

UniSport Australia Guideline

Eligibility of Competitors

Introduction

This guideline outlines the UniSport eligibility requirements of competitors in order to provide clarification for participants and UniSport members. It is the participant's and member's responsibility to ensure that all athletes are eligible to attend and compete in the UniSport event.

1. Who is eligible?

In order to be eligible to compete in a UniSport event, the athlete must:

- a) Be a currently enrolled student
- b) Be proceeding towards a certificate or higher award offered by the member university or by a recognised feeder school* of the university
- c) Be able to prove their identity, and must be able to prove their enrolment/eligibility if requested
- d) Be covered by personal accident / injury insurance
- e) Have authorisation from the member that the athlete is eligible to compete (via the online registration process or eligibility form)
- f) Have accepted the terms and conditions of the UniSport Participation Agreement

*A feeder school is deemed to be a college or school which has a partnership with a university which offers courses that allow the student (undertaking that course) to gain minimum university requirements to gain admission to a full degree program. These students must have an approved student identification number from the university.

Note on 1a) – be a currently enrolled student

For the purpose of defining a currently enrolled student the following clarifications shall apply:

- i. A student who is enrolled and has attended a teaching session prior to (or during) the event in that calendar year, is eligible
 - i.a. Subject to point i. A student who has completed their studies prior to the event within that calendar year, is eligible
 - i.b. Subject to point i, A student who is unable to study in a teaching session prior to the event due to no fault of their own (i.e. no available courses for them to enrol in for the teaching session), is eligible
- ii. A student under a designated exchange scheme between an overseas university and the member's university is eligible

A person is not considered or ceases to be considered a currently enrolled student for the purposes of participating at a UniSport event, if the person:

- a) Chooses to immediately discontinue, suspend, defer or postpone study*, or
- b) Commences their university studies in a semester that begins after the competition concludes, is not eligible to compete.

If either point a) or b) above apply to an individual, this supersedes points i, i.a. and ii, deeming the participant ineligible.

* Extenuating circumstances:

UniSport recognises that there may be extenuating circumstances where an elite athlete suspends, defers or postpones study due to representing their country on the world stage of sport. An application for special eligibility status for an elite athlete wishing to compete at a UniSport competition may be submitted to the UniSport Chief Executive Officer by the UniSport member for consideration. The conditions for successful consideration are that:

- a) The athlete has represented their country
- b) The reason for deferment was solely to represent their country
- c) There is intention to recommence study in the immediate future at the same university as deferment
- d) The athlete competes in the same sport at an UniSport event that they represented their country
- e) The application includes a copy of the deferment information and a declaration from the athlete that they will be returning to study in the immediate future at the same university from which they originally deferred

Note on point 1b) – be proceeding towards a certificate or higher award

A 'certificate' is an award as defined by the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#) (AQF) and is listed in the relevant legislation of the university.

Note on point 1b) – offered by a member university of member university feeder school/program

If a student is enrolled in a feeder school or bridging course that is aiding them to enter their first or second year at the member institution to which the feeder school is associated, they are eligible providing that the feeder school/program or bridging course is conducted by the member university. The student must have a relevant university student identification number.

Note on point 1c) - proof of identity, and must be able to prove their eligibility if requested

The competitor will be required to produce appropriate photographic identification such as the official student identification, driver's licence or proof of age card on requested by UniSport event personnel together with their UniSport event accreditation pass (if produced by the event).

Should a competitor's eligibility be questioned, the competitor and UniSport member which this person is representing must be able to produce proof of their enrolment/eligibility within a reasonable timeframe (24 hours would be considered reasonable in most circumstances).

Note on point 1d) – be covered by personal accident / injury insurance

The competitor or all persons entered into the UniSport event must be covered by personal accident / injury insurance. This coverage must be taken by the university for all its eligible competitors. It is also recommended that all athletes source their own relevant personal accident insurance.

Note on point 1e) - have authorisation from the member university that the athlete is eligible to compete – eligibility certificate

Eligibility to represent a member university in a competition conducted under the jurisdiction of UniSport, shall be restricted to persons accepted via the online registration system or via the eligibility form which has been presented to the organiser of the UniSport event by the time and date specified by the organiser, provided that the person listed can at all times throughout the competition prove their identity (as per note on point 1c).

