

2026 UniSport Conference

Topic 1: How to get your teams organised for Nationals



Session Overview

- What resources are available to UTM's and where to find it
- Key UniSport Nationals processes to keep in mind
- Perth – Things to keep in mind!
- Nuggets of wisdom
- Workshop with colleagues
- 2026 Nationals Perth: Random seeding

2026 Nationals Perth Operational Goals



- 5500 attendance in Perth
- Competitive teams Div 1 and 2 Options
- Achieve 80% participant satisfaction
- Student experience through unifest, opening ceremony, recovery hubs, partner activations, match of the day
- Improve student behavior and reduce risk management at event through collaboration and education with members and team captains.
- High-quality venues & partnerships

Member Resources

- Visit Members area of UniSport Website (ensure you have a login)

<https://www.unisport.com.au/members-area>

Team Management 101

- Covers the majority of the “need to know” pre-event information
- Current updates to embed Assemble Sports and GBV Guidelines



Key Dates

Nationals

26 September - 2 October

Team nominations	2 March - 31 May
Registrations open	5 May
Standard registrations close	9 August
Withdrawal and minimum number deadline	10 August
All registrations close	20 September
Eligibility checks deadline	22 September

- All attending support staff and NCO's must register through Assemble Sports
- Sport early closing dates
 - Kendo – 2 weeks prior
 - Golf – 1 week prior
 - Judo – 1 week prior
 - Rowing – 1 week prior
 - Taekwondo – 1 week prior

Team Nominations

- Please DO NOT nominate a team in every competition unless you intend to bring one
- Easier for us to add late teams than it is to remove teams that fall over at the last minute
- Keep us updated on how your teams are progressing, so we account in our planning.



Minimum Numbers & Cross Registrations

- Each sport guideline outlines the minimum numbers required to constitute a team (There is a Min and Max squad size supplement to help with this)
- Teams must reach minimum numbers to be eligible for the competition
- Minimum numbers must be met by the team withdrawal deadline
- Participants can compete in more than 1 sport at Nationals (at the discretion of their Uni)
- Each additional sport will receive a 66% discount (managed through the rego system)

Cross Registrations

X rego limits for sports are outlined in the sport guidelines

There is no 'primary' sport –so if a player is X rego in Touch and Tennis, it counts as a X rego for **BOTH** teams

X rego's are not used to reach team minimum numbers

There are no cross registrations between beach volleyball fours and pairs

Participant cross registrations in any of these sports will count towards the X rego numbers for the other sport entered.

Team Withdrawal Process

- Please read Guideline for a clear understanding
- Teams must be at minimum numbers by this date, if not UniSport can make the decision to remove the team
- If teams are withdrawn AFTER the deadline the uni will be invoiced for:
 - Cost of all participants registered in the team at that point plus a \$440 withdrawal fee and administration fees.
- **Deadline –5pm Monday 10 August**
- **Please do not withdraw a team straight from Assemble. Please email registrations@unisport.com.au to withdraw a team.**

Div 1 and Div 2 Competition Structure

- Div1 and Div2 structure based on the number of teams nominated in the competition
- Competitions with teams that have 16 or more team nominations will be 2 divisions (under the following size parameters)
 - 16-22 teams: 8 team Div 1, remaining teams Div 2 (20-22 team ratio change needing approval from SOC)
 - 23+ teams: 12 team Div 1, remaining teams Div 2
- Team seedings are based on the final rankings from the 2025 Nationals
- For competitions with two divisions, promotion and relegation will take place after the initial pool rounds (likely mid to late on day 2 of the competition)

How many teams can we nominate?

- Guideline: Qualification for participation in UniSport Events
- **TWO** teams may be nominated in every team sport at Nationals except those explicitly outlined, for 2026 these are:
 - **Basketball**
 - **Netball**
 - **Tennis**
 - **Volleyball**
- NUCs have their own rules about number two teams i.e. 3x3 operating with a Div 1 and Div 2 from the outset
- UniSport will identify when/if these four sports can be opened up to number two teams post the team nomination period in June

Nationals Perth 2026



UniSport Office: Level 1, Shirley Strickland Grandstand
Herb Elliot Drive via Stephenson Avenue
Mt Claremont Western Australia 6010

