

Associated Public Schools of Victoria

ABN 61 949 738 691

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The strategic review of the Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS) Sport program is underway (see appendix for review scope). The APS Heads have been buoyed by the response of the APS community to this project. There has been strong interest and engagement in the project from our students, our schools, and our broader communities.

The level of interest and engagement in the review is a testament to the significant impact of the APS Sport program on the lives of our students and their families.

Given this context, the Steering Subcommittee (see appendix for Subcommittee details) and the APS Heads would like to reinforce the importance of this strategic review to the good governance of the APS Sport program. We are committed to providing all our students with an excellent sporting experience, and as such we must continually strive to be responsive to the needs of our students, while respecting our significant and deep heritage.

To strike this balance, the APS Heads nominated a Steering Subcommittee to manage the APS Sport Strategic Review and develop a fair, objective, and robust review process. This Steering Subcommittee is meeting fortnightly on an ongoing basis, which will continue until the scope of work is complete.

The stakeholder environment of the APS Sport program is complex. Importantly, the process currently being undertaken considers the eleven different APS school contexts to clearly understand the strategic areas of 'common ground' and any key differences in context between our member schools. The AGSV is also being considered as part of this strategic review.

Progress To Date

The initial phase (Term 1) of the project prioritised the creation of a clear fact base of quantitative and qualitative data, including internal and external trends relevant to APS Sport.

Internally, the current program of APS Sport has been reviewed across student experience, participation, sports offerings, calendar, facilities, and financials. Externally, sports and physical activity trends in Victoria and Australia have been reviewed, including the expectations of different cohorts of sports participants. During this initial phase (Term 1), stakeholder engagement has prioritised students and schools. As the project progresses, this stakeholder focus will broaden to other members of the APS Sport community as appropriate, noting that schools will incorporate feedback already captured from parent and student communities.

The completion of these activities has clarified the current scale and impact of the APS Sport program. For example, APS Sport competitions cover a student catchment of over 25,000 individuals. This catchment derived over circa 50,000 participations in APS Sport competitions in 2023, across over 10,000 fixtured events. This accounts for an approximate 20% growth in volume in the past ten years. Like any sporting organisation/association experiencing change on this scale, APS Sport has, and will continue to, adapt to ensure the provision of an excellent sporting experience for all students.

It is important to note that no decisions have yet been made.

Next Steps

The project will continue in Term 2, as the Steering Subcommittee progresses through the project scope. As this important work continues to unfold, the APS community will be updated via the APS member schools and the APS social media.

APS Heads
April 2024

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Appendix

Review Scope

1. To review the Ambition of APS Sport (vision, mission, aims) to ensure it is aligned with:
 - a. the evolving understanding of the role of sport and physical education in student health and wellbeing, development, and educational excellence,
 - b. the needs and wants of all our students, from those picking up a ball for the first time to aspiring professional athletes,
 - c. the strategic objectives and constraints of our participant schools, and
 - d. the unique heritage of APS Sport competitions.
2. To a data-led approach to review the current APS Sport program across five dimensions:
 - a. level of participation,
 - b. breadth of offering,
 - c. depth of competition,
 - d. financial sustainability, and
 - e. operational sustainability.
3. To design a set of options that could further enhance the current APS offering, enabling a 'fit-for-purpose' and sustainable model in the future. These options will consider:
 - a. the revised Ambition of APS Sport,
 - b. the data-led review of current operations, and
 - c. the unique heritage of our competitions.

Steering Subcommittee

The Steering Subcommittee includes; (listed alphabetically according to school) Mr. Ross Featherston (Brighton Grammar), Mr. Ashleigh Martin (Caulfield Grammar), Mrs Rebecca Cody (Geelong Grammar), Mr. Derek Scott (Haileybury), Mr. William Doherty (Xavier College), and Mr Luke Soulos (APS Executive Officer).

Colganbauer, a world leading sports consultant group, has also been engaged to provide an independent perspective and offer advice on sports industry best practice.