

New Sport Policy

Introduction

In order to ensure that all sports offered by Scottish Student Sport (SSS) are aligned with the demand from our members, there are a number of steps that have been identified by the Competitions Committee as critical for a new sport to be considered.

The process outlined below, along with the associated templates, is designed as a minimum standard for consideration by the committee. Sports desiring to be considered for inclusion in the SSS programme should spend time considering the best way to demonstrate their value to the membership, and how they can ensure that adding the sport to SSS' portfolio would offer a net increase in the service provided by the office.

It should be noted that when considering any new applications, the Competitions Committee will take into account factors that are outside of the control of the applicant – these may include, but are not limited to, the balance of the overall sports programme, the resources available to the office, the capacity within the network to support the sport.

Stage 1 – Identifying Demand

In order to demonstrate that there is demand for the sport to become a SSS sport, sports must be able to demonstrate:-

1. that the sport is a **sportscotland** recognised sport;
2. support from 6 members of Scottish Student Sport, all of whom have had an active club within that sport for at least the last two consecutive years. This support must be at institutional level;
3. support from the relevant NGB/SGB for the sport to become part of SSS;
4. that the bid will offer a new aspect to the SSS programme.

Stage 2a – Programme Outline

Having confirmed that the four requirements of stage 1 have been achieved, stage 2 requires sports to consider in detail what benefits there would be to the SSS membership in having a new sport.

Areas of work should be aligned to the SSS Sport Development Plan Pathway (appendix 1) and Sport Development Plan Template (appendix 2).

2a (cont.)

It is not expected that sports would move directly to level 3 of the Development Pathway. Instead, the pathway provides an opportunity for sports to identify areas where they are compliant, with associated evidence, and to provide a plan of action should approval come from the Competitions Committee.

Areas to take into consideration when completing stage 2a include:

- The sport **must** have a designated Chair to oversee the sport
- The sport must have NGB/SGB engagement
- The event(s) must be exclusive to SSS members, or have a supported section within a nationally recognised competition (NGB/SGB or similar)
- The sport must be cost-effective for both SSS and for member institutions
- All SSS sports are expected to make a small surplus to cover staff support
- The sport must not constitute a major drain on staff time
- All associated health & safety aspects of running the sport should be in hand

At this stage a complete programme budget (appendix 3) should be completed.

SSS will then need to be satisfied at stage 2b that specific event details of any new sport are clearly laid out.

Stage 2b – detailed event details

The final stage is to consider the specifics of the event programme and to confirm that the key aspects of event management are in place. Each proposed event should have an event outline, to answer at minimum the following questions:

Is this a new event?

Who is going to run the event?

What format will the event take?

How does this format satisfy the requirements of the members?

What are the facility requirements of the event?

What facilities exist that are capable of hosting the event?

What are the costs for facilities?

2b(contd.)

Who will provide officials for the event?

What are the costs of officials (including travel/accommodation as required)?

What health & safety issues does the risk assessment identify?

What are the first aid requirements for the event?

What support will be provided by the NGB/SGB?

How does the event complement the NGB/SGB calendar?

How does the event complement the BUCS calendar?

What is the entry cost for the event?

How does that cost compare to NGB/SGB equivalent events?

What are the expected participant numbers for the event?

What steps will be taken to promote inclusion within the event?

Stage 3 – Competitions Committee

Having completed stages 1&2, a new sport application should be submitted to the SSS Head of Competitions. This application will be tabled at the following Competitions Committee for consideration.

The final decision as to whether a sport is incorporated into the SSS sporting programme will lie with the SSS Competitions Committee.

The committee has the right to refuse membership to any sport having met all of the above requirements if it feels that the SSS Sporting Programme is not in a position to expand the sporting offer at the time of consideration, whether through internal resource constraints (financial or staffing) or due to similar pressures on Sports/ Athletic Unions.