

SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA

GENERAL CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Full	Any Government School
Associate	Any Non-Government Primary School or Any Non-Government Secondary School that does not participate in a regular school sport competition for students in years 7 to 12 conducted by another secondary school sports organisation.
Affiliate	Any Non-Government Secondary School that does participate in a regular school sport competition for students in years 7 to 12 conducted by another secondary school sports organisation. Affiliate membership allows students to trial and be selected in Team Vic State representative teams to compete in School Sport Australia Championships. Affiliate Member schools are not eligible to compete in SSV State Competitions.

2. MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

School Sport Victoria (SSV) state competitions (District, Division, Region and State) are only open to schools that are Full or Associate members with SSV.

3. AGE DETERMINATION

Ages are calculated as of December 31st in the year of competition. All team members must be bona-fide students enrolled at a School Sport Victoria Full or Associate member schools.

4. AGE GROUPS – INDIVIDUAL SPORTS

- If a child turns 9 or 10 during the year he/she will be in the **9-10 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 11 during the year he/she will be in the **11 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 12 or 13 during the year he/she will be in the **12-13 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 14 during the year he/she will be in the **14 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 15 during the year he/she will be in the **15 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 16 during the year he/she will be in the **16 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 17 during the year he/she will be in the **17 Years** age group.
- If a child turns 18, 19 or 20 during the year he/she will be in the **18-20 Years** age group.

5. LEVELS OF COMPETITION

Teams (and athletes in individual sports) qualify through events at each of the following levels of competition to progress to the State Finals:

	Level of Comp.	Definition
Primary	• District	• A group of 4-15 schools from a local area.
	• Division	• A group of 4-14 Districts.
	• Region	• A group of 3-9 Divisions. • Aligns with the 8 SSV Sports Regions.
	• State	• Winners from 8 Regions.
Secondary	• Division	• A group of 3-14 schools from a local area.
	• Region	• A group of 3-9 Divisions – Aligns with the 8 SSV Sports Regions
	• State	• Winners from 8 Regions.

6. PREMIER LEAGUE

In selected sports a 'Premier League' competition is offered. Refer to the Premier League Criteria which is part of these conditions of competition.

7. COMPETING SECTIONS

Primary:	Be between 9 and 13 years of age, inclusive
Year 7:	In year 7 and be 14 years of age or younger.
Year 8:	In year 8 and be 15 years of age or younger.
Intermediate :	In years 9 or 10 and be 17 years of age or younger.
Senior:	In years 11 or 12 and be 20 years of age or younger.

Exceptions:

Golf	Junior = In years 7, 8 or 9 and be 16 years of age or younger Senior = In years 10, 11 or 12 and be 20 years of age or younger
Girls AFL	Junior = In years 7 or 8 and be 15 years of age or younger. (Intermediate and Senior as stated above)
Boys Netball	Junior = In years 7 or 8 and be 15 years of age or younger. (Intermediate and Senior as stated above)

Ages are taken from December 31st in the year of competition.

The level of competition chosen by a student at District Level (Primary) or Division Level (Secondary) remains binding through to Region and State Levels.

Secondary students otherwise excluded under the above criteria may compete at the appropriate higher level.

8. ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS – PRIMARY

An eligible primary student is permitted to compete in a maximum of two Summer Sport plus two Winter Sport

A girl cannot play in a girls team and a boys/mixed team in the same sport

9. ELIGIBILITY AND RESTRICTIONS - SECONDARY

YEAR 7, YEAR 8 AND INTERMEDIATE

An eligible student is permitted to compete in:-

2 Term 1 Sports;

2 Term 2 Sports;

2 Term 3 Sports.

A student competing in more than one sport in a particular term may encounter clashes at District (Primary), Division, Region or State Finals.

The level of competition chosen by a student at District Level (Primary) or Division Level (Secondary) remains binding through to Region and State Levels.

A student is eligible to compete in a higher section for any sport, but this must commence at the Division Level (Secondary) and remains binding through to Region and State Levels

A student is **NOT** eligible to compete in more than one section for the same sport at any level of competition (Division, Region or State) eg a student may not compete in the Intermediate and Senior Netball at any level

A girl cannot play in a girls team and a boys/mixed team in the same sport

After the commencement of competition (District for Primary, Division for Secondary), the section/sport in which a student competes cannot be changed.

