



**Australian Government**

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**Australian Sports Commission**

## **Points to consider when Working with Schools**

1. Collaborate.
2. Complement school policies and practices.
3. Enhance and enrich school programs.
4. Design programs to suit students' abilities and needs.
5. Establish shared roles and responsibilities.
6. Provide information, resources and facilities.
7. Deliver programs in schools.
8. Support school-based sport.
9. Adopt a coordinated approach within your sport.
10. Work towards sustainable partnerships.
11. Connect local sporting organisations and clubs to the school community.
12. Seek feedback.

### **1. Collaborate**

Collaborative planning is the key to successful partnerships. Find out about each other's expectations and address any areas of concern. Like you, teachers are busy, and sport may not be their main priority. They will be grateful and appreciate that you understand the pressures they face and are willing to assume a leadership role if necessary.

#### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Ask teachers for feedback about your program.
- Involve curriculum consultants in the development of your program and/or resource for schools prior to, and during, its development to ensure that it meets educational criteria.

## **2. Complement School Policies and Practices**

To ensure that a successful relationship with a school is established and maintained, it is important that complementary programs are developed. The programs that are most welcome in schools are those that assist teachers to meet their educational outcomes in a safe and challenging way.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Find out from schools what policies and practices are currently in operation.
- Schools encourage inclusive practices in their teaching and learning, so use these in your programs.
- Link to existing programs such as VET (*Vocational Education Training*), peer support and leadership programs.
- Design your programs to support curriculum frameworks and student outcomes.

## **3. Enhance and Enrich School Programs**

Adding value to school programs is the most important contribution a sport can make. Offer to support school programs and assist teachers, particularly in areas where they may lack confidence and expertise. Plan with the school to determine the best approach for your sport to increase their value to teachers. Consider how your programs can contribute to educational outcomes that relate to numeracy, literacy, IT, or other key learning areas.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Offer to run a workshop for teachers on the fundamental components of your sport and/or program.
- Conduct team teaching sessions, and possibly round robin competitions, where appropriate.

## **4. Design Programs to Suit Students' Abilities and Needs**

Consider the age group, overall skill level of the group, previous experience with your sport and general composition of the group.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- If a school has already been exposed to your sport, design programs to build upon existing skills.

## **5. Establish Shared Roles and Responsibilities**

To increase the chance of success, make sure that all participants are clear about their roles and responsibilities. Teachers are legally responsible for the care, safety and discipline of their students. Consider teacher supervision and involvement, student discipline and welfare, provision of equipment and facilities first aid, and any necessary follow up.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Discuss the teachers' and school's roles and responsibilities prior to commencing and establish that the school is willing to accept them.
- Ensure that the expectations of staff/school are discussed and confirmed, preferably in writing.

## **6. Provide Information, Resources and Facilities to Schools**

Introduce your sporting organisation, inform schools about your services and follow up on any programs implemented.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Provide information about your sport, including contact details for local clubs.
- Provide information about your sport's junior programs, including resources e.g. Aussie Hoops (Basketball), Auskick (AFL) and 'Pass, Kick, Catch' CD-rom (Rugby League).
- Offer a variety of options e.g. clinics, coaching courses, school sport competition, community sport competition, access to equipment.
- Provide information about your sport's calendar of events and programs.
- Provide information about your club (*home ground, season dates, age groups, key contacts etc.*)

## **7. Delivery of Programs in Schools**

Delivery of school programs is based on good planning and organisation. If the delivery is effective it will be easier to maintain school-club links.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Target groups of schools and encourage them to support their local club.
- Provide appropriately-trained people to conduct programs. Include local sporting organisation/club personnel whenever possible.
- Offer schools incentives/special benefits for being involved, especially in the trial stages of a new initiative.
- Offer discounts on junior club fees to students who have been involved in school programs.

- Offer officiating, coaching and leadership workshops and courses for school staff, volunteers and students
- Discuss the sharing of equipment and school/club grounds and facilities.

## **8. Support School-based Sport**

This strengthens the links between schools and sporting organisations.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Provide guidelines and conduct workshops to help local sporting organisations and clubs work better with their local school communities and increase junior club membership.
- Support existing inter-school sport programs by providing coaches, officials etc.
- Offer to coach school teams.

## **9. Adopt a Coordinated Approach within Your Sport**

Sporting organisations need to have clear objectives to ensure that effective and relevant programs are being run within their local schools.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Check existing national and/or state programs to save on duplication and ensure a coordinated approach for your sport.
- Work with School Sport Australia and/or their state bodies on strategies and programs that address the competitive arm of junior sport.

## **10. Work Towards Sustainable Partnerships**

A longer-term relationship will significantly improve opportunities for your sport. Plan a memorable and positive experience for everyone involved and explore ways to make your program sustainable.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Ask the school to help promote your sport/local club e.g. school newsletters, joint use of school facilities and equipment, club sign-up evenings and support for an after-school sport initiative.
- Consider professional development for staff and community members through workshops or coaching courses.
- Schedule future visits and programs.
- Provide follow-up ideas and resources for teachers.

## **11. Connect Local Sporting Organisations and Clubs to the School Community**

Link the work in schools with community sporting organisations/clubs. Local school /club links provide real opportunities and pathways for involvement in community sport. The school-club link is often compromised if the national or state body delivers the service but the local club is only expected to follow up.

Liaising with local clubs to assess their ability to support more juniors, assist with school programs, and complement the work of the NSOs/SSOs is of vital importance in improving sport pathways.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Encourage participants from the school to assist at local clubs through leadership training, coaching and official accreditation courses.
- Promote the benefits of community sport and the pathways and opportunities provided by your sport.
- Promote the benefits to schools and their students of linking closely with local sports clubs e.g. qualified coaches, pathways for continued involvement.
- Provide schools with a list of local clubs/associations and contact people.

## **12. Seek Feedback**

Seeking feedback is a critical part of your work and evaluation and will help you maintain quality programs.

### ***Strategies to Consider***

- Organise an evaluation process to gather feedback from students and/or teachers involved in the program or session, including suggested changes and any follow-up required.