

UniSport Australia Guideline

Qualification for Participation in UniSport events

The UniSport qualification for participation guideline provides the framework for participation in UniSport sanctioned events.

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Guidelines to read in conjunction with this guideline

The following guidelines should be read in conjunction with this document. All can be found on the UniSport website.

- Eligibility of competitors
- Divisional structure
- Allocation of entrant to pools
- Awards and point scoring for events
- Breach of competition requirements
- Team nomination and withdrawal

Introduction

The qualification guideline has been developed in line with the following objectives:

- To raise the standard of sport outcomes at national events
- To raise the profile of UniSport events

These objectives link to the UniSport strategic plan section relating to delivery of competitions at the regional and National level, and link specifically to the following objectives of the UniSport Nationals:

- Provide opportunities for students to represent their university in competitive intervarsity sport at a regional and national level, and provide progression opportunities for international representation
- Deliver a positive event experience for all attendees both on and off the field
- Be recognised as a respected sporting program within the university sector
- Deliver a program of events that is acknowledged and supported by National Sporting Organisations
- Positively support the growth of UniSport through exceeding financial targets

1. Who can compete in UniSport events?

The UniSport eligibility guideline outlines who can compete in UniSport Nationals events. Nationals include:

- All sports within the UniSport Nationals (multisport) event.
- Nationals Championships (managed by UniSport or appointed university), e.g., Snow, T20 Cricket, 3x3 Basketball, and more.

- Events held within an NSO or community event, such as Triathlon or Distance Running.

Combined teams

UniSport does not accept combined teams except for the following circumstances:

- If a sport is at risk of losing its UniSport sport status due to consistent low participation
- Where UniSport conclude that the allowance of combined teams will contribute to the development of a sport within the Nationals e.g. women's T20 Cricket.
- Other extenuating circumstances, determined at UniSport's discretion
- Where combined teams are accepted, no pennant or championship points will be awarded for that competition, however medals will be awarded to place getters.

2. Process for entry/qualification into Nationals

Individual sports

- 2.1 For individual sports, a qualification standard may need to be achieved or proof of an appropriate level of competency within the sport may need to be provided to the event organiser. For example, in Athletics a specific time or height may need to be achieved for entry and for Taekwondo, proof of belt level may be required.
- 2.2 If a qualification standard is required, then the NSO will be involved to ensure that this standard is appropriate for the level of competition. All qualification standards are reviewed in conjunction with UniSport competition guidelines every two years.
- 2.3 Qualification standards are outlined within the specific UniSport competition guidelines for that sport and/or within the event information circulated to participants prior to the close of registrations.
- 2.4 Participants should note that their entry is subject to meeting the qualification standards for their sport (if they exist) and they must provide proof that they have met the qualification standard as part of their registration process. This proof must be submitted upon registration or (if requested) as part of the registration process prior to the close of entry date for that event.

Team sports

- 2.5 For Nationals, sports will be offered as either:
 - Div 1 only
 - Div 1 and Div 2
- 2.6 Universities may enter up to two teams in each competition as identified by UniSport. UniSport reviews which competitions have capacity for second teams annually, with the list provided to universities prior to the designated team nomination period.
- 2.7 For sports conducted as Div 1 and Div 2*:
 - a) If a member has qualified to participate in Div 1, then they may also enter one team for the Div 2 competition in the same year.
 - b) Members only participating in Div 2 may enter up to two teams in Div 2.
 - c) It is the members' responsibility that all teams entered are of a competitive standard to meet the nature of the competition.
 - d) UniSport reserve the right to decline second team entries on a case-by-case basis should they feel that second teams entered have not historically been competing in the nature of the competition.
- 2.8 The UniSport *Divisional Structure* guideline outlines the process of promotion and relegation of teams between Div 1 and 2.

*In 2025, please refer to the Divisional Structure Supplement, available on the UniSport website, which will take precedence to the above.

Confirmation of participation

- 2.9 Universities will be made aware at the start of each year, which UniSport Nationals Div 1 competition(s) they have received automatic qualification into (based on the previous year's results).
- 2.10 Universities must nominate teams for sports competed at Nationals by the dates advised by UniSport at the commencement of each year.

Nationals held as championships

- 2.11 Nationals managed by UniSport that are held as single events will follow the same process for team and individual qualification.

Nationals held as a category within an NSO or community event

- 2.12 Individual sports that have a national championship as part of an NSO or community event do not follow any qualification process. Event entries are at the discretion of the event organiser and follow their specific entry procedures.

3. Minimum number of teams to constitute a competition

A minimum of four different member universities must compete to constitute a pennant competition at UniSport Nationals.

4. Invitational teams

4.1 Invitational teams can compete in the following competitions upon approval by the UniSport Chief Executive Officer:

- Nationals competitions as identified by UniSport that have capacity

4.2 Invitational teams may include:

- Australian based representative teams
- National Talent Identification (NTID) teams or individuals
- Development squads

4.3 Applications must be made to the UniSport Chief Executive Officer at least one month prior to the opening of team nominations for the event addressing each of the following criteria:

- a) Insurance – provide proof of personal accident insurance for its participants.
- b) Team management – suitable person nominated as team manager who is educated in good team management practices.
- c) Team quality brief – complete brief form outlining the team history and/or athletes' involvement in the sport i.e., state development squad.

4.4 Invitational teams are not eligible for overall or per capita awards (points or pennants) however will receive medals should they 'place' in their competition.

5. International teams

5.1 International teams can compete in the following events upon approval by the UniSport Chief Executive Officer:

- Nationals competitions as identified by UniSport that have capacity

5.2 Participation in Nationals will be allowed in pre-determined competitions as selected by UniSport where increased team numbers are deemed to add to the competition experience. UniSport will release a list of competitions to members at the start of the year.

5.3 Applications must be made to UniSport prior to the close of the team nomination period for the event addressing each of the following criteria.

- a) Insurance – provide proof of personal accident insurance for its participants.
- b) Team management – suitable person nominated as team manager whom is educated in good team management practices.
- c) Team quality brief – complete brief form outlining the team history and/or athletes' involvement in the sport i.e. state development squad.

5.4 International teams are not eligible for overall or per capita awards (points or pennants) however will receive medals should they 'place' in their competition.

5.5 Applications for multiple (two) team entries from international institution may be considered by UniSport on a case-by-case basis, pending sport and competition entries.

6. Extenuating circumstances

UniSport recognises that there may be extenuating circumstances where an athlete who does not meet the UniSport Eligibility of Competitors guideline may request to participate at a UniSport event.

6.1 An application to compete at a UniSport event as an invitational athlete may be submitted to the UniSport Registration & Event Senior Coordinator for consideration. The final decision is at the discretion of UniSport. The conditions for successful consideration include:

- The athlete is using a UniSport event to support qualification for national representation at a FISU World University Games
- The athlete has appropriate personal accident / injury insurance
- The athlete has accepted the terms and conditions of the UniSport Participation Agreement
- The athlete meets the required qualifications standards for the UniSport event

6.2 These athletes are not eligible for overall or per capita awards (points or pennants) however will receive medals should they 'place' in their competition.

Previous amendments

July 2007 | May 2009 | March 2011 | May 2012 | May 2014 | December 2014 | October 2017 | March 2018 | March 2019 | February 2020 | February 2021 | April 2022 | July 2023 | December 2024