Education

# School Sport Unit newsletter

Term 2 2025

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Dear colleagues

As we progress into Term 3, which began on 22 July 2025, planning is well underway to offer a range of initiatives to further support and inspire you and your students throughout the term. These activities not only promote physical health but also serve as a valuable platform for values education.

Research worldwide continues to affirm the holistic benefits of participating in sport and physical activity. Evidence shows that sport and physical activity significantly enhance students' overall wellbeing and sense of belonging. Each day, teachers across our state support students in reaping the benefits of sport and physical activity.

The School Sport Unit is committed to providing the best possible sporting experiences and I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of all the teachers and staff who volunteer their time to assist in running our programs. Without your dedication and enthusiasm, we wouldn't be able to offer so many learning opportunities for our students. It's been amazing to witness everyone's commitment to sport and student health and wellbeing.

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

Regards

**Lucette King**
**R/Leader, School Sport Unit**

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## NSW School Sport Games 2025

The inaugural NSW School Sport Games were held from Monday 2 June to Friday 6 June 2025 at the Blacktown International Sports Park precinct. The event brought together students, families and staff from 15 NSW School Sport Associations.

More than 2,000 primary and secondary student athletes competed across 9 sports, with 12 NSW State Champions crowned. The Games also featured the first Ten Pin Bowling State Championship for students with disability.

The Games celebrated student participation, sporting achievement and educational success. They highlighted the importance of school sport in building resilience and connection, and the vital role physical activity plays in fostering student wellbeing.

Several competitions were live streamed during the Games, including high school touch football and 11 years' rugby league.

Official opening of the NSW School Sport Games, featuring student athletes and senior officers.

Live stream on screen of girls' Australian Football match between South Coast and Sydney East.

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## 2025 School Sport Unit Awards

The School Sport Unit is looking forward to broadcasting this year's School Sport Unit Awards on Thursday 11 December 2025 (Term 4 Week 9). The awards aim to recognise colleagues around the state who consistently support our students to achieve their best through sport and physical activity.

If you know of a teacher, principal or school that consistently supports and delivers exceptional programs for students through sport and physical activity, we encourage you to nominate them for a 2025 School Sport Unit Award. Visit School Sport Unit Awards Ceremony for more information.

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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 the Sport and physical activity procedure.

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

**Permission**

The permission 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' (DOCX 35 KB).

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.

For any questions or to request support with the procedures, contact sportandphysicalactivity@det.nsw.edu.au.

**Concussion management**

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

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## Supervision requirements when engaging external providers for sport and physical activity programs

When engaging external providers to deliver sport or physical activity programs, including PE, principals must ensure that teachers from the school retain overall responsibility for the supervision of students. The department's duty of care cannot be delegated, regardless of the provider's qualifications or whether accredited teachers are included in their staff.

At least **one supervising teacher from the school** is required to be present at all times. Supervision must be maintained at a ratio of one teacher per class-sized group, based on the school's average class size.

Teachers bring essential expertise in teaching and learning, as well as a deep understanding of their students' needs, abilities and learning styles. They are responsible for delivering curriculum-aligned programs, and principals are accountable for the oversight of these programs within the school.

When considering whether to engage external providers, it is important to ensure alignment with the values and strategic directions outlined in Our Plan for NSW Public Education, particularly the commitments to equity and excellence.

While some providers may promote their services as syllabus-aligned or suitable for Release from Face-to-Face teaching (RFF) purposes, this does not change the department's position: schools retain responsibility for supervision and must ensure a school-based teacher is supervising each class sized-group to meet the department's duty of care requirements.

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## Teacher professional learning

**School Sport Unit teacher online professional learning**

The School Sport Unit offers a range of online workshops designed to help schools deliver high-quality sport and physical activity experiences for all students. These workshops are available through MyPL and cover a variety of practical topics to support teacher confidence and program delivery.

Enhancing sport and physical activity is a 90-minute online professional learning course that supports schools in using the 'Sport and physical activity school health check' to strengthen equity, access, and talent development for high potential and gifted education (HPGE) students. This ran successfully in Term 2 and is still available for teachers and school leaders.

You can explore the full list of available workshops at School Sport Unit online professional learning.

**Support for school athletics carnivals**

The School Sport Unit has developed a comprehensive athletics' officiating teacher resource to support teachers in convening and officiating school athletics carnivals. It helps deliver safe, fair and consistent athletics events across NSW public schools. Designed for both primary and high schools, the resource aligns with the events, distances and implement weights used in the NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association (CHS) and NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) representative athletics pathways, ensuring consistency in school carnivals through to state level.

The online resource includes videos, diagrams and step-by-step guides for officiating both track and field events. Whether you're new to officiating or looking to refresh your knowledge, the resource covers everything from starting procedures and timing to measuring techniques and safety considerations for events like high jump, shot put and javelin.

Visit the Athletics officiating teacher resource to explore the full suite of tools and to ensure your school athletics events are run confidently, accurately and in line with current sport and physical activity guidelines.

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## Representative School Sport Pathway

**Cross Country Championships**

We successfully hosted several representative school sport events at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre in July. The NSW Primary Schools Sports Association, NSW Combined High Schools and NSW All Schools Cross Country Championships events involved more than 2,500 student participants, supported by 100 teachers and officials.

Congratulations to all participants who competed this year and thank you to all the parents/carers and students who travelled great distances to attend.

The team to attend the School Sport Australia championships was selected at this event. We would like to wish all team members the best of luck at the national championships to be held on the Gold Coast from 7–10 September 2025.