Note: eligibility certificates may be used for some stand-alone UniSport Nationals events. Eligibility for UniSport multisport events are completed via the online registration portal.

When an eligibility certificate has been received and processed by the organiser of the UniSport event, eligibility is deemed to be finalised. This may occur post event in some stand-alone event instances.

A completed eligibility or supplementary eligibility certificate is one which states:

- a) The gender specific sport for which the eligibility certificate applies, plus
- b) Each person's first name, surname and student ID number and when required their graduation date, plus
- c) The total number of persons listed, and
- d) Is signed by the member university's Executive Officer or his/her nominee.

In addition, the organiser of the UniSport event may require that the member provide details of management personnel (coaches, managers, or sports medicine personnel) and other details of the participants entering the competition.

Note on point 1f) - have accepted the terms and conditions of the UniSport Participation Agreement

All participants (competitors and management personnel) representing the member at the UniSport event must agree to UniSport terms and conditions of entry (outlined in the UniSport Participation Agreement) upon registering for the event. *Failure to provide this agreement prior to the commencement of the competition may result in the participant not being permitted to compete or participate in the UniSport event.*

2. Penalties for breaches of eligibility

In a circumstance where it is discovered that a competitor within a UniSport event is found to be not eligible as outlined in this guideline, the following penalties will be implemented:

2.1. Person NOT eligible

Team sport: If a person entered into an UniSport event is subsequently found not to be eligible then the team which the person was to compete in, or did compete in, shall be disqualified from the competition.

Individual sport: If a person entered into an UniSport event is subsequently found not to be eligible then that person shall be disqualified from the competition.

2.2. Person eligible to enter into an UniSport event however does not play for their appointed/registered sport

If, in a team sport such as basketball, hockey etc., a team fields a player who is not registered in that team (not listed on the team sheet) or plays a person who uses the name of a player registered for that team, then the team shall forfeit* the game in which the breach was discovered and any other games in which the said player or person's name was recorded on a score/team sheet.

* This forfeit will result in the team being relegated to the bottom of the pool.

If, in the team sport such as tennis, squash etc., the team uses a person who is eligible but not listed on the team sheet, then the team shall forfeit twice the number of rubbers in which the said player or person's name was recorded on a score/team sheet.

If a person who is eligible but not listed as a registered person for that sport or a person who is eligible but uses the name of someone else who is registered for that sport, competes in a non-team event such as athletics, swimming, etc., then this person's result will be null and void and all other competitors will move up one place.

2.3. Intentional breach

In a circumstance where a participant is not eligible to compete, and where a participant and/or member is believed to have intentionally breached this eligibility guideline, the participant will be disqualified from the competition and if the participant is within a team sport, the team will be disqualified from competition. In addition, an intentional breach will be viewed as bringing UniSport into disrepute and a breach of the UniSport Code of Behaviour may be submitted.

3. Invitational teams / International teams

- 3.1. Any international or invitational teams nominating to compete in UniSport events will be required to confirm the eligibility of their participants prior to acceptance of their team nomination into the relevant competition.
- 3.2. Upon confirmation of eligibility, all components of item two in this guideline apply respectively to these teams at the competition.

4. Invitational individuals

UniSport recognises that there may be extenuating circumstances where an elite athlete may request to participate at a UniSport event who is not associated with a member organisation. An application to compete at a UniSport competition as an invitational athlete may be submitted to the UniSport Registrations Coordinator by the athlete for consideration. The final decision is at the discretion of UniSport. The conditions for successful consideration are:

- 4.1 The athlete is using a UniSport event to support qualification for national representation.
- 4.2 Be covered by personal accident / injury insurance.
- 4.3 Have accepted the terms and conditions of the UniSport Participation Agreement.
- 4.4 The athlete meets the required qualifications standards.

Previous amendments

April 2003 | June 2005 | June 2008 | March 2011 | January 2013 | May 2014 | October 2017 | March 2018 | February 2020 | June 2021 | January 2022 | February 2024 | December 2024