

Overview of UniSport Nationals 2026

The 2026 UniSport Nationals will be held in Perth, Western Australia, with an expected 5,000 students from 42 member universities competing across 30 sports. The University of Melbourne will participate in accordance with the Intersport Framework and MU Sport's performance-focused representative sport model.

Deadlines for 2026 Intersport Teams

All Team Managers must adhere to the deadlines set by UniSport and MU Sport. These deadlines are mandatory and ensure MU Sport can complete the requirements for entering teams into the Uni Nationals event. As many deadlines are set externally by UniSport, they cannot be adjusted.

The table below outlines the full timeline.

Uni Nationals Deadlines Perth 2026

Team Manager	All teams must have an appointed Team manager by 31 st March 2026.
Team Trials	All teams must offer trials to new and returning students, before July 31 st 2026.
Registrations	Will Open on the 5 th May 2026
Coach Applications	Will open on the 5 th May 2026 Will close on the 5 th July 2026
Team Nominations	UniSport requires all team nominations to be submitted before 31 st May 2026. Teams may not be entered after this date.
Team List	Team lists must be submitted to Sport Performance Coordinator by 1 st Aug 2026
Standard Registration	Closes 9 th August 2026 11:59pm. A late registration fee will be charged after this date.
Team withdrawal deadline	Closes on 10 th August 2026. Teams that have not reached minimum numbers will be withdrawn from the competition.
All Registrations	Close 20 th September 2026

**MU Sport reserves the right to withdraw any team from the competition if they fail to meet the deadlines outlined in this document.*

Team Numbers and Accommodation

MU Sport aims to enter approximately 30 teams across 20 sports. This number reflects expected student demand, event costs, and accommodation capacity. We have booked 200 beds, similar to the University's allocation for Perth 2022.

Due to these constraints, team selection will be competitive. MU Sport is responsible—consistent with the Intervarsity Sport Framework—to determine which teams are entered into the event.

Team Selection Criteria

Team selection will be conducted in accordance with the **Intervarsity Sport Framework**, which establishes a performance-focused model for representative sport. MU Sport is responsible for final team selection and confirmation of athlete eligibility.

Selection will consider the following factors:

1. Performance (Primary Criterion)

- Consistent with the Framework, University resources will generally be allocated to teams that achieved a **top-eight placing** at the preceding Uni Nationals or when the team last entered the competition.
- Teams that finish outside the **top-eight placing** (in any given year) are required to submit an annual application demonstrating their capacity to compete at a top-eight standard. The assessment must demonstrate measurable improvement in player quality relative to the squad that most recently competed.

2. Compliance With Administrative Requirements

- Ability to meet all deadlines set by UniSport and MU Sport.
- Timely submission of required documentation and squad lists.

3. Squad Viability

- Ability to recruit full squad numbers within required deadlines.
- Demonstrated capacity to field a performance focused / medal contending team.

4. Event Capacity

- Final team entries may be influenced by accommodation and logistical constraints. Where capacity limits apply, MU Sport will prioritise teams in accordance with the performance-based principles outlined in the Framework.

MU Sport reserves the right not to enter teams or individuals into Uni Nationals where criteria are not met.

Coach Support Model for 2026

MU Sport remains committed to supporting student-athletes and ensuring a high-quality representative experience. Due to the expected high cost of the 2026 event, MU Sport will prioritise funding toward student-athlete support.

Coaches may still attend Uni Nationals; however, most positions will be self-funded or supported by affiliated sporting clubs. MU Sport may fund a limited number of coaching positions that directly contribute to the University's performance objectives.

Coach applications will open on **5 May 2026** and close on **5 July 2026**, providing coaches, clubs, and MU Sport sufficient time to recruit suitable candidates and manage event-related costs.