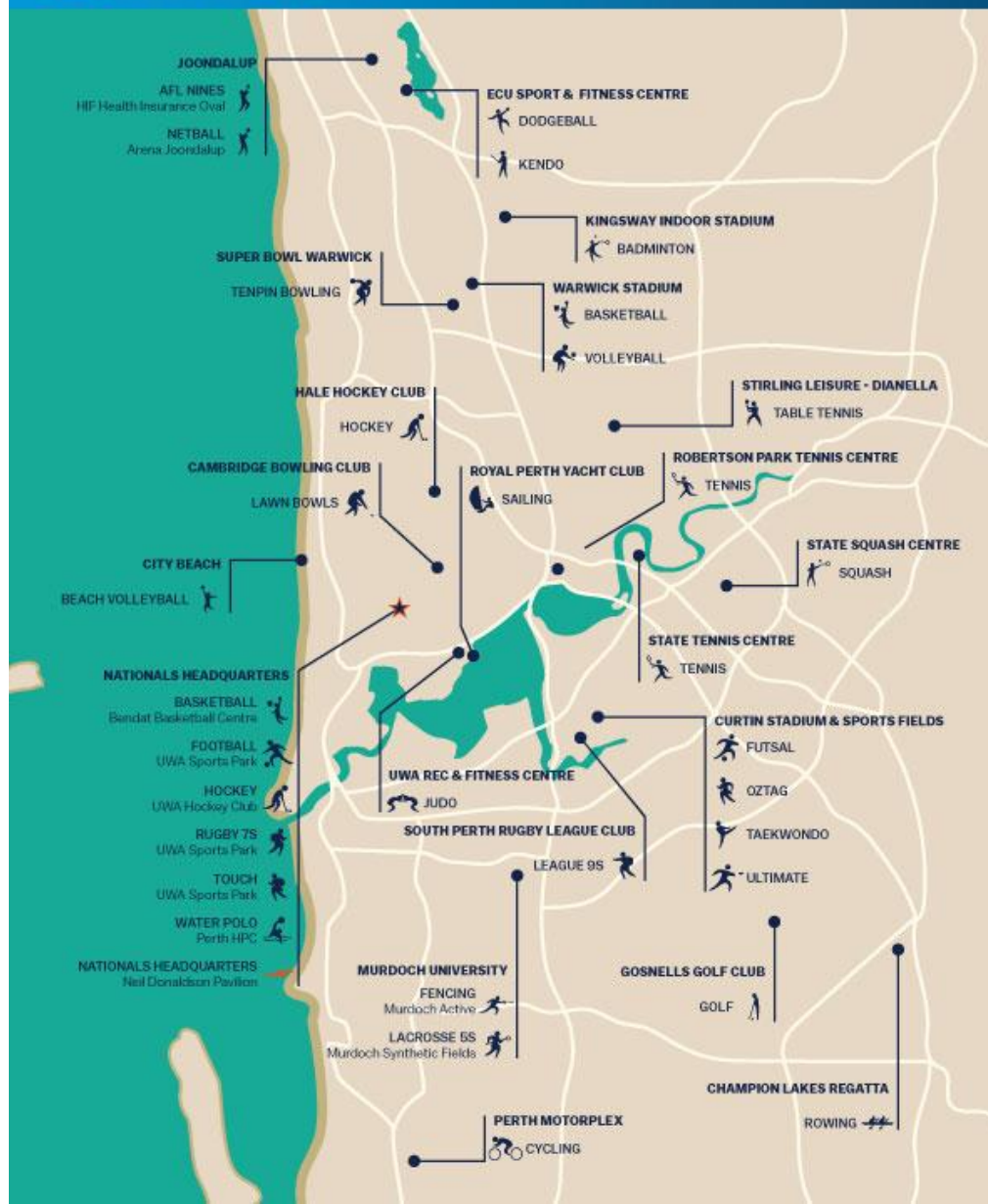


HQ – UWA Sports Park – Neil
Donaldson Pavillion

Accreditation Collection
Results hub
Media Hub
Event Administrations
Disputes and Disciplinary
Merchandise Sales
Volunteer hub



NCO Accreditation collection and return of perpetual trophies



Sport Updates

- Recent Additions
 - Dodgeball – transitions to a Div 1 sport in 2026
- Expressions of interest recently from:
 - Pickleball
 - Baseball
 - Dragon Boat (speaking directly to some members to gain traction)
- Pickleball coming along – needs further nation-wide intervarsity support before implementation at Nationals
- Promising intervarsity activity in baseball
- Handball will be taken to SOC committee to ratify removal from official sport list for now
- Div1/Div 2 adjustment to be taken to SOC committee – only effects 20, 21 or 22 team competitions (adjustment on ratio of teams)
- Cycling Update



