

UniSport Australia Guideline

Allocation and review of UniSport sport status

Introduction

The following guideline aims to ensure and maintain that a high standard of national university sporting competitions is conducted under the auspices of UniSport.

To monitor the success or otherwise of current and/or potential national university competitions, a minimum criterion to assist in the evaluation of UniSport status has been established and is as follows:

1. Criteria for the allocation of UniSport sport status

Inclusion into an existing UniSport program (Nationals), i.e., to be conducted by UniSport.

The following criteria must be met if a sport is to be successful in receiving UniSport status:

- a) That it must be a sport recognised by an International and/or a National Sporting Organisation (NSO)
- b) That its request for UniSport status must have the support of the appropriate NSO, to provide officials
- c) That the sport program may only offer divisions (men's, women's, open, mixed) which have the support of the relevant NSO (except in the case of an international program by FISU)
- d) That the introduction of the sport is consistent with UniSport strategy and is considered to significantly contribute to university sport within Australia and that a current network of clubs exist at various universities. Other factors such as regional bias and gender equity should also be considered.
- e) That the sport is represented through University clubs and/or member support (through survey, email or verbal indication) for inclusion in at least 3 of the 4 member regions to be considered for National level competitions

2. Application process for allocation of UniSport status

Applications must be received 12 months prior to the proposed event (applications will be accepted within this time frame at the discretion of the General Manager – National Sport Program).

Application procedure

The applicant must make an official submission to UniSport addressing the criteria as set out in Item 1.

The application should include the following:

- a) A brief history of the sport in the university environment including a list of existing university clubs and rationale for applying for UniSport sport status (Criteria D)
- b) Letter of support from the NSO/and or International Federation (Criteria A, B, C)

A set of draft sport specific competition guidelines that follow the sport specific format and a rationale for any variations to the national rules of the sport.

3. Criteria for reviewing UniSport status

The following criteria are used in the evaluation of all sports that currently have full UniSport status.

If a UniSport sport or division over the previous three years has had difficulty achieving participation to a level equivalent to that as set out below, then UniSport will consider the withdrawal of UniSport status.

Where sport status is withdrawn, an application for renewal of sport status from that sport may not be submitted within 24 months of the decision. The General Manager – National Sport Program may vary this ruling at their discretion.

If a sport is re-applying for UniSport status after having previously lost its UniSport status, the sport must guarantee participation from at least four UniSport members.

In order to avoid review of sport status (subject to UniSport discretion):

- Individual sports must maintain a minimum participation from four universities after the first year
- Team sports
 - where there is only one division being contested, a minimum of four teams should be maintained
 - where more than one division is played a minimum of four teams per division should be maintained.

4. Procedure for withdrawing UniSport status

- a) Members are notified that a particular sport is under threat of losing its UniSport status following its failure to meet the appropriate criteria and asked for reasons why its UniSport status should not be withdrawn, e.g., gender equity consideration.
- b) An evaluation takes place following members responses received regarding this possible action.
- c) The Nationals department decides whether withdrawal of status is warranted.

5. Decision making authority

The Sport Operations Committee (SOC) appointed by the UniSport Board will be responsible for the allocation of UniSport Sport Status.

The SOC considers the application for sport status against stated criteria and within the strategic context of UniSport. UniSport Nationals department may request feedback from members and/or other interested parties.

- a) If approved, trial status is given for the first year. During the trial period, points and pennants do not contribute towards the overall point score.

6. UniSport allocated trial sports

In circumstances where the opportunity to trial new sports as part of Nationals arise which may add value to the development of the National sport program, UniSport reserves the right to implement a trial sport in addition to the competitions that hold sport status.

In this circumstance, the following criteria will apply:

- 6.1. Items 1 a), b) and c) still apply.
- 6.2. In the case of item 1 b), UniSport is to engage with the appropriate NSO or equivalent body for the delivery of the trial sport within the Nationals event.
- 6.3. Item 2 does not apply.
- 6.4. UniSport are responsible for developing all competition processes accordingly.
- 6.5. Trial status is given for the first year. During the trial period, points and pennants do not contribute towards the overall point score. Medals, however, will be awarded to placegetters in the competition.
- 6.6. Following a successful trial year meeting criteria outlined in Item 3, the SOC will review sport status and either approve the sport status for the following year, or reject it.

Previous amendments

February 2020 | January 2021 | March 2024