

Associated Public Schools of Victoria

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The strategic review of the Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS) Sport program has undergone a rigorous process in 2024 (see appendix for review scope), with updates provided throughout the year. The high level of interest and engagement in the review underscores the significant impact of the APS Sport program on our students, schools, and the wider community.

Key Validations of the Review

- All 11 APS member schools - five boys' schools and six co-educational schools - unanimously support APS Sport as an integral part of student life.
- Approximately 97% of Years 5-12 students across APS schools actively participate in APS Sport year-round, with additional students engaged in other co-curricular activities.
- Over the past decade, APS Sport has experienced substantial growth in both student numbers and the range of sports offered.
- Schools will continue to have the flexibility to align their participation in APS Sport with their educational programs and students' unique needs.

Focused Next Steps

The APS Heads have established the following commitments for careful and staged implementation in the short term:

1. Participation policies remain at the discretion of individual schools, allowing flexibility to align within the overarching framework.
2. A newly formed subcommittee of APS Heads will be tasked with developing a 2-3 year plan for practical enhancements. This group, comprising of Ross Featherston (Brighton Grammar), Peter Miller (Geelong College), Scott Marsh (Scotch College), Nick Evans (Wesley College), and Luke Soulos (APS EO), will ensure these initiatives are thoughtfully designed and effectively executed.
3. To enhance the girls' sports competition, an APS-AGSV subcommittee will provide strategic leadership and oversight. This group will include Ashleigh Martin (Caulfield Grammar School) and Derek Scott (Haileybury) representing the APS, alongside AGSV colleagues Kate Dullard (PEGS) and Gerard Foley (Ivanhoe Grammar School). This collaborative initiative aims to deliver high-quality opportunities for all students while respecting the independence of both systems and does not indicate any APS co-educational schools transitioning to the AGSV or vice versa.
4. Refine governance and operational to ensure long-term sustainability and efficiency, offering a modern sporting program with strategic focus for the present and future.
5. Commitment to adopt a more contemporary communications approach, including social media and website content, fixtures and live scoring updates.

The collective ambition of the APS is to cultivate a lifelong passion for physical activity through a high-quality sports education environment which strengthens students' health and wellbeing, skills, social connection and character.

The APS Heads will continue to meet quarterly each year as this important work progresses, and we will communicate updates either collectively or through each individual Head of School as needed.

We look forward to a well-planned and exciting year of 2025 APS Sport ahead.

APS Heads
November 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 and APS-AGSV Sport programs 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.