



Department
of Sport and
Recreation

positionstatement

Fare Equalisation

The State Government supports the Sport and Recreation Ministers' Council (SRMC) decision (Minutes 12 November 2004) to endorse the following principle regarding fare equalisation:

The travel costs of participation in national competitions and sport development initiatives (such as meeting, working parties, officials training, etc.) should be equal for all representative players and key officials (coaches, managers, umpires).

To ensure equity for all athletes participating, the Department of Sport and Recreation believes that all NSOs should have fare equalisation policies and practices in place.

Background

To enable representative athletes to compete in national championships Western Australian parents and State sporting associations currently need to raise up to twice the amount of funds as their eastern states counterparts. This situation is contrary to Federation principles.

The Department of Sport and Recreation considers there is, with few exceptions, a lack of leadership by the Federal Government and National Sporting Organisations to address this inequity in Australian sport.

The State Government contributes funding support through the Sport Lotteries Account to recognised State sporting associations to enable Western Australian State teams and athletes to travel and compete in national championships. Support is provided with the intent that:

- Western Australia is part of a national sport system;
- Pathways exist for talented athletes to reach elite level through high-level competition experience; and
- Opportunities exist for talented athletes to be identified at the state level to participate in national championships.

Athletes who are frequently required to travel long distances to events are disadvantaged by the cost of competing against other states/territories. High travel costs cause reduced representation at national events, leading to:

- Reduced competition with Australia's best athletes;
- National high performance programs not being accessible to all athletes. This is particularly evident in the "second tier" national events such as "selection" or "ranking" events; and
- State Government and fundraising support are directed away from vital sport development initiatives into travel subsidies.

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