



Government of **Western Australia**  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

# **PHYSICAL EDUCATION STUDIES**

## **SCHOOL-BASED PRACTICAL EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT**

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Handbook – 2026



## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

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## School-based practical external assessment

The school-based practical external assessment (SPEA) process involves all students enrolled in the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course.

There are four options for the teaching and assessment of the practical component of the course:

- select one sport to teach to the whole class for the entire year  
*e.g. Volleyball all year for all students*
- select a sport to teach to the whole class, then select a different sport to teach to the whole class for the year (i.e. select two sports for the year to teach the whole class) *e.g. Volleyball for the first sport and Soccer for the second sport for all students*
- select a sport to teach to the whole class, then allow students to select their second sport\* for the year  
*e.g. Volleyball for the first sport (all students); then a variety of sports based on student choice*
- allow each student to select their sport for the entire year\*  
*e.g. a variety of sports for the entire year based on student choice.*

\* This will be a decision for the school and must be based on teacher expertise, resources and student ability. The teacher will implement the syllabus and administer all assessments.

Where students are studying only one sport during Year 12, this sport will be the sport assessed for the SPEA.

Where students are studying more than one sport during Year 12, the school must identify and make a record of which sport will be sport 1 and which sport will be sport 2. Sport 2 will be the sport assessed for the SPEA.

For each of the four options, a teacher must conduct the assessments and make the final judgements on sports selected from the prescribed list included in the Physical Education Studies Year 12 ATAR syllabus. Teacher/s will determine the number of weeks allocated to each sport, if more than one is studied, in consideration of the syllabus content that must be taught and assessed.

# 1. Procedures of the school-based practical external assessment

## 1.1 Introduction

The SPEA is an external assessment for the Physical Education Studies Year 12 ATAR course. It is a mandated requirement for all students enrolled in the course. The SPEA will be conducted in accordance with the Year 12 ATAR course school-based practical (performance) external assessment design brief described in the syllabus and the support material made available by the Authority. The SPEA involves students demonstrating their ability to adapt and adjust skills and tactics while performing within a competitive situation.

The SPEA has two objectives:

- it forms part of the school-based assessment for the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course
- it includes a process of validation through marking by external assessor/s appointed by the Authority, with these marks used for statistical moderation in the Authority's post-examination processes.

The mark from the external assessor/s provides the external practical mark that is used in the calculation of a student's combined score for the practical component of the course.

For the purposes of moderation, the Authority will treat the SPEA as a practical examination.

The Authority has published Assessment guides for each sport on the course page. These syllabus support materials provide sport-specific information regarding the SPEA assessment and an overview of assessment for each sport.

## 1.2 Administration of the SPEA

The SPEA session for the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course will be scheduled by the Authority to occur in Term 3 between Weeks 2 and 8.

Where necessary, and dependent on the demands of the sport, sessions for the SPEA will be conducted separately for male and female students. However, schools may choose to combine students for the purpose of the assessment in badminton, hockey, netball, tennis, and touch football. Combining students should only occur to meet the minimum number of students required for the SPEA as communicated by the Authority in the relevant support material for the sport. If this option is selected, it is essential that teachers match students by skill level for SPEA sessions.

The Authority will provide professional learning sessions to prepare school personnel for administration of the SPEA which will be communicated to schools via the Authority's Circulars.

### 1.2.1 Authority-administered SPEA

For the assessment of a sport where a school does not have the minimum number of students required, the Authority may schedule a SPEA session at an appropriate venue of its choosing as an Authority-administered SPEA, which the student/s and teacher/s of the sport at the school must attend. The school will be required to provide appropriate personal equipment for each of their students. The school needs to apply for this arrangement. Applications will only be considered where all other options have been exhausted. Applications must be submitted to the Authority no later than the end of Term 1. Application forms are available on the course page of the Authority website.

### 1.2.2 Collaborative SPEA

A school may elect to combine with more than one school to form a collaborative SPEA. A collaborative SPEA is where schools organise a shared venue for their students and teachers to undertake the SPEA for one or more sports. The collaborative SPEA is hosted and coordinated by a single school. A host school must seek approval on behalf of the participating school/s from the Authority. The host school must seek approval from the Authority by no later than the end of Term 1. Application forms are available on the course page of the Authority website. Each student from all schools participating in an Authority-approved collaborative SPEA will participate in the SPEA for the sport/s identified for this arrangement.

