

Hosting of National Championships - National Leagues

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) supports every state/territory having the opportunity to host national championships to reap the benefits, including but not limited to:

- Facility development;
- Development of officials, administrators, event managers;
- Exposure of the sport (e.g. role models, media); and
- Talent identification and development.

If it is not appropriate for a national championship to be hosted in WA (e.g. due to lack of a suitable facility) then the NSO should ensure that a program variation format delivering similar benefits, listed above, is in place.

DSR believes that all NSOs should adopt an approach to hosting national championships that enhance the nationwide development of their sport.

DSR does not consider it fair to continue funding at current levels State sporting associations that have no prospect of hosting national championships or a program variation format delivering similar benefits, e.g. a grand prix.

Background

Traditionally NSOs have rotated hosting of national championships around the states and territories. The outcomes of this arrangement were that:

- Sport development benefits (i.e. opportunity to compete before a home crowd, development of event presentation skills, exposure to the hosting community of the nation's best talent/best role models) were distributed around the nation;
- Each state/territory avoided the burden of travel costs in the year they hosted the competition;
- State sporting associations, in partnership with local and/or state/territory governments, contributed towards the development of sporting facilities capable of hosting national level competitions; and
- Modest operating surpluses achieved in hosting national championships supported local program development.

DSR contributes funding to most State sporting associations to enable State teams to compete interstate. This is done on the basis that WA will host events on a rotational basis with subsequent benefits accruing domestically to the sport and the wider community.

DSR considers it incumbent on NSOs and the Australian Sports Commission/Federal Government to expedite take up of fare equalisation in the majority of sports yet to adopt fare equalisation.

In recent years some NSOs have entered into agreements to host national championships in one location for between two to five years. The motivation for NSOs entering into such arrangements being a combination of:

- Incentive packages negotiated with state/territory governments;
- Access to preferred competition venues, i.e. major facility upgrades having been effected in Sydney for the Olympics (2000) and Melbourne for the Commonwealth Games (2006) - both benefiting from substantial contributions from the Commonwealth Government;
- Convenience for media arrangements;
- Convenience for sponsorship packaging; and
- Convenience for event project management.

Approximately twelve sports have developed national leagues; this has implications for the status, role and future of national championships.

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