

Associated Public Schools of Victoria

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The Associated Public Schools of Victoria (APS) sporting program has been a key feature of the Victorian sporting landscape for well over 100 years.

A key aim of the APS Sport program is to be responsive to the changing needs of students, while respecting our heritage. In recent years, it has become clear to the APS Principals that our existing offerings do not necessarily address the needs and wants of all our students, particularly regarding extra/co-curricula activities. In addition, the operational challenges of the existing APS Sport program are growing, as the scale of the APS student cohort increases.

As such, the APS Principals have unanimously agreed to conduct a strategic review of the APS Sport program. This strategic review, beginning in 2024, has a clear 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.

The scope of this review will involve a wide variety of stakeholders. As such, the APS Principals have nominated a subcommittee to manage this project, and to ensure that the project has a wide variety of stakeholder input. This subcommittee includes; (listed alphabetically according to school) Ross Featherston (Brighton Grammar), Ashleigh Martin (Caulfield Grammar), Rebecca Cody (Geelong Grammar), Derek Scott (Haileybury), William Doherty (Xavier College), and Luke Soulos (APS EO). Colganbauer, a world leading sports consultant group, has also been engaged to provide an independent perspective and offer advice on sports industry best practice.

Given the scope of this review includes participant schools outside of the APS, the AGSV (Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria) will be engaged and consulted throughout.

As this important work unfolds, the APS community (including parents and guardians) will be updated regularly via the APS member schools and the APS website.