Provided they meet the requirements of Rules 2 and 4, students are permitted to play at different levels in different sports.

Schools should note the scheduling of Region and State Finals, as no Final will be rescheduled to resolve clashes.

SENIOR

An eligible student is permitted to compete in a maximum of two sports in Summer Team Championships and two sports in Winter Team Championships.

After the commencement of competition (District for Primary, Division for Secondary), the section/sport in which a student competes cannot be changed.

A girl cannot play in a girls team and a boys/mixed team in the same sport

Provided they meet the requirements of Rules 2 and 4, students are permitted to play at different levels in different sports.

Schools should note the scheduling of Region and State Finals, as no Final will be rescheduled to resolve clashes.

10. TEAM SPORTS OFFERED

Primary - Summer		Primary - Winter	
Basketball	Boys/Mixed & Girls	Australian Football	Boys/Mixed & Girls
* Cricket	Boys/Mixed & Girls	Hockey 7s	Boys/Mixed & Girls
Softball	Boys/Mixed & Girls	Netball	Boys/Mixed & Girls
Tennis	Boys/Mixed & Girls	Football (Soccer)	Boys/Mixed & Girls
Volleyball	Boys/Mixed & Girls	Tee-ball	Boys/Mixed & Girls

* The Inter-School Cricket competition is run by Cricket Victoria

TEAM CLASSIFICATION – PRIMARY

GIRLS

- A Girls team must consist of only girls
- An all-Girls team participating in a Boys/Mixed section **cannot** proceed beyond District level.

BOYS

- A Boys/Mixed team must be made up of a minimum of one Boy who is on the field of play for the entire game.
- A team that cannot field a minimum of one Boy in every game does not meet the Conditions of Competition and will be ineligible to receive points or awards and will not progress to the next level of competition.

TEAM CLASSIFICATION – SECONDARY

GIRLS

- A Girls team must consist of only girls
- Boys cannot participate in a Girls Team.

BOYS

- A Boys/Mixed team must be made up of a minimum of one Boy who is on the field of play for the entire game.
- A team that cannot field a minimum of one Boy in every game does not meet the Conditions of Competition and will be ineligible to receive points or awards and will not progress to the next level of competition.

OPEN

- An Open team may consist of all boys, all girls or mixed. There is no restriction on the number of boys or girls who make up an open team within the number designated by the SSV Rules for that sport.

NOTE

- These Team Classifications (Primary and Secondary respectively) also apply to relay teams for Swimming and Track and Field as well as the team sports listed below

Secondary - Term 1 (Summer)	Secondary - Term 2 (Winter)	Secondary - Term 3 (Winter)
Baseball Boys/Mixed	** Australian Football Boys/Mixed & Girls (Year 7 and Year 8)	Basketball Boys/Mixed & Girls
* Cricket Boys/Mixed & Girls	** Australian Football Boys & Girls (Intermediate and Senior)	Hockey Boys/Mixed & Girls
Bowls Open	Badminton Boys/Mixed & Girls	Table Tennis Boys/Mixed & Girls
Softball Girls Only	Football (Soccer) Boys/Mixed & Girls	
Tennis Boys/Mixed & Girls	** Netball Boys/Mixed (Junior) & Girls (Year 7 and Year 8)	
Volleyball Boys/Mixed & Girls	** Netball Boys and Girls (Intermediate and Senior)	

* The Years 7 and 8 Girls Inter-School Cricket competition is run by Cricket Victoria

** The Boys/Mixed classification will only be played in certain age groups for the following sports. This meets community standards in these sports:

Australian Football: Year 7 and Year 8

Netball: Junior

For all other age groups (Intermediate and Senior) in these sports, the classifications offered are Boys Only and Girls Only

11. INDIVIDUAL SPORTS OFFERED

Individual Sports include: Cross Country, Golf, Track & Field, Swimming, Diving

A student may compete in any number of Individual Sports.

After the commencement of competition (District for Primary, Division for Secondary), the section/sport in which a student competes cannot be changed.

12. CONVENERS

Conveners are appointed for each sport with the power to amend the conditions of competition for State Championships should exceptional circumstances arise. Conveners shall also resolve any disputes, where possible. Conveners have the power to penalise or disqualify individuals or teams if they do not adhere to the rules and conditions of competition.