Junior Sydney West competitors in the cross country.

Junior North West, Western, Sydney North and Hunter competitors in the cross country championship.

**Live streaming representative events**

The School Sport Unit continues to live stream a number of state championship events. The NSW Combined High Schools Sports Association (CHS) and NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) Championships' streams are consistently receiving strong interest and engagement by our school sport community.

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 follow the representative school sport experience of their peers and their children and to cheer them on from anywhere in the world. The streams for this year's scheduled events and the archive of previously streamed events can be accessed through the new School Sport Unit video gallery.

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## Opportunities for students with disability

### Boccia State Finals

In Week 2 of this term, we hosted the School Boccia Finals. The top 24 schools from across the state, in both primary and secondary divisions, battled it out for title of state champions.

Competition was strong, with many games coming down to the wire. In the end, Kellyville Ridge Public School and Wagga Wagga High School were crowned champions for 2025, a huge achievement considering over 600 teams took part this year.

Winning Boccia team from
Kellyville Ridge Public School.

Winning Boccia team from
Wagga Wagga High School.

### Ten Pin Bowling Competition

The annual Ten Pin Bowling Competition is being held across Weeks 4 and 5 this term. Over 600 teams will be competing across 45 locations in NSW, attempting to secure a spot in the Term 4 state finals. We wish all teams the best of luck and look forward to seeing some great scores achieved.

### Multi-sport events

Our multi-sport events run throughout Semester 2 with 29 events scheduled across both regional and metropolitan locations. These days are a great opportunity for students to engage in sport, with activities modified and adapted to meet their needs. The days also provide staff with an excellent chance to learn new skills and make links with various sporting bodies. To learn more about these days, dates and venues visit our Participation Opportunities page.

### Multi-class and classification

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 sporting classification for their disability.

The sporting classification is decided by the national sporting body and authority for the sport, who have developed a scoring system that can be used to determine placings.

Where there are no nationally recognised benchmarks to support fair and consistent result calculation, students who do not have a relevant classification in their chosen sport are not able to progress through the Representative School Sport Pathway.

To learn more about eligibility and to access application forms, visit classification and multi-class.

To learn more about participation and competitive opportunities for students with disability, visit the School Sport Unit website.

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## School Swimming and Water Safety Seminar

On Monday 21 July over 100 metropolitan swim teachers gathered at 105 Philip St, Parramatta to attend the annual School Swimming and Water Safety seminar.

The day began with Jordi Austin, Director Arts, Sport and Initiatives, welcoming and thanking staff for their wonderful contribution to school swimming and water safety. Lucette King, Relieving Leader of the School Sport Unit updated staff on the proposed new administration support staff team structure and some valuable learning that came out of the recent National Swimming round table she attended. James Boyer updated the staff on trends within the program and statistics around school attendance.

Other presentations included Teaching Students with Special Needs, Psychology in the Pool and Blue program updates. All staff completed their CPR and Anaphylaxis training, in readiness for the new season. Staff enjoyed the day of learning and networking with colleagues.

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## Duke of Ed pilot program

The Duke of Ed NSW Public Schools Pilot is underway in 11 targeted high schools across south-west Sydney. The pilot is designed to improve equitable access to the Bronze Level, particularly for students in low-SES communities, by addressing common barriers such as cost, administrative load, and staffing constraints.

Funded by Duke of Edinburgh's International Award – Australia and supported through a partnership with the Office of Sport, the pilot includes:

- reduced registration fee of $50 per student
- dedicated pilot staffing (SEO1 and Clerk 5/6) to support schools
- co-delivery, team teaching and resource development
- evaluation and milestone tracking to inform future scale-up.

Two schools have committed to delivering the Duke of Ed as a whole-of-Year 9 offering, with an estimated 700–1,000 students expected to register across the pilot.

The pilot is also exploring new partnerships with Environmental Education Centres, Volunteering NSW and Office of Sport facilities to support cost-effective options for the Adventurous Journey and Voluntary Service sections.

Updates will be shared as the pilot progresses. If your work intersects with co-curricular programming, student engagement or school-based delivery models, keep an eye out for opportunities to contribute insights.

Students participating in a variety of indoor and outdoor Duke of Ed activities.

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## Olympics Unleashed and Olympics Change-Maker

### Australian Olympics Committee's School Programs

### Olympics Unleashed

Olympics Unleashed takes Olympians and aspiring athletes into NSW schools to inspire, motivate and encourage students to be their personal best and unleash their potential. Olympics Unleashed is free and available to all primary and high schools across NSW, from metro to regional and remote. Find out more.

### Australian Olympic Change-Maker

The Australian Olympic Change-Maker program recognises secondary students from across the country and provides them with the opportunity to share ideas, connect with other like-minded people and be immersed in a unique Olympic experience. Find out more.

AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE
OLYMPIC SPIRIT IN ACTION
Empowering young Australians with Olympic spirit

OLYMPICS UNLEASHED
NSW
AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC CHANGE-MAKER
FIND OUT MORE

**Olympians. Students. Inspiration.**

*Discover how Olympians are igniting passion and purpose in classrooms - and how students are leading change in their communities.*

Promotional graphic for the Australian Olympic Committee's programs: Olympics Unleashed and Australian Olympic Change-Maker. Features images of an Olympian speaking to a school assembly and a student being recognised. Text reads: 'Olympic Spirit in Action – Empowering young Australians with Olympic spirit'. Includes logos for the Australian Olympic Committee, NSW Government, and QR codes to find out more.

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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.