



SPORTS PARTICIPATION POLICY

AUGUST 2025

Rationale

Sport and the participation in sporting opportunities plays a key role in connecting students to school. There are varied opportunities for students to participate in school sport and at New Lambton South these are separated into competitive and non-competitive pathways.

The Primary School Sports Association competition and representative format provides a competitive pathway for High Potential and Gifted Athletes to participate and or be identified in NSW Public Schools. As such New Lambton South Public School commits to compete in the following sporting opportunities.

A non-competitive or opportunity-based pathway is also facilitated through the school's consideration of sporting opportunities as they present at any given time. This allows for a greater number of students to engage in and build self-confidence through participating and representing the school in sporting opportunities.

COMPETITIVE PATHWAY

Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) Team Knockout events

New Lambton South Public School students may have the opportunity to compete in the following annual competition. Eligibility to compete in these competitions is determined under the school's Behaviour management policy and Sporting Selection Team Policy and these should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Participation in these events is considered to be a competitive pathway, and the school will select the most appropriate competitors for the following teams as per the school sports team selection policy.

- **AFL**
- **Football - Girls and Boys**
- **Touch Football – Girls and Boys**
- **Basketball – Girls and Boys**
- **Hockey – Girls and Boys (numbers dependant)**
- **Rugby League**
- **Rugby Union (numbers dependant)**
- **Netball**
- **Cricket (Boys and Girls)**

Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) Carnivals

New Lambton South Public School holds a Swimming and Athletics carnival each year. A Cross Country running event is also conducted. Students will have the opportunity to progress through the NSW PSSA competitive pathway based on their relevant qualifying times as follows.

- Zone Carnival
- Regional Carnival
- State Carnival

The school will support student participation through the hosting of events, identifying appropriate participants and staffing school teams that are sent to carnivals.

At New Lambton South Public School these carnivals are also seen as inclusive events which contribute to the fabric of the school community. As such, students from year 2 through year 6 are invited to attend the Swimming Carnival whereas all students K-6 are invited to attend the Athletics Carnival

NB: Only students who turn 8 the year of the carnival are eligible to progress through the PSSA pathways.

Individual Pathway

Students at New Lambton South Public School may be nominated to trial for a Newcastle Zone sport. These may be individual sports or team sports. The sports convenor will communicate the nomination process with parents. As a rule, only students who compete at a reasonable level in their chosen sport should be nominated.

NON-COMPETITIVE – OPPORTUNITY PATHWAY

New Lambton South Public School is often approached by non-Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) organisations who are holding trial days, gala days or come and try days. Examples of these include but are not limited to, Netball NSW, Basketball NSW and the Newcastle Knights. Participation in this type of **NON-NSW DOE** events are only considered under the following guidelines.

1. Is the sporting opportunity for a group of students who are not eligible for participation in the PSSA competitive pathway (eg year 1,2 students)
2. Is the sporting opportunity for a new, unique or emerging sport that is not part of the traditional offerings as seen above

Should the sporting opportunity satisfy one or both of the preceding criteria then the sport should be offered to: in order of priority

1. Students who have not had the chance to represent the school in the competitive pathway
2. Students who may have participated in the competitive pathway but are required to fill a team so that students in criteria 1 may have the opportunity to play
3. Students from a younger age group who have not had the opportunity to compete in the competitive pathway

Andrew Pryce

Principal

August 2025