13. TEAM SHEETS

In team sports and relays each participating school must provide the convener, before each day's play, with an official SSV team/relay sheet listing all players (including substitutes), showing their year level, date of birth and playing number (if applicable), endorsed by the principal or the principal's representative. A pro forma team/relay sheet can be found on the SSV web page.

14. SEEDING OF PLAYERS

In all sports where players are required to be seeded, then players must be ranked in order of ability.

In Secondary Tennis, players must be ranked according to current Australian rankings.

Before play commences, each team must hand to the Convener a list of ALL players seeding them according to their ability. Best player to be seeded #1, etc. Relative seeded order of players is to be adhered to for each day of competition. Where there is play on more than one day, a new list is to be submitted each day.

15. SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA MEDALLIONS AND PENNANTS

At SSV State Teams Championships, SSV pennants and medallions will be awarded to the teams placed first and second in the Championships.

The number of medallions awarded will be one per player on the day of the State Final plus one for the coach up to the maximum team size allowed as stated in the rules for that sport.

One Champions pennant will be awarded to the team placed first and one Runners Up pennant will be awarded to the team placed second.

16. DISTRICT, DIVISION, AND REGION CONDITIONS

Different rules may apply at District, Division and Region Levels and should be clarified by each level of competition prior to each season.

Progressions are determined by School Sport Victoria and can be found in the Competition Pathways and Progressions Policy.

17. COACHING – PRIMARY FINALS

Coaching is permitted in Primary Finals as per the rules of the individual sport concerned.

The SSV Codes of Conduct apply, at all times, to players, teachers, coaches and spectators

Spectators must confine their comments to positive encouragement. Coaching and unsportsmanlike comments from spectators is not permitted.

18. MATCH SCHEDULES

Each fixture must be played on or before the designated date set in the draw. A school which is unable to play by the designated date will be required to forfeit the match.

19. WITHDRAWALS FROM STATE FINALS

Should a team be unable to fulfill their obligation to participate in a State Championship, SSV reserves the right to fill the vacancy:

1. Region Runner-up from that Region.
2. Region Runner-up from the other side of the State Final draw.
3. Region Runner-up from the same side of the State Final draw.

20. LATE WITHDRAWALS

A school will face a fine of \$100 if a team withdraws from a Region, Conference or State Final **less than two (2) school days** prior to the finals and a replacement team cannot be found.

Notes:

1. The school must **directly notify the person responsible** for the relevant competition (Region Coordinator, Region School Sports Officer or State Championships Officer respectively)
2. Exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration
3. Schools may be liable for transport costs and CRT replacement costs incurred by the other teams for your non attendance
4. The offending school will be invoiced by School Sport Victoria
5. Non-payment of the fine may result in the temporary suspension of the school's membership of SSV until such time as the fine is paid or the fine will be added to the following year's affiliation fees

21. SWIMMING LANES

Swimming events at the State Finals will be seeded according to the FINA Rules using times achieved in Region Championships.

ATHLETICS TRACK LANES AND FIELD EVENT ORDER

All events at the State Finals will be seeded according to the IAAF Rules using performances achieved in the Region Championships.

22. TEAM SUPERVISION

All teams MUST be accompanied by a staff member or person approved by the relevant School Council who is responsible for that team. Schools shall adhere to the recommended staff student ratios as set down by the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development. Details are contained in the Victorian Government Schools Reference Guide. Various sections apply, but attention is particularly drawn to Section 4.4.2.8 which states that for Day Excursions [not involving adventure activities], one staff member or approved person per twenty students for excursions of up to one day's duration.

23. SUPERVISION OF SPECTATORS

If student spectators are in attendance at any SSV fixture, they must be adequately supervised by staff from the school that they attend. All spectators (students, parents etc) must abide by the School Sport Victoria Codes of Conduct.

24. ORDER OFF RULE

All teams and officials should be aware of the SSV 'Order Off Rule' which is a part of these General Conditions of Competition.

In Premier League competitions, if a player is suspended in club/community matches their suspension will be recognised by SSV and the player will not be eligible to compete in SSV Premier League competition in that sport during their suspension period.

25. DRESS

Dress requirements are set out in the conditions of competition for each sport. Any player not appropriately attired for the relevant sport will either incur a penalty (as detailed in the rules set out in the sport's rules) or, if no penalty is outlined, will not be permitted to participate in the Championship.

26. CODES OF CONDUCT

Competing teams, including staff members, coaches, spectators, etc. infringing the "SSV Codes of Conduct" are subject to disqualification.

