

FESTIVAL OF SPORT

PROGRAM



22—23 MAY 2025

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SPORT SA



Government of South Australia
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORT AWARDS



OFFICIAL OPENING— THURSDAY 22 MAY 2025 2:30PM

The Festival of Sport 25 Conference will open with the 2024 South Australian Sport Awards, with special guest, Cathy Freeman OAM. The Sport Awards celebrates South Australian teams, athletes and volunteers across the following categories.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2024 FINALISTS:

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD



- ▶ LIV Golf Adelaide
- ▶ ILCA 2024 World Championship Regatta
- ▶ 2024 Chemist Warehouse Australian Athletics Championships

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD



- ▶ Greg Bald—Western Districts Community Sports Club, SANFL
- ▶ David Jansen—Normanville Surf Life Saving Club, Surf Life Saving South Australia
- ▶ Adam Currie—Sprintcars SA, Speedway Australia

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AWARD



Reconciliation South Australia

- ▶ Break Back—Glenlea Tennis Club, Tennis SA
- ▶ South Australian Cricket Association—Inclusive Cricket League
- ▶ Adelaide University Sport and Fitness Play with Pride

TEAM SPIRIT AWARD



- ▶ Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club—World Champion /World Record Holders and three time Australian Champions Line Throw Team
- ▶ South Australian Youth Women's Baseball Team
- ▶ South Australian Blind and Low Vision Cricket Team

ATHLETE OF THE YEAR



- ▶ Travis Head—South Australian Cricket Association
- ▶ Taj Ward & Fletcher Luscombe—Seacliff Surf Life Saving Club
- ▶ Jed Altschwager — Torrens Rowing Club, SASI, Rowing SA

SPORTS MOMENT OF THE YEAR



- ▶ Adelaide Thunderbirds Securing back-to-back premierships in front of a home crowd at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre—Netball South Australia
- ▶ Ripper GC Win LIV Golf Adelaide 2024—LIV Golf
- ▶ South Australian female jockeys make National racing history—Racing SA

FESTIVAL OF SPORT

FRIDAY 23
MAY 2025

> 9:00AM CONFERENCE OPENS
> 9:30AM OFFICIAL WELCOME

SESSION 1 PARTICIPATION FOR ALL

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY REVOLUTIONISE SPORT



>10:30AM

EMBRACING THE POWER OF SPORT FOR ALL

KATE THOMAS
ACTING MANAGER OF WELCOMING CLUBS WITH WELCOMING AUSTRALIA

This session introduces *Welcoming Clubs*, an initiative of *Welcoming Australia* that harnesses the power of sport and recreation to foster inclusion, belonging and connection in communities. Participants will explore how sport can be a driver of inclusion and learn about the practical tools and resources available to support clubs on their journey to becoming more welcoming.

This session highlights the impact of inclusive practice on individuals, clubs and communities—and provides inspiration for creating sporting environments where everyone feels safe, valued and welcomed and can participate fully.



>11:00AM

INCLUDED THROUGH SPORT

ROBYN SMITH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SPORT INCLUSION AUSTRALIA

Australians with a disability often face barriers that prevent them from experiencing the powerful, community-strengthening benefits of sport.

Drawing on three decades of pioneering inclusion for all, with a focus on athletes with an intellectual impairment, Robyn will share her insights into building inclusive pathways—from local sport to elite competition—and demonstrate how sport pathways allow each person to play a meaningful role as an athlete, volunteer, coach or leader.

Included Through Sport is a framework that shows when people are empowered through sport, they build confidence, gain life skills and develop a deeper sense of identity and belonging.



>11:30AM

ASI PARA UNIT— BUILDING A PATHWAY TOWARDS PARALYMPIC SPORT

EMILY PETRICOLA OAM
PARA UNIT LEAD
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORTS INSTITUTE

JED ALTSCHWAGER PLY
PARA SPORT TID AND TRANSITION COACH
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SPORTS INSTITUTE

Discussing the recent evolution of the Paralympic landscape in the Australian sporting system and the emphasis on creating greater opportunities for people with disability to access sport. Learn how the SASI Para Unit are working to create a meaningful and sustainable high performance pathway for para-athletes through to Brisbane 2032 and beyond.

