



# SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

PRIORITIES FOR 2026-2030



Department  
of Education

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

School Sport Victoria, as part of the department proudly acknowledges Victoria's First Nations communities as the Traditional Owners of the unceded lands, waters and skies, and pays respect to all Elders past and present.

We recognise First Nations people as Victoria's first educators, artists and scientists, and we value the ongoing contribution of First Nations people and communities to Victorian life and how this enriches us all.

We also commit to work together to deliver the Victorian Government's commitment to self-determination, Truth and Treaty.



# WHO WE ARE

School Sport Victoria, as part of the Department of Education, delivers an **extensive school sport program** to primary and secondary students across Victoria.

We provide student opportunities to **play sport from local through to national levels**, whilst enabling connection to community participation pathways.

### INTERSCHOOL SPORT PROGRAM



SCHOOL SPORT VICTORIA™

Through our **interschool sport program**, in partnership with state sporting organisations, we provide opportunities for students to represent their school across a wide range of individual and team sports.

### STATE REPRESENTATIVE PROGRAM



Team VIC

As a member of **School Sport Australia**, we provide opportunities for students to represent Victoria, under the banner of **Team Vic**, across various sports to compete at School Sport Australia Championships.

### VICTORIAN TEACHERS' GAMES



Victorian Teachers' Games

We deliver the **Victorian Teachers' Games**, a unique annual event that aims to bring the community of educators together for multiple days of sport and social activities.

### COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Our extensive **communication and social media channels** inform the school sport community of participation opportunities, celebrate the achievements in school sport and demonstrate the value of sport to engaging and developing students and schools.

### PARTNERS

We work collaboratively with **partners across community, state, and elite sporting organisations** to support delivery of our school sport opportunities, connect school and community sport pathways for students, and provide opportunities for students facing additional barriers to participate. We also work with sector partners to collaborate on ways to engage children and young people in physical activity and sport.

## Our Advisory Committee

The **School Sport Victoria Advisory Committee** of 13 representatives, supports the strategic management of School Sport Victoria, including the strategic directions, key programs and stakeholder partnerships.

# OUR 10-YEAR STRATEGY 2020 - 2030

School Sport Victoria's [Strategic Directions 2020 to 2030](#) aims to provide a clear future direction, to address future challenges and opportunities in engaging more Victorian students in school sport.

## OUR PURPOSE

We develop young people through school sport.

We support schools to maximise opportunities for all students to play sport.



## OUR GOAL

By 2030:

- **800,000** school sport participation opportunities are provided to Victorian students each year.
- **450,000** Victorian students participate in school sport each year.



## OUR ROLE

- We enable students to **play** sport.
- We champion the **value** of school sport.
- We **connect** school and community sport.