The Authority may add one or more schools to an established collaborative SPEA. This would occur where the school/s has/have applied for an Authority-administered SPEA and the sport/s assessed are the same. In these instances, the Authority will provide additional support to the school hosting the collaborative SPEA. Application forms are available on the course page of the Authority website.

## 1.3 Approved absence and misadventure

If a student does not have an approved *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence (due to sickness or misadventure)*, the combined mark (practical) will not be calculated. This means the pair of units being completed in that year will not contribute towards the WACE achievement requirements. A course mark or grade will not be recorded on the student's Western Australian Statement of Student Achievement (WASSA) and the student will not receive a report for the ATAR course. For details on the processes to be followed connected with absence and misadventure, refer to Section 4 of this handbook.

## 1.4 Prior to the session

In **Term 1, Week 2**, schools will ensure that staff information in the Authority's Student Information Records System (SIRS) (<https://sirs.scsa.wa.edu.au/sirs>) is accurate in relation to Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course contact details.

In **Term 1, Week 3**, the Authority will confirm with the school's nominated Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course contact that all details recorded by the school in SIRS are correct. This communication will also require the contact to notify the Authority of details of any significant school event/s occurring in Term 3 likely to impact the administration of the SPEA.

In **Term 1, Week 5**, the Authority will request that schools record in SIRS the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course enrolment data, in which schools will communicate:

- the selected sport to be assessed for each student
- the location of the sport/s to be externally assessed, if the school has arranged an alternate venue to be used; where a school has applied to the Authority for an alternative venue, enter 'Authority' for location
- any elite performers for the sport/s selected
- the details of the nominated teacher for each student, including TRBWA registration number, Family name and Given name (as per TRBWA registration)
- other details as required.

Refer to the *School-based practical external assessment (SPEA) 2026 SIRS user guide* available on the course page of the Authority's website for instructions on how to enter this information into SIRS.

In **Term 1, Week 8**, schools are to ensure all the required SPEA data is entered into SIRS for the Authority to access.

The school has until **Term 1, Week 9** to notify the Authority of any changes to the location or selected sport/s for the SPEA.

In **Term 2, Week 1**, the Authority will confirm with schools the location, selected sport/s and Western Australian student number (WASN) of each student and teacher/s involved in the administration of the SPEA.

In **Term 2, Week 8** the Authority will communicate to schools the timetable (location/date/time) for the SPEA session/s. Sessions may not be aligned with the school's class times for the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course. Schools will be required to arrange for student/s and teacher/s to be available at the required day/time, as specified in the schedule provided.

In **Term 3, Week 2** schools will receive a marks collection form from the Authority for the sport/s to be externally assessed.

Prior to the SPEA session, a teacher must ensure all requirements are met as specified in the support material for the sport published on the Authority website, including:

- the minimum number of students are available
- required equipment/resources are prepared (e.g. nets are at correct height; fields have appropriate markings; ball/s are of appropriate type, size and condition)
- a suitable umpire/referee is made available during the assessment.

As a school-based assessment, the school must ensure all occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements are in place prior to the session, including:

- appropriate first aid equipment, such as first aid kits and defibrillator, is available
- appropriate number of first aid trained personnel are available
- playing surface/ground is inspected and determined to be of an appropriate standard.

In **Term 3**, the SPEA will be conducted between **Weeks 2 and 8** based upon the timetable provided by the Authority.

## 1.5 On the day of the session

A teacher must ensure that all details on the marks collection form are correct, and sufficient forms are printed for use by the nominated teacher and the external assessor/s.

Each teacher of the sport being assessed through the SPEA must ensure that students are:

- prepared for physical activity (including having completed a warmup) and ready for the indicated commencement time
- organised into teams, which may be adjusted to account for skill levels or to provide all students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability
- assigned bibs issued by the school, for the sports that require this, with the bib number recorded on the marks collection form\*.