SESSION 2 FUTURE EVENTS & LEGACY

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY SPORTEL



>1:00PM
PARIS, LOS ANGELES AND THE ROAD TO BRISBANE '32
EMILY PETRICOLA OAM
JED ALTSCHWAGER PLY
MEG LEMON PLY
JESSICA STENSON OLY

Panel discussion.



>1:30PM
REDEFINING LEGACY: BREAKING THE MOLD AND CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE THROUGH THE BEACH VOLLEYBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
VERITY HANKER

GENERAL MANAGER SPORT & EVENT DELIVERY
BEACH VOLLEYBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS ADELAIDE 2025

The Adelaide 2025 Beach Volleyball World Championships presents a significant opportunity to redefine legacy through athlete-focused experiences, sustainability, and meaningful community engagement. This session explores how Volleyball Australia is enhancing athlete experiences through sustainable practices, including innovative transport solutions and athlete catering that directly supports local businesses.

The event will also elevate volleyball's visibility nationally and globally, positively influencing the future direction of Volleyball Australia's event delivery model. Additionally, attendees will learn about collaborative volunteer opportunities, fostering cross-sector connections and creating avenues for local sporting organisations, councils, and education groups to actively participate in and benefit from this world-class event.



>2:30PM
PLAY WELL UPDATE
CAMERON FRENCH
GENERAL MANAGER, PARTICIPATION
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS COMMISSION (ASC)

Play Well is Australia's first national participation strategy, developed by the sector, for the sector.

With participant experience at its core, the strategies vision is to ensure that everyone has a place in sport through creating safe, welcoming, inclusive, and fun sporting environments. As the first year of implementation concludes, Cameron will share key progress and insights, providing attendees with a deeper understanding of the strategy's impacts and the emerging trends that will shape participation over the next five years.

A key focus of the presentation will be a showcase of how the ASC is supporting sports to convert the inspiration of major events into participation, helping to foster long-term engagement and growth.

SESSION 3 FUNDING, TECHNOLOGY & AI— FUTURE PROOFING OUR INDUSTRY

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY TIDY HQ



FS25
23 MAY



>3:30PM
**HOW TO LEVERAGE AI
TO BETTER RUN SPORT**
ISAAK DURY
CEO AND FOUNDER,
TIDYHQ.COM

Sport is changing—fast. With volunteer burnout, rising compliance demands, and the complexity of managing hundreds of clubs, the pressure is on and a growing gap between what's expected and what's possible—it's time to rethink how we operate. Enter AI.

In this high-impact session, Isaak Dury will explore how leading sports bodies are beginning to leverage AI to streamline operations, improve visibility, and support community-level delivery at scale.

You'll see how a variety of tools are already being used to generate real-time reports, automate admin, and build clearer communication between governing bodies and clubs. You'll also experience a live demonstration of how AI can generate a full voice and tone guide for a sport—transforming how organisations present themselves and connect with their community.



What You'll Learn:

- ✓ How AI is transforming governance, compliance, and admin in sport.
- ✓ Real-world tools already in use by sports bodies across Australia.
- ✓ Frameworks to automate workflows, improve transparency, and reduce risk.
- ✓ What every sport organisation needs to know to stay ahead of the curve.



>4:30PM
**THE IMPORTANCE OF
PRIVATE GIVING TO SPORT**
SUE HUNT AM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
AUSTRALIAN SPORTS FOUNDATION



Challenging economic conditions, rising costs, decreasing revenues and ever-increasing demands have placed significant strain on community clubs and athletes. The Australian Sports Foundation's (ASF) research has found that one in four small community sports clubs were contemplating closing and two in five elite athletes over 18 reported a deterioration in their financial position and two in three have considered leaving their sport.

Against this backdrop, the ASF seeks to boost fundraising through enhanced technology and increased capability in the industry. ASF is also advocating to unlock significant funding from major donors, Private and Public Ancillary Funds by amending The Charities Act, thereby Community Sport charitable.

CEO, Sue Hunt AM will discuss the background of context of the growth agenda that the ASF is on and latest developments in advocacy for legislative change.



**THURS 22—FRI 23
MAY, 2025
WOLF BLASS CENTRE—
MORPHETTVILLE
RACECOURSE**

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