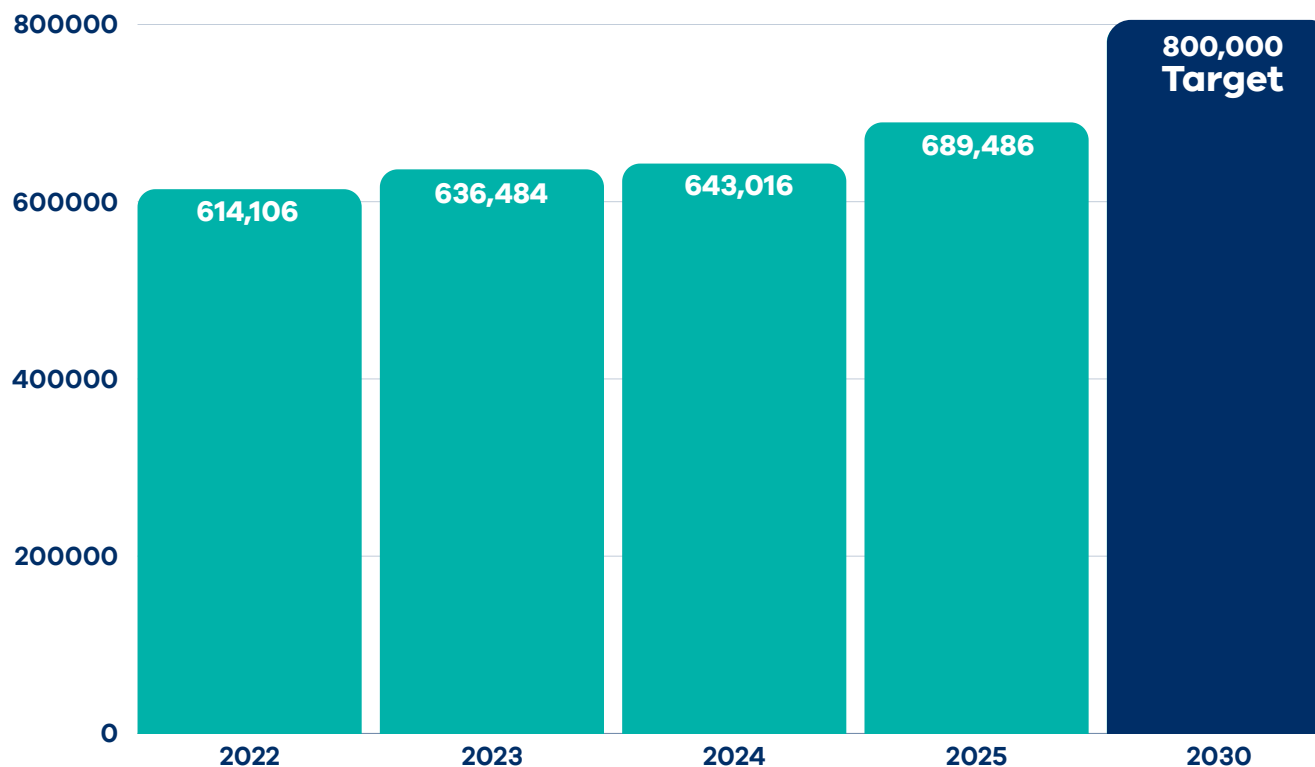
# DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY: PROGRESS TO DATE

## Our 10-year Goal

In 2025, student participation engagement in school sport was higher than pre-COVID 19 levels and the highest participation to date.

School Sport Victoria has increased opportunities for Victorian students year on year since 2020. Participation was impacted in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Number of School Sport Participation Engagements



# DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY: PROGRESS TO DATE



## Play

*Providing inclusive and accessible participative and competitive opportunities in school sport to involve a wider range of Victorian students*

### 20% ↑ from 2022-2025

In interschool sport participation by Victorian students from Year 4 to Year 12.

### 43% ↑ from 2022-2025

In multiclass participation by students with disability in interschool sport.

### 28%/10% ↑ from 2022-2025

Larger increase in primary interschool sport participation, compared to secondary participation.

### 43-44% girls participation

Girls participation remained steady at 43-44% (compared to boys at 56-57%, which includes mixed teams).

### 25% regional participation

Regional participation remained steady at around 25% (compared to metropolitan at around 75%).

### 29% ↑ from 2022-2025

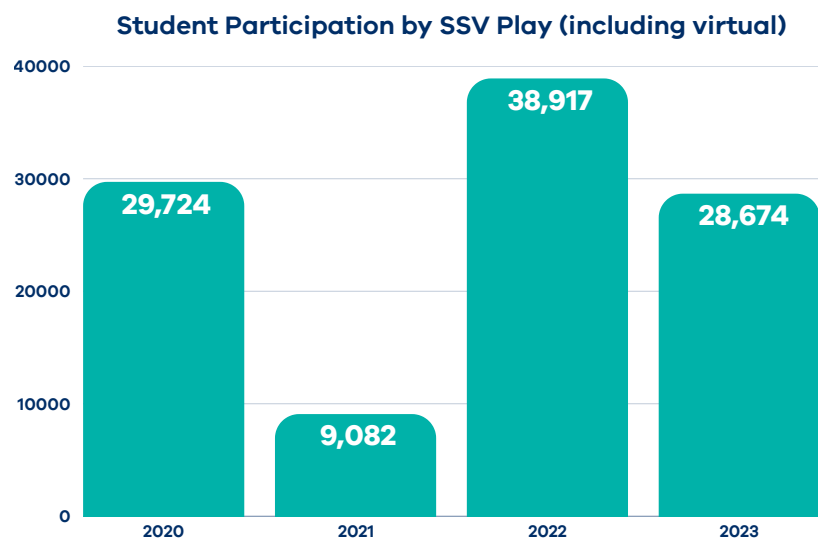
In emerging student athletes trialling for the Team Vic (state representative) program.

