



International Sporting Opportunities Principles

Purpose

To establish a framework by which the University, MU Sport, affiliated sporting Clubs and individuals receive and respond to invitations for engagement of University teams with international sporting opportunities.

Background

From cutting-edge research to student mobility experiences, the University of Melbourne partners with world-class institutions across the globe at both the faculty and institutional level. As at October 2019, the University has over [300 international agreements with partners across the globe](#) which are managed by the University's International Relations Office. Sport can also be an important conduit for the University of Melbourne and overseas institutions who offer opportunities for engagement and partnership through sport.

1. Key Principle

1.1. All invitations to participate in sporting events and competitions must be communicated to MU Sport as soon as they are received.

2. International Engagement Opportunities and the University's International Agenda

Regularly ranked amongst the top universities in the nation, the University is an attractive partner for overseas tertiary institutions and/or international business groups and government agencies. The reputation of the University can be impacted by its relationships and as such, its participation in sporting events and competitions needs to be aligned with its international agenda.

The University, via its International Relations Office and MU Sport, reserves the right to determine what sporting invitations shall be accepted or declined. This applies to all invitations issued to the University for individual student-athletes, sporting teams, groups or affiliated sporting clubs.

2.1. The International Relations Office is responsible for partnerships with overseas universities.

2.2. All international sporting opportunities will be submitted to the International Relations Office via MU Sport for consideration.

3. Intersarsity versus Club Opportunities

Invitations to participate in sporting events and competitions may in the first instance be directed to an individual, a sporting club, MU Sport or the University. Regardless of who an invitation is issued to, and to ensure invitations align with the University's international agenda, it is paramount that the University is involved in the discussion to determine the acceptance of an invitation.

University sporting clubs outside of Australia and New Zealand, are almost exclusively student-only. As such, it is important for invitations or accompanying communications to clearly articulate participant eligibility. For example, is the invitation for an intersarsity team of UoM student-athletes only, or is the invitation open to both students and club members? If the invitation is for an intersarsity team, the team shall be selected in accordance with the *Intersarsity Sport Principles*.

Where an invitation is open to non-UoM student club members, MU Sport encourages clubs to provide student-athletes with the opportunity to participate in the first instance. Where an invitation eligibility is unclear, MU Sport will seek to clarify the rules prior to liaising with the International Relations Office.

3.1. Only UoM student-athletes will be eligible for intersarsity student vs student sporting opportunities.

3.2. Student-athletes will be priority selections for club sporting opportunities.

4. Hosting International Institutions and Teams

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Endorsed by: Clubs Advisory Group (Sept 2021)

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Similarly, international touring groups may wish to visit Australia's most liveable city to undertake a tour, training, or match play against the University and other local teams. In recent years, the University has hosted matches and training sessions with UCLA Basketball, University of Canterbury Rugby and Men's and Women's University Basketball teams from Taiwan.

Subject to approval, MU Sport can support the hosting of visiting international teams and facilitate matches and associated on-campus or local activities. Clubs should forward any visiting team requests and contact details to MU Sport, and likewise, MU Sport will advise when there may be opportunity to partner visiting teams with clubs.

5. Reviewing and Responding to Invitations

All international invitations will be considered, and determination of engagement/attendance will be based on advice from the International Relations Office including:

- Host University's or organisation's reputation
- Current University partnerships
- Other participating universities and groups

Other considerations with respect to risk factors may include:

- Location of the event and Government advice
- Timing of the event, particularly in relation to university exams
- Event information, including accommodation, ground transportation and other local logistics
- Associated costs to participate
- Existing knowledge and information based on past event experience

In reviewing invitations, MU Sport will:

- Liaise with the University's International Relations Office within two weeks of receiving the invitation
- Seek clarity from the host on participant eligibility where this is unclear
- Seek further event information including logistics and associated costs
- Contact previous university participants regarding their event experience
- Formally accept or reject an invitation in writing to the host (or similarly assist a club in doing so)

5.1. MU Sport will notify the relevant club of any decision to accept or reject an international sporting opportunity, or to host a visiting international team.

6. Available Support

Where an international sporting opportunity has been confirmed, MU Sport will:

- Collaborate to approve a Team Manager and Coach(es)
- Support the promotion and selection of teams/crews
- Ensure duty of care in line with University policy
- Oversee stakeholder relations to maintain the University's reputation
- Coordinate associated logistics and compliance to ensure participants have a fun, safe and enjoyable student-athlete experience representing the University internationally.

Other support for international events from MU Sport may include gifts, endorsement and eligibility confirmation, travel insurance and uniform provisions.

6.1. MU Sport will work with the relevant club/team/individual(s) to confirm available support for the approved international sporting opportunity, or hosting of a visiting international team.

For further information or to forward an international invitation, contact Sport Performance Coordinator, To tony.sephton@unimelb.edu.au / (03) 8344 5409.