



# Australian Dodgeball Federation: 2018-2021 Strategic Plan

2018 ISSUE

DEVIRIM VAN DIJK

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# Australian Dodgeball Federation Strategic Plan

## Introduction

As the Australian Dodgeball Federation looks to continue its work in growing and legitimising the sport of dodgeball across Australia the following key areas have been targeted in the organisation's strategic plan.

## Dodgeball in Schools

An effective grass roots program coupling youth appeal with a significant school presence is critical in ensuring the sustainable growth of the sport. The Australian Dodgeball Federation will resource initiatives aimed at bringing dodgeball to schools in an inclusive and accessible manner with the goal of portraying dodgeball as a viable extra-curricular activity which can be enjoyed by schoolchildren in a safe and enjoyable way.

## Indigenous Dodgeball Programs

An analysis of current membership data has highlighted an absence of indigenous Australian's currently participating in dodgeball leagues and tournaments. The Australian Dodgeball Federation will continue to priorities increasing the accessibility of the sport to all Australians and will reach out to indigenous communities across Australia with the intention of assisting in making dodgeball as available as possible to the members of these communities. Through programs such as these the Australian Dodgeball Federation aims to expand and enrich the dodgeball community across Australia.

## Wheelchair Dodgeball

While the Australian Dodgeball Federation considers dodgeball to be a hugely accessible sport which is currently enjoyed by players of varying physical attributes, there are currently very limited avenues for people with mobility related disabilities to enjoy the sport. In order to address this, and with the intention of working towards making the sport as accessible as possible, the Australian Dodgeball Federation has committed to working with the World Dodgeball Federation - and with member organisations including USA Dodgeball - to develop and implement a wheelchair dodgeball league. If successfully implemented across multiple countries this wheelchair dodgeball league may ultimately form its own division of the World Dodgeball Federation Dodgeball World Championships.

## Women's Dodgeball

Despite improvements being made in recent years dodgeball still remains a male dominated sport. This imbalance in participation rates has been identified as a key area for further improvement by the Australian Dodgeball Federation. The Australian Dodgeball Federation will continue to support the creation and development of women's dodgeball within Australia and in particular of Women's Dodgeball Leagues across the country.

## Elite Development Programs

Dodgeball is, as its heart, a highly competitive endeavour and it is therefore critical to give players pathways to the elite levels the sport has to offer. The Australian Dodgeball Federation has established state wide leagues across the country with each league representing the highest level of competition within that state. Players who are successful at this level are then given the opportunity to compete with the best players from across the country at the Australian Dodgeball League finals each year. The Australian Dodgeball Federation is committed to continuing to grow these pathways through the expansion of the Australian Dodgeball League to additional states and through the support of existing state leagues wherever possible.

In parallel to the Australian Dodgeball League runs the Australian Dodgeball Team selection process. This process is used to select squads of elite players with the intention of developing them further throughout the year and ultimately of selecting the Men's and Women's teams which will represent Australia at that year's world championships. The Australian Dodgeball Federation continues to review these processes and their outputs each year and is committed to continuing to improve them.

## Referee and Coaching Programs

The creation of training programs for dodgeball referees and coaches is a major priority for the Australian Dodgeball Federation. Such programs will bring heightened legitimacy to the sport as well as ensuring an increased level of professionalism at all levels - from social leagues through to elite tournaments. The Australian Dodgeball Federation has committed to working towards the development and roll out of such courses.