\*Schools may confirm which sports require bibs through the syllabus support materials or by contacting the Authority. A teacher must ensure that the external assessor/s has recorded the same bib number against WASN on their marks collection form.

The external assessor/s will arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time of the SPEA to meet with the nominated teacher and prepare for the assessment. The nominated teacher will be required to be available to discuss procedures with the external assessor/s.

The external assessor/s will check that all requirements have been addressed. External assessor/s will not be responsible for the supervision of students.

For the SPEA sport/s, students will participate in a series of competitive games. The length of each group's session will be determined by the sport, as indicated in the Authority's support material, and may be adjusted to allow for a fair and valid assessment of each student and the size of the assessment group.

**Note:**

- **The Authority may send more than one external assessor for the SPEA.**
- **Specialist instructors must declare any conflict of interest and may not be present during the SPEA session unless they are employed by the school solely as a referee/umpire or by the Authority as an external assessor.**
- **Schools are not permitted to record the SPEA.**

## 1.6 Students with disabilities

For students who are identified as having a disability that does **not** prevent them from participating in the SPEA, the school may wish to submit to the Authority an *Application for Special Examination Arrangements* such that appropriate adjustments may be made to the SPEA by the Authority for the student if the application is approved. Approved adjustments to the SPEA will be communicated to the external assessor/s and the nominated teacher of the sport/s. The adjusted SPEA will be conducted at the same time as the assessment for students who do not have adjustments.

## 1.7 Breaches

The SPEA is conducted under ATAR course practical examination conditions. Students who are alleged to have breached the SPEA rules will be notified by the external assessor/s and have the right to make a written comment at the time. Alleged breaches of SPEA rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee for consideration.

Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page (<https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations>) on the Authority website and in Part II of the Year 12 Information Handbook, published in July. A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of part or all or part of the SPEA mark.

The Assessment guide syllabus support materials published on the course page for each sport provides information regarding the relevant rules and amended rules for each sport.

Students who are breached prior to the commencement of the SPEA and are not able to participate on the day should complete a *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence (due to sickness or misadventure)* form (see Section 4).

## 2. Sport assessment options

### 2.1 If one sport is studied for the whole year

Teacher/s may choose one sport to be assessed in **Term 3, Weeks 2 to 8** during the SPEA session. This assessment will be allocated 100% of the total school-based practical mark as represented in Figure 1.

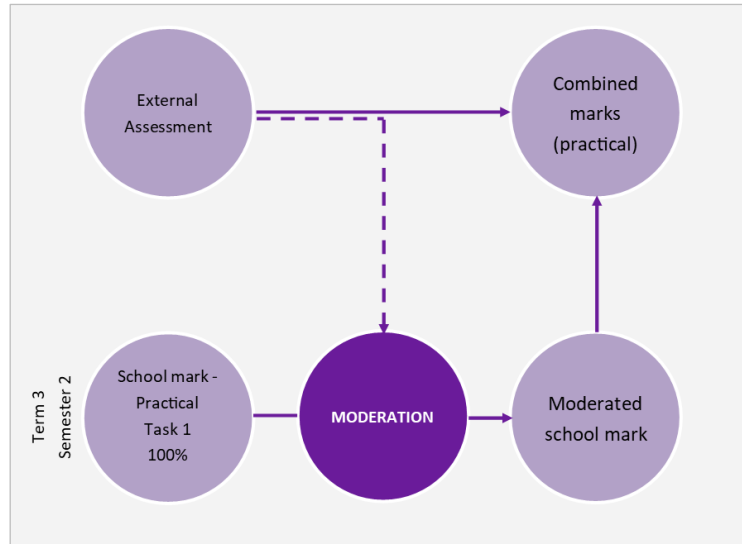


Figure 1: Marks adjustment process – one sport is studied

### 2.2 If two sports are studied over the whole year

If two sports are studied, teacher/s may choose two practical assessments that will require:

- the first assessment to be conducted in Semester One based on the first sport selected
  - this will be allocated 20–40% of the total school-based practical mark
- the second assessment (the SPEA session) will be conducted in **Term 3, between Weeks 2 and 8**, based on the second sport selected
  - this will be allocated 60–80% of the total school-based practical mark.