### 34 student officials in 2025

Student officials program provided opportunities at School Sport Australia Championships.

### SSV Play from 2020-2023

SSV Play program (non-competitive sports activities) engaged less active students over 2020 to 2023.



# DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY: PROGRESS TO DATE



## Value

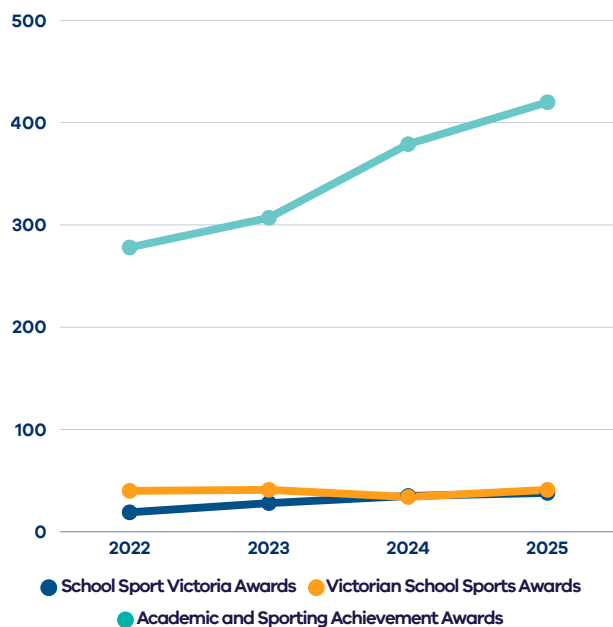
Enhancing the role of school sport as part of a whole school approach to physical activity and physical literacy of all students

### 2,500+ school members

School membership remains strong, which shows the value of School Sport Victoria by schools across Victoria.

### School Sport Awards

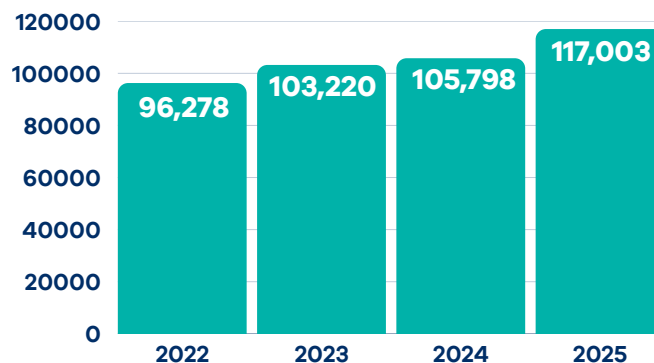
Strong engagement in school sport awards for schools and students to recognise and celebrate achievements.



### 22% ↑ from 2022-2025

School Sport Victoria's overall online engagement, through social and digital channels, provides significant opportunities to connect directly with schools and families.

### Total Online Community



### 1,100+ participants in the 2025 Victorian Teachers' Games

Engaging Victorian teachers, school staff and early childhood educators in the annual Victorian Teachers' Games.

### 98% of surveyed participants

Believed the Victorian Teachers' Games benefits their health and wellbeing and increases the value of the role sport, recreation and wellness plays in their lives.



# DELIVERING OUR STRATEGY: PROGRESS TO DATE



## Connect

Facilitating partnerships between schools and communities through school sport to support life long participation in physical activity

### 350+ School Sport Victoria Coordinator roles

Supporting School Sport Victoria Coordinators to deliver school sport events and activities across Victoria.

### 155 Team Vic Officials

Engaging coaches and managers who support talented students in the Team Vic program.