2022 Nationals Perth Team Numbers



Sport	Team Numbers	Sport	Team Numbers	Sport	Team Numbers
AFL Nines - X	N/A	Futsal – W	8	Table Tennis - W	4
Badminton – M	15	Hockey – M	11	Tennis – M	14
Badminton – W	8	Hockey – W	15	Tennis – W	10
Basketball – M	34	Lacrosse – X	6	Tenpin – O	4
Basketball – W	25	Netball – W	30	Touch – M	6
Beach Voll. – M	17	Netball – X	24	Touch – W	9
Beach Voll. – W	9	Rugby 7s – M	6	Touch – X	15
Beach Voll. – X	12	Rugby 7s – W	5	Ultimate – X	12
Dodgeball – X	N/A	R League 9s – M	N/A	Volleyball – M	22
Football – M	9	Sailing – O	9	Volleyball – W	18
Football – W	12	Squash – X	6	Water Polo – M	8
Futsal – M	16	Table Tennis - M	7	Water Polo – W	8

2022 Nationals Perth Individual Sport Numbers

Sport	Team Numbers	Sport	Team Numbers
Cycling – M	43	Judo – W	15
Cycling – W	25	Kendo – M	35
Fencing – M	22	Kendo – W	25
Fencing – W	19	Rowing – M	69
Golf – M	20	Rowing – W	64
Golf – W	7	Taekwondo – M	53
Judo – M	40	Taekwondo – W	50



Special events & Activations

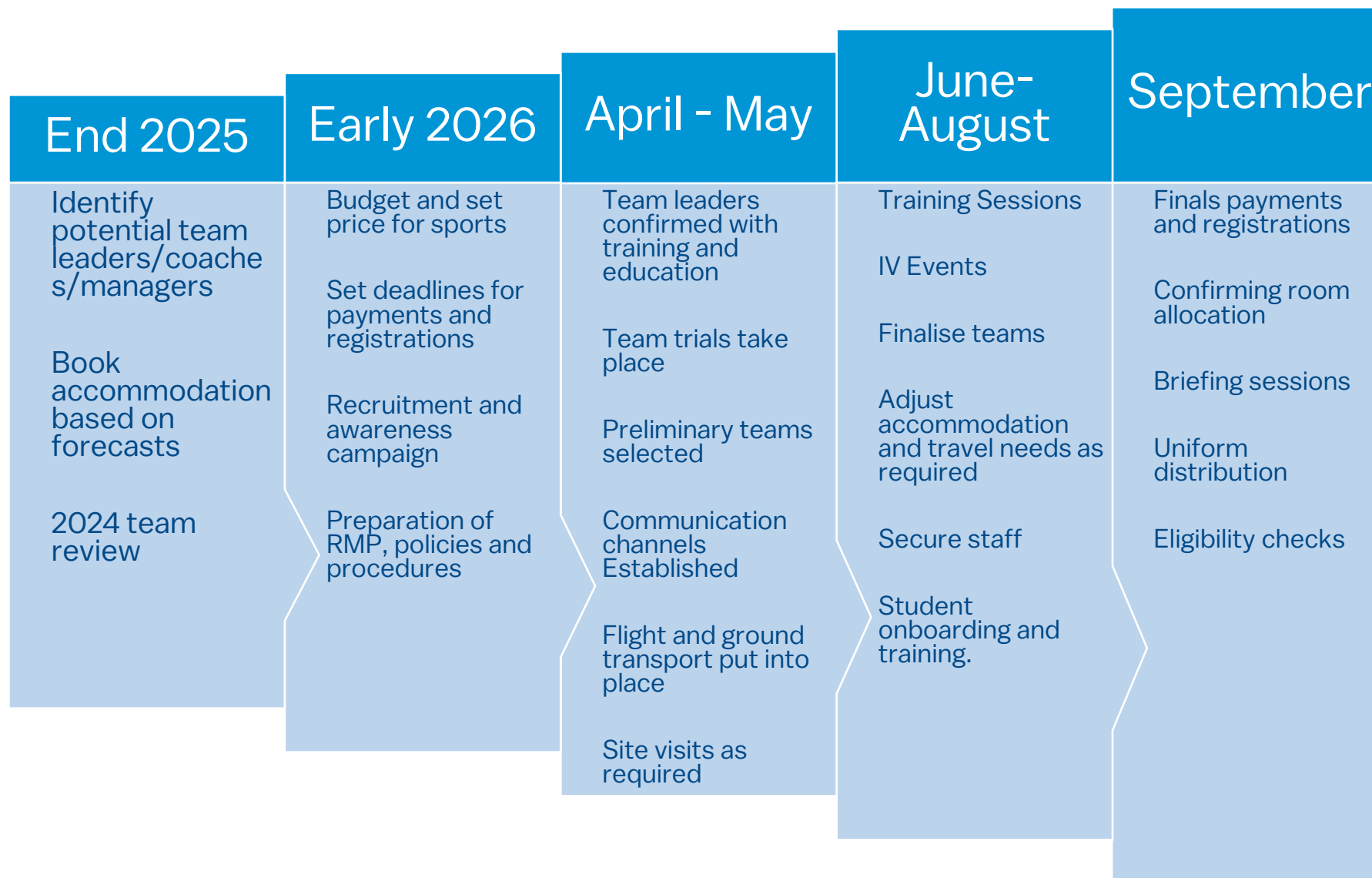
- Student experience alongside great competition.
- Partnership that are appropriate for student athletes.
- Survey results tell us that key pieces for the students are:
 - Meeting new people
 - Interacting with other teams and universities
 - Travelling and being part of a team

