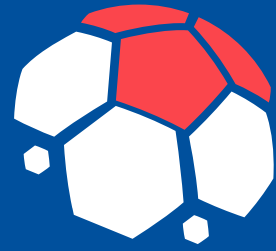




School Sport Professionals



2026

MENTOR PROGRAM & PEER LEARNING HUBS



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About School Sport Professionals



School Sport Professionals is a specialist service organisation for people involved in the delivery of school sport programs across Australia. The business launched in December 2024 and has already attracted significant interest and a solid membership across its first year.

Our Vision is to create a thriving community of school sport professionals across Australia that fosters innovation, professional growth, and collaboration in school sports.

Our Mission is to connect school sport managers through a comprehensive network that offers opportunities for networking, idea sharing, professional development, and innovation in school sports.

**MENTOR PROGRAM &
PEER LEARNING HUBS**



2025 Program In Review



The 2025 launch of the School Sport Professionals Mentor Program has been an outstanding success and a significant milestone in strengthening professional connections across the school sport sector.

Participants embraced the program's collaborative and member-led approach, with mentor-mentee partnerships developing productive professional relationships through regular conversations, idea sharing and reflective practice. The scheduled checkpoints throughout the year provided valuable support and accountability, ensuring participants remained engaged and gained maximum benefit from the experience.

Feedback from participants highlighted the program's positive impact on professional confidence, networking opportunities, and knowledge sharing across different school sport association contexts. The strong engagement and positive participant feedback provide an excellent platform for further growth and innovation as the program evolves in 2026.



2026 Mentor Program & Peer Learning Hubs



What does the 2026 program look like?

- Based on member feedback and advice from the National Advisory Committee, the program will evolve in 2026 to incorporate two separate yet interconnected pathways.
- The **Mentor Program** will continue based upon the same structure successfully initiated last year, with members able to nominate as a **mentee** (for less-experienced or early career professionals) or **mentor** (for mid-career or experienced professionals) for a series of one-to-one online mentoring sessions. Members that nominate for ongoing involvement in 2026 will be paired with different colleagues from the 2025 Program.
- Members will also have the option of nominating for involvement in a new aspect of the program - **Peer Learning Hubs**. As the name suggests, this new initiative provides an additional connection point and sharing experience for members through an informal online hub. Similar to the Mentor Program, the Peer Learning Hubs are member-led and focussed on the needs or interests of the Hub members. The Hubs will generally consist of three members, with each member taking the lead in planning and facilitating a session throughout the year.
- Members are invited to nominate for both the Mentor Program and Peer Learning Hub via the online form distributed within the SSP community. Once submissions close, members will be matched with other professionals around Australia based on their preferences. If you nominate for involvement in both parts of the program, your Peer Learning Hub will be matched with different members to your mentor / mentee partner.

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MENTOR PROGRAM

Commitment Required: Mentee

- The program is very focussed on providing learning opportunities and connection for the mentees, so it is very important that the mentee takes the lead in planning and arranging times to connect. Everyone has an incredibly busy work schedule and the mentor is very kindly making time in that schedule to support the development of the mentee. The mentor / mentee contact details will be shared to enable an initial connection point.

Commitment Required: Mentor

- Your support for this initiative is incredibly generous and is testament to your willingness to provide a legacy for the less experienced members of our industry - Thank You!! Although the emphasis falls mainly on the mentee to arrange opportunities to connect, it is important that you support that engagement and are reasonable with your allocation of time. As an example, this could be a one hour one online meeting once per term, with discussion on various topics suggested by either the mentee or the mentor.

Program Opportunities

- The aim of the Mentor Program is to provide professional connection, opportunities to collaborate and learn about the management of school sport programs through conversation and idea sharing, as well as the provision of advice from mentor to mentee.
- This program does not incorporate the provision of operational assistance by the mentor to the mentee. If the mentee is seeking operational assistance with software or event planning, then this can be sourced via contact with Paddy McKenna and the wider SSP network.

What members involved in the Mentor Program can expect of us:

- This is a wonderful initiative and a great opportunity to create connections, develop professional relationships and upskill both the mentor and the mentee. We are committed to providing the initial connection and supporting that early relationship development, as well as ensuring progress checkpoints are provided throughout the year. At any time, both the mentor and mentee are welcome to contact us to discuss concerns and viability of their participation in the program. Circumstances change with shifting workload pressures, so any decision made by either member will be fully respected and supported.





PEER LEARNING HUBS

Commitment Required: Hub Member

- This program provides an opportunity for members to connect with and learn from colleagues from different school sport associations around Australia. Some professionals already collaborate in small networks within their state or sector. This program expands your professional network and enables new learning opportunities and sharing of resources and experiences.
- Hubs will generally consist of three members matched according to the preferences provided during the submission process (level of experience, specific focus areas, etc). Some Hubs may have varying numbers depending upon overall program involvement. The Hub members contact details will be shared to enable an initial connection point.
- Each Hub should aim to conduct a one hour online meeting each term, with each member taking it in turn to plan and facilitate a session. The content of these sessions is determined by the needs or interests of the Hub members.

Program Opportunities

- The aim of the Peer Learning Hub is to provide professional connection, opportunities to collaborate and learn about the management of school sport programs through conversation and idea sharing, as well as the sharing of advice and resources from member to member.
- This program does not incorporate the provision of operational assistance by other members. If a member is seeking operational assistance with software or event planning, then this can be sourced via contact with Paddy McKenna and the wider SSP network.

What members involved in the Peer Learning Hubs can expect of us:

- This is a wonderful initiative and a great opportunity to create connections, develop professional relationships and upskill all members of the Hub. We are committed to providing the initial connection and supporting that early relationship development, as well as ensuring progress checkpoints are provided throughout the year. At any time, Hub members are welcome to contact us to discuss concerns and viability of their participation in the program. Circumstances change with shifting workload pressures, so any decision made by any member will be fully respected and supported.





2026 Timeline



- Program registration opens February 27th and closes March 20th.
- Mentor / Mentee Program invitations to connect distributed early April.
- Peer Learning Hub invitations to connect distributed early April.
- Communications and online events commence late April.
- Program concludes December.
- Program reviewed and planning for 2027 structure implemented

Questions about the Mentor Program, Peer Learning Hubs or School Sport Professionals?

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