The marks will be calculated as shown in Figure 2.

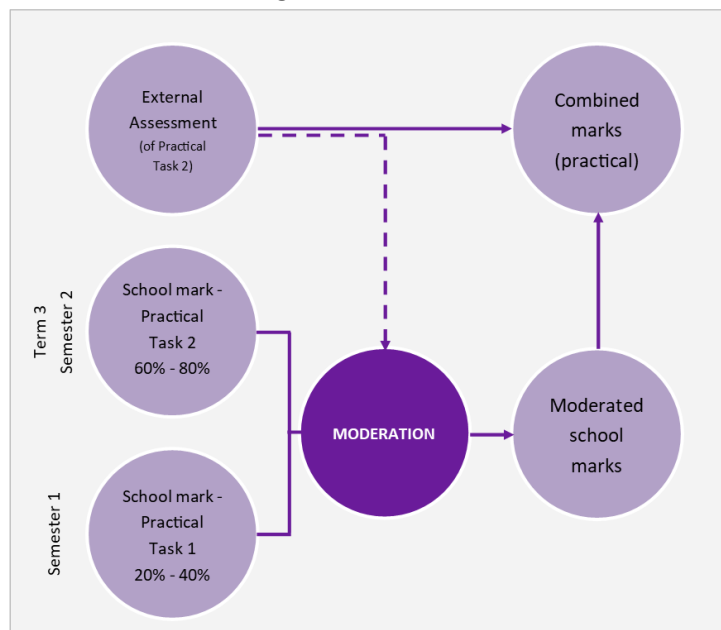


Figure 2: Marks adjustment process – two sports are studied

### 3. The method of assessment

Each student will be marked based on the SPEA marking key. The marking key consists of two sections with each section comprising of two parts:

- Section 1: Skill execution (weighted 35%)
  - Proficiency
  - Application
- Section 2: Tactical application (weighted 65%)
  - Offence
  - Defence

The external assessor/s and nominated teacher will independently assess student performance in accordance with the marking key and support material provided by the Authority.

The nominated teacher will record the students' marks during the SPEA into the marks collection form provided by the Authority without consulting the external assessor/s. The submission of teacher marks to the Authority will occur using both of the following processes:

- Criteria-based SPEA marks recorded during the assessment will be uploaded to the Authority within a week of the SPEA having been administered using a process communicated to the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course contact in Term 2.
- SPEA marks will be combined with the total course unit practical mark uploaded to SIRS as part of the RSCOS file.

#### 3.1 Elite performers

The Authority requests schools to identify elite performers for the purposes of SPEA groupings only. The standards for elite classification are included in the sport-specific support material. Being identified as an elite athlete will have no impact on how students are assessed as the external assessor/s of the sport will not have this information. Information about how to identify elite performers is provided in the syllabus support materials.

#### 3.2 Reporting on the SPEA

Teacher/s will have access to reporting regarding the SPEA at the time that statistical reports are made available to schools for Year 12 ATAR courses.

## 4. Students not completing the assessment

### 4.1 Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence

Student performance in the SPEA may be affected by a temporary sickness, non-permanent disability or unforeseen misadventure immediately before or during the examination period, including a severe injury sustained after the start of Term 3 and existing during the SPEA. In these circumstances, if a student does not have an approved *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence (due to sickness or misadventure)*, the combined mark (practical) will not be calculated. This means the pair of units being completed in that year will not contribute towards the WACE achievement requirements. A course mark or grade will not be recorded on the student's WASSA and the student will not receive a report for that ATAR course.

The Authority will endeavour to review and communicate the outcome of each *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence (due to sickness or misadventure)* submitted by a student on a fortnightly basis. Where a student has an approved *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence (due to sickness or misadventure)* and there is sufficient time, the Authority will attempt to reschedule the SPEA in consultation with the school at a later date in Term 3. The scheduled dates for submission of applications and intended notification of outcome will be communicated to schools by the Authority at the commencement of Term 2. Application forms will be available on the course page of the Authority website.

### 4.2 Students with long-term injuries or significant impairment

Students who are identified as having a long-term injury or significant impairment that prevents them from participating in the SPEA will be provided with an alternative assessment task developed by the Authority that conforms with the assessment requirements of the course.