### School Sport Victoria Partners

School Sport Victoria connects with sport, corporate and community partners to support school sport. In 2025, School Sport Victoria partners are:



# OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

## Our Environment

The changing environment is influencing our future delivery of school sport, which include:

### Increasing cost pressures and challenges to financial sustainability

- Increasing cost pressures for schools and families to afford engagement in school sport.
- Increasing costs to deliver quality school sport, including venue hire and first aid requirements.

### Changing demand for school sport

- Accommodating changing future demand due to growth from new school openings.
- Changes in participation by children and young people, including junior sport formats, drop off amongst adolescents and emerging sports.
- Competing options for schools to provide sport opportunities for their students.

### Importance of inclusion and safety

- Importance of inclusion in sport for all students, including trans and gender diverse students and students with disability.
- Continued challenges with poor behaviour during sport, including amongst spectators, coaches and players.
- Child safety an important focus for inclusion and safety of all students.

### Workforce sustainability

- Challenges in accessing quality umpires/officials during school hours.
- Declining engagement in volunteers to support school sport delivery.

### Connecting school sport initiatives and pathways

- Opportunities to better leverage sport initiatives within schools, including those delivered by sport organisations, to provide connected pathways for students.
- To engage students to participate in sport and connect to talent and high-performance sport pathways, including into para sport.



# OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

## Our Policy Context

School Sport Victoria recognises the important contribution school sport can make in delivering on Victorian Government priorities and targets – particularly across education, sport and health.

Victoria's vision for the [Education State](#) is to deliver excellence in every classroom, in every corner of the state. School sport is integral to supporting the achievement of Education State priorities, in particular every student matters, lifting secondary school student engagement and achievement and expanding, supporting and recognising our school workforce.

The [Department of Education Strategic Plan 2025 to 2029](#) outlines the department's overarching direction and planned outcomes. School sport supports the achievement of key focus areas, in particular strengthening safety, wellbeing and engagement, excellence in learning and strengthening our teacher and education workforce.

Quality school sport is a priority within the [Active Schools Framework](#) which supports schools in adopting a whole of school approach to physical activity. This supports a [Joint Ministerial Statement on Physical Activity for Children and Young People](#), between the Ministers for Education, Community Sport and Health to achieve active schools, active kids and active communities.

School Sport Victoria programs support schools to deliver the [minimum required amount of physical and sport education](#), which includes:

- Year 4 to Year 6: 1 hour and 30 minutes of physical education and 1 hour and 30 minutes of sport per week
- Year 7 to Year 10: 100 minutes of physical education and 100 minutes of sport per week.

School sport supports student learning and wellbeing outcomes aligned to the [Framework for Improving Student Outcomes](#) (FISO 2.0) for all Victorian government schools.



# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 2026 – 2030

Our strategic priorities across key areas of our role - **play, value** and **connect** - will inform our approach to providing school sport opportunities over 2026 to 2030.

Our strategic priorities reflect the greatest areas of opportunity for participation growth, deepening the focus on inclusion of students, considering sustainability and improving alignment of school sport pathways.

Over the next 5 years we will place **additional focus** on the following areas of identified opportunity.



**Increasing opportunities for students with disability, including reducing barriers to support participation in school sport pathways**



**Ensuring our school sport workforce is providing a quality experience for students, and building in measures for future workforce sustainability**



**Lead the alignment of school sport pathways with state and national sport organisation pathways, to strengthen collaboration and leverage resources**

# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 2026 – 2030



## Play

*Providing inclusive and accessible participative and competitive opportunities in school sport to involve a wider range of Victorian students*

### We will focus on:

#### Maximising participation

- Engaging directly with schools to support quality interschool school sport provided at the local level
- Reviewing the range of sports offered to maximise participation for a diverse range of schools and students in interschool sport and Team Vic programs
- Exploring participation models to engage more students to play sport, particularly for multiclass and primary level

#### Our approach will aim to:

- Maximise opportunities for primary students to play a range of sports and create positive experiences
- Retain the engagement of secondary level students in sport across year levels

#### Improving equity

- Reducing barriers for students with disability (multiclass), trans and gender diverse students and/or those facing financial barriers to access all school sport programs
- Providing school sport programs that are affordable for schools and families