2026 Events

- Opening Ceremony – Sunday 27 Sept, 4pm, Scarborough Beach
 - Welcome to Country
 - University team captains
 - University flags
- UniFest – Wednesday 31 September, 6-9pm, Wellington Square
 - Red Bull partnership and activation
 - Free food
 - Mascot Race
 - World Record attempt
 - Unity Day
- Recovery Hubs – Monday to Friday
 - Food, fuel, relax and recover services
 - Various hubs and venues throughout the week
- Match of the Day – UniSport TV
 - Partnering with ECU
 - Minimum 5 days of UniSport TV at various sports and locations
 - Spectator and livestreaming viewership



Nationals Workflow



Keys to Success – Team Organisers

- ✓ Start conversations with Team Managers, organisers and leaders at the current Nationals for following year
- ✓ Set expectations early on leaders and students
- ✓ Roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Consistent, early communication with everyone involved
- ✓ Education and training ongoing with
- ✓ Identify what they are responsible for
- ✓ Documented Manual
- ✓ Key contacts to communicate with quickly
- ✓ Off campus event requirements – incident management training, participation agreements, pre departure briefings
- ✓ Uniform adherence
- ✓ Remunerations, stipend or discount options



Member Case Studies

**UniSC: Significant
Growth**



Member Case Studies

**DEAK: U18 Risk
Management**



**DEAKIN
UNIVERSITY**



UNISPORT NATIONALS – <CITY> <DATES>

UNDER 18 STUDENTS – PARENT AUTHORISATION FORM

Attention: Parent/ Guardian of <STUDENT NAME>,

As the parent/ guardian of <STUDENT NAME>, I give permission for my child to attend and participate in the UniSport National Championships in <CITY> between <DATES> representing Deakin University Student Association (Deakin Dragons).

I understand that all Deakin University Student Association staff will take all reasonable precautions for the safety and wellbeing of my child during this event and in the case of emergency I authorise the event staff to seek medical treatment for my child if necessary.

I also understand the terms and conditions of the Deakin Dragons participation agreement that has been provided to my child and myself.

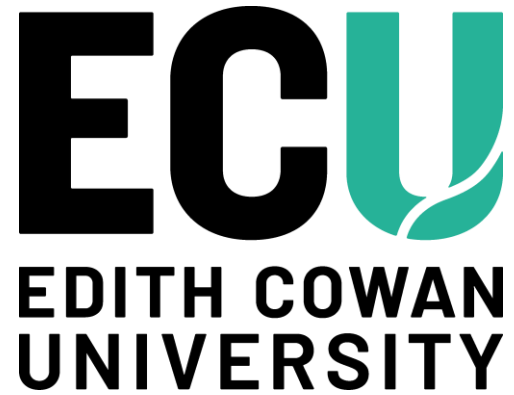
If you have any questions prior to or throughout the event please contact:

Gerard Turner
Student Engagement Manager - DUSA
0408 760 066

TERMS AND CONDITIONS			
<i>I have read, understand and agree for <STUDENT NAME> to attend the UniSport Nationals in accordance with the conditions set out above and in the Deakin Dragons participation agreement.</i>			
PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE		DATE	/ /
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE		DATE	/ /

Member Case Studies

**ECU: International
student promotion**



Workshop Discussion Items

- How do you staff your teams and Nationals and how do you engage team leaders, coaches, manager?
- What training and education do your staff and students cover off on before attending Nationals?
- What are your biggest challenges when organising teams and students?
- What do universities need great help and assistance with?
- What is a key tip you can share with other universities when organising teams and students?