

UniSport Australia Guideline

Divisional structure

Introduction

The following guideline has been developed to define the process of assigning teams for UniSport Nationals. The 2025 Divisional Structure Supplement (linked on the UniSport Website below this Guideline), specifically relating to competition structure, will take precedence over the promotion and relegation structures outlined below.

1. Team sport categories

- 1.1. Team sports will be offered in one of the following categories:
 - Div 1 only (open entry)
 - Div 1 and Div 2
- 1.2. Div 1 only (open entry) sport
 - Div 1 only sports are those where a single division is conducted at an event.
 - Where there are 16 or more team entries in a Div 1 only (open entry) sport, it will become a Div 1 and Div 2 competition.
 - For sports where there are 15 or less team entries, it will remain as a Div 1 only competition.
- 1.3. Div 1 and Div 2 sports
 - Div 1 and Div 2 sports are conducted as separate competitions at the same event. Promotion and relegation occurs mid-competition as outlined in Item 3.
- 1.4. All team sports that are run as championships will be contested as Div 1 only (open entry) competitions, except for T20 Cricket where the number of teams nominated meet the parameters outlined in Table 1 will determine whether a Div 2 takes place and 3x3 Basketball where Div 1 and Div 2 will be run via nomination.
- 1.5. The number of teams that can be nominated to compete in each competition is outlined in the UniSport Guideline 'Qualification for Participation in UniSport Events'.

2. Divisions

- 2.1. Division sizes
 - 2.1.1. For all competitions with a Div 1 and Div 2 structure, Div 1 shall consist of the number of teams as indicated in Table 1 below. All remaining teams shall commence the competition in Div 2.
 - 2.1.2. Teams shall be seeded prior to the start of competition as per the UniSport Guideline *Allocation of Entrants to Pools*.
 - 2.1.3. Should the number of teams who nominate for Div 1 (from the results of the previous year) not meet the parameters outlined in Table 1, UniSport, at its discretion, maintains the right to promote the relevant number of teams required to maintain the integrity of the Div 1 and Div 2 competitions.
 - Any such teams as outlined above will be promoted based on rankings from the previous year's competition accordingly.
 - 2.1.4. In the situation of Item 2.1.3, this information will be advised to all members after final team numbers are confirmed.
- 2.2. Div 1 size parameters

To ensure that the best team entering a sport in any given year has the opportunity to win Div 1, and allow for fair and reasonable promotion and relegation within the competition period, the following size parameters will be applied to the relevant competition:

- 16-19 teams entered: Div 1 - 8 teams; Div 2 - remaining teams
- 20-25 teams entered: Div 1 - 12 teams; Div 2 - remaining teams
- 26+ teams entered: Div 1 - 12 teams; Div 2 - remaining teams

Number of teams entered	Competition size parameters	
	Div 1	Div 2
16-17	8	8-9
18-19	8	10-11
20-21	12	8-9
22-23	12	10-11
24-25	12	12-13
26-27	12	14-15
28-29	12	16-17
30 ≥	12	18 ≥

3. Promotion and relegation

3.1. Relegation from Div 1

- 3.1.1. Following the pool rounds, the teams that finish in the bottom two ranked positions of Div 1 will be relegated to Div 2 for the remainder of the competition.

3.2. Promotion from Div 2

- 3.2.1. Following the pool rounds, the teams that finish in the top two ranked positions of Div 2 will be promoted to Div 1 for the remainder of the competition.
- 3.2.2. Promoted teams cannot decline promotion to Div 1.
- 3.2.3. Where a university who has a qualified team in Div 1, enters a team in Div 2 and that team finishes in the top two teams, the promotion place shall revert to the next placed team in the Div 2 rankings.
- 3.2.4. Where a university who has two teams competing in Div 2, has both of their teams finish as the top two teams, the second promotion place shall revert to the next placed team in the Div 2 rankings.
- 3.2.5. Where a university has a team in both Div 1 and Div 2, and the Div 1 team finishes in the bottom two ranked positions in the pool rounds and the Div 2 team finishes in the top two ranked positions, the Div 2 team will be eligible for promotion.

3.3. Considerations

- 3.3.1. It is recognised that there may be limited time in the competition schedule for all teams to play one another before promotion and relegation occurs mid-competition. As such, it is recommended that tiebreaker rules for each sport apply to determine the teams to be relegated and promoted.

- 3.3.2. The relegated teams from Div 1 will take the top two seedings in Div 2 for the purposes of the final series.
- 3.3.3. Likewise, the promoted teams from Div 2 will take the bottom two seedings in Div 1 for the purposes of the final series.
- 3.3.4. Consideration will be taken to ensure both Div 1 and Div 2 teams play a similar number of games in the pool stages prior to promotion and relegation into the finals series in each competition.
- 3.3.5. It is noted that in some circumstances, there may be the requirement for the promoted Div 2 teams to play more games than the Div 1 teams in the pool stages to determine the top two teams.
- 3.3.6. To ensure fairness with playing time, UniSport may amend the game duration of either divisions to compensate for an unfair advantage posed by larger pool rounds requiring longer playing time or more games.

4. International and invitational teams

4.1. Divisional allocation

- 4.1.1. Where invitational or international teams enter a Div 1 only (open entry) competition, the teams will be seeded last as per the UniSport Guideline *Allocation of Entrants to Pools*.
- 4.1.2. Where international or invitational teams enter a Div 1 and Div 2 competition, the teams will start the competition in Div 2 and will be seeded as per the UniSport Guideline *Allocation of Entrants to Pools*.

4.2. Promotion

- 4.2.1. Following the pool rounds, should an international or invitational team place in the top two teams they will be promoted to Div 1 in accordance with item 3.2.
- 4.2.2. Should this team finish in a medal position, they shall be awarded medals as outlined in UniSport Guideline *Awards and Point Score*.

Related Documents

The following guidelines and documents should be read in conjunction with this document. All can be found on the UniSport website.

- Eligibility of competitors guideline
- Qualification for participation in UniSport events
- Allocation of entrant to pools
- Awards and point scoring for events guideline
- International participation guideline
- Breach of competition requirements guideline
- 2025 Divisional Structure Supplement

Previous amendments

November 2007 | February 2009 | March 2011 | May 2012 | May 2014 | May 2016 | October 2017 | March 2018 | May 2018 | March 2019 | February 2020 | March 2024 | November 2024