The alternative assessment task will be administered following the SPEA session, so that the marks attained by students who are provided with the alternate task can be submitted to the Authority together with the marks for the remainder of the class. Both the nominated teacher and external assessor/s will be involved in the administration of the alternative assessment. The school must ensure the availability of the student/s and teacher/s for the alternative assessment.

A student can inform the Authority about a long-term injury or significant impairment they have using the *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Alternative Assessment* form available on the course page of the Authority website. The scheduled dates for submission of applications and intended notification of outcome will be communicated to schools by the Authority at the commencement of Term 2.

### 4.3 Significant events

A significant event is one that prevents the SPEA from being conducted/assessed at the designated date/time and includes:

- severe/dangerous weather events (e.g. lightning)
- an unsuitable playing surface (e.g. flooded ground)
- non-compliance with relevant OHS requirements
- the external assessor/s is/are unavailable.

A school must inform the Authority's Manager – Examination Logistics as soon as possible of any significant event that has impacted the school or its students at [spea@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:spea@scsa.wa.edu.au) or on 08 9273 6309. When responding to a significant event, the Authority will work with the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course contact to reschedule the school's SPEA session/s.

If the school's SPEA session/s cannot be rescheduled, a teacher is to conduct the school-based practical external assessment without the external assessor/s and submit each student's marks to the Authority.

### 4.4 School-based practical assessment and absence

Following the SPEA session, teacher/s must follow up with absent students to establish the reason for their absence, if this was not communicated prior to or during the scheduled assessment. The school's senior secondary assessment policy will generally determine the process to be followed for missed school-based assessments. However, for the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course, schools must accommodate the following with respect to the SPEA based on the number of sports a student is studying.

One sport

- *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence* is **approved**:
  - the Authority will work with the school to reschedule the SPEA
  - if there is insufficient time or capacity to reschedule the SPEA the school must still complete the assessment. The Authority will consider the school-based practical assessment mark to determine the combined mark (practical).
- *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence* is **not approved**:
  - the combined mark (practical) will not be calculated.

Two sports

- *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence* is **approved**:
  - the Authority will work with the school to reschedule the SPEA for sport 2
  - if there is insufficient time or capacity to reschedule the SPEA, the school must still complete the assessment. The Authority will consider the school-based practical assessment mark (based on sport 1 and sport 2) to determine the combined mark (practical).
- *Physical Education Studies: School-based Practical External Assessment Application for Approved Absence* is **not approved**:
  - the combined mark (practical) will not be calculated.

## 5. Timeline

Term	Week	Task
Term 1	Week 2	The school ensures that the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course contact information in SIRS is correct.
	Week 3	The Authority confirms with the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course contact that all details recorded by the school in SIRS are correct. The school provides the Authority with details of significant school event/s that are to occur in Term 3 and are likely to impact the SPEA.
	Week 5	The Authority requests schools to record in SIRS the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course enrolment data in which schools will indicate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the location of the sport/s to be externally assessed</li> <li>the selected sport/s to be assessed for each student</li> <li>details of the nominated teacher/s</li> <li>any elite performers for the sport/s selected.</li> </ul>
	Week 8	Schools ensure the required SPEA data is entered into SIRS for the Authority to access.
	Week 9	Last date for schools to make changes to confirmed selections for the SPEA. Last date for schools to apply for an Authority-administered or a collaborative SPEA.
Term 2	Week 1	The Authority provides schools with confirmation of the location, selected sport/s and WASN of each student.
	Week 8	The Authority provides final timetable to schools for the SPEA. Completed applications for alternative format PES SPEA due.
Term 3	Week 1	Last date for students to withdraw from the Physical Education Studies ATAR Year 12 course without penalty for non-completion.
	Week 2	Marks collection forms available to schools.
	Weeks 2–8	SPEA conducted.
	Weeks 2–10	Completed <i>Application for Approved Absence (due to sickness or misadventure)</i> forms, due within two weeks of the scheduled date of the SPEA.
January	TBC	The Authority provides feedback to teacher/s. Statistical reports are made available to schools for Year 12 ATAR courses.