School Sport Unit Annual Awards

The School Sport Unit (SSU) provides carefully planned, adaptable and enjoyable physical activity opportunities for all students in NSW public schools. As a leader in sport education, the SSU promotes equity, wellbeing and excellence in a variety of settings. We acknowledge that our programs are delivered by highly skilled, motivated volunteer teachers who positively shape young people's lives. The opportunities provided would not be possible without the support of caring principals across the state.

In recognition of the outstanding work that occurs week in week out in NSW, we will host the School Sport Unit Awards Ceremony on **Thursday 10 December 2026**.

The aim of the ceremony is to identify and recognise teachers, principals and schools from all areas of NSW who consistently support and deliver programs that allow students to achieve their best through sport and physical activity.

Once all nominations are received an independent panel will review and make determinations regarding the applications.

We invite you to support this initiative by nominating teachers for the categories outlined below.

What are the award categories for employee nominated awards?

School Sport Unit awards

- **Early career teacher award**. Nominations are invited for early career teachers (7 years or less) who have shown outstanding commitment to ensure enhanced opportunities for students in sport and/or physical activity.
- **Outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of sport with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.** Nominations are invited for teachers or schools who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- **Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Award.** Nominations are invited for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander teachers who have shown leadership in promoting and developing sport, encouraging participation and supporting student wellbeing in their school or community.
- **Leadership in female sporting initiatives.** Nominations are invited for teachers who demonstrate outstanding contribution to sport education opportunities for females. This could be through program development or as a role model.
- **Leadership in male sporting initiatives.** Nominations are invited for teachers who demonstrate outstanding contribution to sport education opportunities for males. This could be through program development or as a role model.
- **Rural and remote award.** Nominations are invited for teachers who have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion and development of opportunities for students in rural and remote areas.

Disability and Inclusion

- **Exceptional promotion and delivery of sport and physical activity for students with disability**. Nominations are invited for teachers or staff who have demonstrated exceptional promotion and delivery of sport and physical activity for students with disability.

Teacher Professional Learning

- **Innovation in school sport.** Nominations are invited for teachers who show outstanding innovation in school sport. These may include multicultural, disadvantaged, refugee or targeted sports programs.
- **Sport organisers award.** Nominations are invited for teachers who have demonstrated outstanding commitment to organising a whole school sport and physical activity program.

Who can be nominated?

Teachers, executives or staff in NSW public schools, primary, secondary, central, community and schools for special purposes (SSPs) are eligible to be nominated.

Who can nominate a teacher?

Nominations can be made by **any employee in the NSW public school system**. All nominations must be endorsed by the nominated teacher's Principal or Director Educational Leadership.

How to nominate?

Nominations can now be made online by completing the School Sport Unit 2026 Nomination Form.

Nominations will close 5pm Friday 25 September 2026 (last day of Term 3). No late nominations will be considered.

Prior to completing the online form, the nominator is encouraged to gather the necessary information ready to submit:

- Nominee's details and **photo** (needed for presentation)
- Nominator's statement supporting the teacher's achievements and contributions. Recommended length is less than 300 words (completed online – not as an attachment)

Please note no additional attachments will be considered during nomination reviews by the selection panel.

Who selects the recipients?

An independent selection panel will be formed, including representatives from the NSW Department of Education and within the School Sport Unit. All nominations will be reviewed according to the award criteria based on the information provided.

For further information

Call the School Sport Unit on 02 9508 5500 or email us at schoolsportunit@det.nsw.edu.au. We also encourage you to visit our website https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport

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