

School Sport Unit newsletter

Term 4 2025

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Dear colleagues

As we enter Term 4, I hope this message finds you well during this busy time of reports, end-of-year activities and planning for 2026.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank all principals and school staff who have actively supported our programs throughout the year. Your dedication, passion and commitment to helping students meet mandatory physical activity requirements, whether through our Swimming and Water Safety Program, increased participation in school-based programs, or the Representative School Sport Pathway, are truly commendable.

Engaging in physical activities fosters character development and promotes a healthy lifestyle. It also cultivates positive attitudes and has been shown to improve academic performance, school attendance, and resilience. Research clearly highlights the strong connection between physical activity and positive wellbeing outcomes for our students.

In our Term 3 newsletter, we invited teachers and principals to nominate colleagues for a School Sport Unit award. Thank you to everyone who participated and submitted nominations. Your engagement is greatly appreciated.

We will announce the award recipients on Thursday 11 December at 6:30 pm. I encourage you to join us for the live broadcast of the ceremony via School Sport Unit Awards Ceremony.

Please take a moment to read the updates, opportunities, and announcements covering all School Sport Unit programs. Your continued support makes a significant difference in our students' lives.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to student wellbeing through sport.

Regards,

Lucette King
R/Leader, School Sport Unit

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Swimming and water safety

National Water Safety Day – 1 December
Australians have a deep connection with the water and **National Water Safety Day** is an important reminder of the need to stay safe in, on and around water.

As we head into summer, it's the perfect time to reinforce water safety messages with students and highlight the **Swimming and water safety resources** available through the School Sport Unit.

These resources include engaging learning sequences and animations that help students learn how to act safely and responsibly around water. Units of learning are available for Stages 1 to 3.

Pre-registration now open for returning schools
Pre-registration is now available for returning schools participating in centrally coordinated programs. It allows schools to indicate a preference to register for the same time and location as last year.

While this does not guarantee a place, it helps streamline programming and supports early planning. If your school was satisfied with last year's arrangements, pre-registering can help secure similar scheduling during any more notice to add the session to your calendar and distribute permission notes early.

The process remains flexible, allowing schools to update student numbers or the swimming coordinator's contact details if needed.

For step-by-step instructions on how to pre-register, visit Pre-register for centrally coordinated swimming and water safety programs.

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Policy and guidelines

Be alert to unsolicited sports tour promotions
Schools are reminded to be alert for unsolicited approaches from travel or sports companies using the Department of Education's Representative School Sport Pathway event details to market "elite" sports tours directly to students or families. The School Sport Unit has recently received an increase in complaints about this practice.

These approaches often arrive at schools addressed to students or their parents and should be treated as spam. They should not be supported or circulated by schools.

Such schemes are frequently misleading, expensive, lack quality control and are not affiliated with the Department of Education. Please report any concerns to your regional School Sport contact.

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Representative school sport

NSWPSSA Athletics Championships
The Term 4 representative school sport calendar is filled with many exciting events as we close out another successful year. Early in the term, the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association held its annual Primary State Athletics Championship 22 and 23 October 2025 at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre.

Over 4,000 spectators from across NSW witnessed outstanding performances and memorable experiences. Many athletes achieved first place in multiple events.

There were 10 individual and 2 team able-bodied records, with Burraneer Bay Public School Sydney East) winning school of the meet. Sydney North and Sydney East were amongst the top 3 Associations.

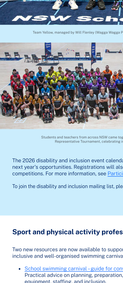
The multi-class athletes set or broke 49 records across the competition.

Congratulations to the following outstanding athletes of the meet:

- Levy McKenzie and Harlow Pate from Sydney South-West who both broke 2 records.
- Owen Sandpiva from Macklitop took out the Multi Class Athlete of the Meet, achieving 2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze.







A snapshot of incredible performances by primary school students from across NSW.

School Sports Associations' annual general meetings
During Term 4, School Sports Associations will hold their annual general meetings (AGMs) to appoint Association Office Bearers for 2026, including executive, convener, coach and manager roles. Some positions may remain vacant after AGMs and will be filled in a second round.

Staff interested in these roles, should contact the executive officer affiliated School Sports Association. For contact details, visit Representative school sport.

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Disability and inclusion

The 2025 Boccia Representative Tournament was held at the Quay Centre, Sydney Olympic Park, on 29-30 October. A total of 73 students from across NSW came together to showcase their teamwork, determination and sportsmanship in a fun and inclusive environment.

After 2 days of exciting matches, Team Yellow, managed by Will Flenley (Wagga Wagga Public School), claimed victory with 12 wins out of their 15 games.

Congratulations to all players, teachers and support staff who contributed to the event's success.



Team Yellow, managed by Will Flenley (Wagga Wagga Public School), 2025 Boccia Representative Tournament.



Students and teachers from across NSW came together at Sydney Olympic Park for the 2025 Boccia Representative Tournament, celebrating inclusion, teamwork and fun through sport.

The 2026 disability and inclusion event calendar will be available online by Week 7, listing next year's opportunities. Registrations will also open for the Tenpin Bowling and Boccia competitions. For more information, see the transition opportunities.

To join the disability and inclusion mailing list, please email InclusiveSchoolSport@det.nsw.edu.au.

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Sport and physical activity professional learning

Two new resources are now available to support schools in planning and delivering safe, inclusive and well-organised swimming carnivals.

- School swimming carnival – guide for convenors (PDF 191KB)
  Practical advice on planning, preparation, event management, risk management, equipment, staffing, and inclusion.
- School swimming carnival – guide for officials (PDF 342KB)
  Key responsibilities and best practice procedures for carnival roles to ensure smooth and fair events.

Find these guides along with other useful school carnival resources at School sport carnivals.

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Olympics Unleashed

Bring the Olympic Winter Games to Life in Your Classroom with Milano Cortina 2026 Resources
Get ready to ignite the Olympic spirit in your students as we count down to the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Games, which run from February 6–22.

The Australian Olympic Committee's new school resources celebrate the values of excellence, resilience, and teamwork through engaging activities, athlete stories, and classroom-ready content.

You can find lessons plans and guides for Upper Primary, Lower Primary, Year 7-10 and all related Milano Cortina resources here: Teamplus Olympic School resources.

Village Art: Students have the opportunity to create and submit artwork to be displayed on the walls of the athletes' rooms.

Bring an Olympian to your school
Olympics Unleashed brings Olympians and aspiring Olympians into NSW schools to inspire students by sharing stories about passion, goal setting, overcoming challenges and building resilience.

More than 1,400 schools have participated, reaching over 165,000 students.

For more information and to register today, see Olympics Unleashed – NSW schools.



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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.