#### Providing pathways

- Providing quality experiences for talented students to excel in their sporting abilities through interschool sport and Team Vic pathways
- Exploring pathways for students to develop as officials and coaches (including links to curriculum outcomes)



# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 2026 – 2030



## Value

Enhancing the role of school sport as part of a whole school approach to physical activity and physical literacy of all students

### We will focus on:

#### Providing information

- Building and championing the evidence on the education, health and engagement benefits of school sport to schools, parents and students
- Providing accessible information that is relevant and timely for schools, teachers and families

#### Advocating for sport

- Connecting with Principals to build understanding and engagement in sport as a school priority and alignment with the *Framework for Improving Student Outcomes (FISO 2.0)*
- Advocating for positive and inclusive behaviour by spectators, schools and students

#### Benefits for students and teachers

- Celebrating and recognising achievements by schools, teachers and students
- Enable teachers to participate and connect through sport in the Victorian Teachers' Games
- Taking a customer focussed approach to delivering our role

### Our approach will aim to:

- Drive conversations with schools, teachers and students that demonstrate the importance of school sport
- Engage with students and share their voice on school sport



# OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: 2026 – 2030



## Connect

Facilitating partnerships between schools and communities through school sport to support life long participation in physical activity

### We will focus on:

#### Connecting pathways

- Aligning how sport is played through school with what's played in the community, to support pathways and transition for students
- Supporting students from newly arrived communities connect with community sport pathways
- Improving connection of school sport pathways with *Sporting Schools*, *Active Schools* and the *Early Intervention Sports and Activities Menu*

#### Our approach will aim to:

- Partner with strategically aligned sport and education organisations to elevate the quality of school sport and link sport participation pathways
- Build a sustainable workforce to deliver quality school sport

#### Developing teachers

- Promoting leadership and career development pathways for teachers through school sport
- Facilitating professional development to teachers and school sport coordinators to deliver quality school sport


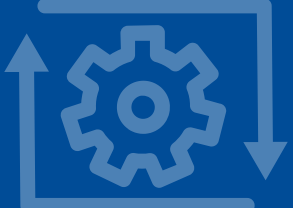




#### Accessing facilities

- Engaging with community and school venues on affordable and prioritised access for school sport
- Leveraging state sporting organisation partnerships to support community sport access to school facilities, including through the *Increasing Community Use of School Facilities Pilot*



# OUR KEY ENABLERS TO DELIVER

To deliver on our strategic priorities, we will **continue to develop** School Sport Victoria's capability and capacity through:

 <p><b>FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY</b></p> <p>Ensuring School Sport Victoria has the level of funding revenue to meet the demand and changing requirements and costs of school sport delivery</p>	 <p><b>SYSTEM AND PROCESSES</b></p> <p>Use digital solutions to manage processes, to ensure quality, consistency, efficiency of delivery and to effectively manage information</p>	 <p><b>DATA AND EVIDENCE</b></p> <p>Enhance our use of data and evidence to inform decision making, engage with partners and measure outcomes and impact</p>	 <p><b>WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>Ensure the School Sport Victoria workforce has the required expertise, information and training to support effective delivery of school sport</p>	 <p><b>CHILD SAFETY AND INTEGRITY</b></p> <p>Ensure our practices provide safety for all children involved in school sport and the integrity of our decision making is fair and equitable at all</p>	 <p><b>VALUES AND BEHAVIOURS</b></p> <p>Drive a culture which aligns to the Victorian Public Sector Values and demonstrate these through our behaviours and actions</p>
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Over the next 5 years we will place **additional focus** on the following areas to inform decision making, efficiency and quality of delivery to support growth, whilst building greater engagement and alignment of school sport to education, sport and health outcomes.

<p>Use data and insights to change delivery approaches and offerings to ensure we're growing engagement in school sport across Victoria</p>	<p>Improve efficiency in the delivery and administration of school sport, with a focus on cost reduction, financial administration and use of digital technology</p>	<p>Make stronger direct engagement with Principals and schools, to better support the local level delivery of interschool sport opportunities, which provide the greatest participation</p>	<p>Make stronger links with other health, education and/or sport initiatives, both those within the Department, across government and sport sector to better leverage outcomes and reduce duplication</p>
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