

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF SCHOOL SPORTING COMPETITIONS**

School Sport Australia conducts as part of its annual program, secondary Championships in 17 sports and primary Exchanges in 11 sports.

A further four school sporting organisations affiliated to School Sport Australia conduct National Championships.

In some sports, National Sporting Organisations also conduct “Champion School” competitions.

Primary and secondary member bodies of School Sport Australia also conduct a comprehensive program of zone, district, regional and state based activities in a wide variety of sports.

The ultimate goal of School Sport Australia is to ensure that the maximum number of children in schools have the opportunity to participate in sporting activities at all levels and in as wide a variety of sports as possible.

To this end, School Sport Australia is anxious to ensure that all providers of junior sport and school sports associations in particular, offer a variety of competitions aimed at maximum participation.

School Sport Australia believes that to achieve the maximum possible participation of children in sport, many avenues exist whereby interesting, challenging and enjoyable participation opportunities can be provided.

Any of the activities listed below are endorsed by School Sport Australia and acknowledged as being a component of a sports education program:

- Intra-school competitions (Round Robin/KO's)
- Inter-school competition (Round Robin/KO's)
- School Sports Carnivals
- School Sports Days (Multi Sport)
- Zone Competitions (Round Robin/KO's)
- Zone Carnivals
- District Carnivals (Round Robin/KO's)
- Regional Carnivals (Round Robin/KO's)
- State KO Competitions
- State Championships (school)
- State Championships (region)
- State Champion School Competitions
- National Champion School Competitions
- Interstate Championships and Exchanges
- Pacific School Games
- International Sports Tours

School Sport Australia, through its member bodies and often in consultation with community sporting organisations already conducts many of the types of competitions listed above and considers all levels of competition to be equally important.

In the case of some of the above activities, School Sport Australia believes maximum benefit can only be derived if school and community organisations work in close consultation. This can ensure that available resources are used in the most productive way, and in the case of higher levels of competition, there is no duplication of events.

School Sport Australia and its member bodies have a commitment to work in the closest possible way with community sporting organisations, respecting their junior development strategies. At the same time, it believes that school sport has a significant role to play and should also be afforded the opportunity to conduct sporting activities in ways that enhance **all** children's sports education.

School Sport Australia is eager, therefore, to negotiate with any NSO or other community sporting organisation on school based sporting activities which assist in affording greater participation opportunities to children.

Any proposals for the introduction of new programs or activities, or the modification of existing programs are welcome and will be seriously considered by School Sport Australia and its member bodies.