

## **SSI Competitions Principles.**

### **Overview**

The SSI Members adopted the following *Key Competitions Principles* as set out below at the 2023 AGM.

The SSI Competitions Committee had reviewed the framework for third level competitions and a considerable body of information and analysis was completed. The Committee proposed that SSI should adopt a new set of principles for the operation and organisation of third level intervarsity's and competitions. The principles are attached in Appendix 1 below.

With the this now adopted the committee will draft operational guidelines and updated policies based on the principles and will look to hold workshops and information sharing at the Networking Event in May 2023 for implementation for 2023/2024 academic year.

### **Introduction**

SSI are the official recognised governing body for 3<sup>rd</sup> level sport on the island with a membership of 30 institutes of higher education. *Leading Student Sport in Ireland* sets out both the organisation's strategic objectives and actions to the end of 2024 in addition to its ambitions for the decade ahead. In parallel with the continued growth and development over the strategic period the plan sets out a new mission for the organisation to: Grow quality student sport competition · Enhance wellbeing · Lead the sector.

Updating of SSI competitions policy is a key goal of the SSI strategic plan. SSI Competitions Committee has completed an initial review of the range of competitions and events organised for 3<sup>rd</sup> level sport and now wish to present a series of key principles for consideration and adoption by the SSI members.

### **Representation Policy**

It is at the discretion of affiliated institutions if their students and sports teams compete for their institution or campus in SSI coordinated or endorsed competitions.

### **Competitions Key Principles**

#### **Governance**

1. SSI will work closely with NGBs/Sport Ireland/Sport NI – the HEA and other relevant bodies to plan/co-ordinate and setting of standards and criteria for 3<sup>rd</sup> level competitions.
2. SSI will provide a governance framework to guide, shape, classify and develop 3<sup>rd</sup> level competition on the island of Ireland to enable 3<sup>rd</sup> level competitions meet SSI minimum criteria for the governance/operations and hosting of events.
3. SSI will confirm who the official organising body is for the event and their compliance with SSI criteria.
4. SSI will establish a process to register issues and concerns regarding any event and how issues will be addressed.

#### **Registration, Participation and Eligibility**

5. SSI will work to ensure that all 3<sup>rd</sup> level competitions are formally registered with SSI.
6. SSI will work with event organisers to produce details on numbers of members/teams/individuals and participants participating in competitions.
7. SSI will develop a policy around the recognition of SSI members and campus in terms of recommended guidelines for sports and NGBs to participate in 3<sup>rd</sup> level competitions.

8. SSI in conjunction with NGBS and its members will provide details on criteria for participation in competitions and eligibility criteria for participants.

#### **Role of Members**

9. Each College/member will determine its own policies with regard to participation in, hosting and funding of 3<sup>rd</sup> level competitions, working with its affiliated sports/clubs.
10. Members will inform SSI of these policies and any matters for discussion.
11. Members will be asked to sign up to the SSI competition policies and to work with its affiliated clubs and members to apply these principles.

#### **Review**

12. SSI will review the critical and standards for the operations of events/leagues, annually.
13. SSI will ensure its competitions comply with the standards adopted and any issues will be addressed by the SSI competitions committee and ultimately the Board of SSI

#### **SSI Operations and Information**

14. SSI will produce a handbooks and guidelines for the operation of 3rd level competitions in conjunction with relevant NGBs and others.
15. SSI will provide guidelines on risk/health and safety and insurance criteria.
16. SSI will create a portal for all events to be formally registered and a checklist and relevant details.
17. SSI will publish an event schedule of 3<sup>rd</sup> level competitions.
18. SSI will advise its membership on the list of official approved competitions and events.
19. SSI will advise on the status of 3rd level sports/interschools which are not officially approved by the SSI and their status or any change in the status of an event.
20. SSI will produce a summary report on participation figures.

***Adopted 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023***