27. PUNCTUALITY

Teams must realise the importance of punctuality. Teams may face a penalty or disqualification if not in attendance at the appropriate venue at the stated commencement time.

If a team is running late for a final they are required to contact the convener and advise of their lateness. If the reason for lateness is beyond the team's control, the convener will try and accommodate them into the draw.

28. SAFETY

Safety requirements are detailed on the information page for each sport. Students will not be allowed to compete if they are not wearing compulsory items of protective clothing.

Care of all students competing in SSV competitions is essential. SSV highly recommends the following:

- Mouthguards for Australian Football, Basketball, Football (Soccer), Hockey and Rugby League
- Sunscreen, Water and shade for all teams competing in Term 1 and Term 4.

29. FIRST AID

Competing schools are responsible for ensuring that reasonable provision is made for the treatment of injuries. All schools participating in SSV Team Sports final are required to bring their own first aid kit.

30. INJURY INSURANCE

Students participate in all SSV programs at their own risk. They are responsible for their own personal injury/accident insurance.

31. AMBULANCE

In instances where a SSV appointed sports trainer is present and is of the opinion that an ambulance is required to transport an ill or injured student, an ambulance will be called. Such transport will be at the student's expense.

It is recommended that all students have ambulance cover.

32. SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol is not permitted by competitors, team officials or spectators at SSV events.

33. PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILMING

Photographs and video (film) images may be taken of competitors at SSV Finals and published on the SSV web page and in the media to celebrate their achievements.

SSV will publish the names of qualifiers to individual events (Cross Country, Golf, Track and Field, Swimming & Diving) with their school names on the SSV web site for the official conduct and administration of the events.

In order to celebrate the achievements of students in school sport events, SSV will publish full results from Individual Championships, including competitors' names and schools on the SSV web page and will make full results available to parent sporting associations (Athletics Victoria, VGA, Swimming Victoria) for the purposes of official verification of times.

If you wish to have your (or your son/daughter's) name and/or images withheld please contact the State Programs Officer on 9488 9466.

34. SPORTS - CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION

The rules for each sport can be found on that sport's page on the SSV web page.

35. DISQUALIFICATION

Teams not adhering to the conditions of competition may be disqualified.

36. MULTI-CAMPUS SCHOOLS

Dual Campus Schools are considered as one "school" for the purposes of team sports.

Multi-Campus Schools that have students from the one year level on more than one campus in a Primary District or a Secondary Division may nominate to compete as "one school" or as separate campuses for the purpose of team sport.

Multi Campus Schools that have students from one year level on more than one campus and have campuses in more than one Primary District or Secondary Division will, for the purposes of this clause, be considered as separate entities in those respective Primary Districts or Secondary Divisions. Example: If a school has 1 or more campuses in Primary District A and 1 or more campuses in Primary District B, they are considered as separate 'schools' by those Districts. Two or more campuses may still combine within a District, but cannot combine across Districts for higher levels of competition.

This nomination must be made at the first meeting of the relevant District/Division and remains binding for the remainder of the year and for all levels of School Sport Victoria competition.

37. COMBINED REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

Schools from within the same Primary District or same Secondary Division, with a combined enrolment of no more than 300 students, may enter District (Primary only), Division, Region and State competitions as a combined representative team.

This applies to:

- All team sports
- Secondary Golf and Cross Country teams events
- Swimming Teams
- Track and Field Teams

To qualify as a combined representative team:

- The schools are all to affiliate, as Full or Associate members, with School Sport Victoria as separate schools
- The schools must come from the same Primary District or Secondary Division
- The schools must have a combined enrolment of no more than 300 students

Under this policy, schools may enter competitions as either individual school teams or as a combined representative team.

38. SSV POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

The following Policies and Guidelines form part of the SSV General Condition of Competition and can be found in the Policies section of the SSV website:

- Accident/Incident Report Procedure
- Appeals and Grievances
- Codes of Conduct
- Competition Pathways and Progressions
- Drugs in Sport
- Fines Policy
- Hydration Policy
- Inclusion Policy
- Infectious Diseases Policy

- Injury Prevention
- Invitation Policy – Inter School Sport
- Membership Policy
- Order Off Rule
- Privacy Policy
- Safe Participation in Sport
- Small Schools
- Travel Subsidy
- Ultraviolet Exposure and Heat-Illness Guidelines