Terms 2, 3, and 4. Registration details for these events will be available later –keep an eye out for updates!

For more information and to register your school, refer to Participation opportunities.

If you would like to join the distribution list to receive disability and inclusion information, please email InclusiveSchoolSport@det.nsw.edu.au.

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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 will enhance participants' understanding of Athletics rules and officiating roles, while also offering valuable guidance on organising and running a successful school athletics carnival.

The workshop dates and venues are:

- Tuesday 18 March at Ramsgate Public School (Week 8)
- Tuesday 25 March at Moruya High School (Week 9)
- Wednesday 26 March at Centaur Public School (Week 9)
- Thursday 27 March at Jindabyne Public School (Week 9)
- Friday 28 March at Southern Cross Public School (Week 9)
- Friday 4 April at Exeter Public School (Week 10)
- Tuesday 8 April at Callaghan College Wallsend (Week 11).

Enrolments can be made through MyPL.

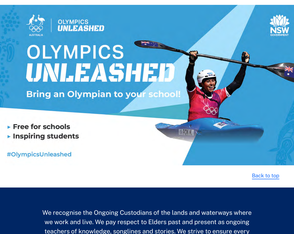
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Olympics Unleashed

Kick off 2025 with an Olympian visit to your classroom. Olympics Unleashed is bringing Olympians to Year 3–6 and 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.

Find out more and register at Olympics Unleashed.



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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.