



A New Direction for Central Otago Primary School Sports (COPSSA) in 2027

Over the past decade, Central Otago has grown rapidly, bringing many new families and tamariki into our primary schools. To make sure our regional sports program continues to inspire, include, and engage every child, the COPSSA Executive recently conducted a comprehensive review of our annual events calendar.

Feedback from schools and sport coordinators showed that our traditional sports calendar had become overcrowded and was no longer meeting the needs of our expanding region. In response, COPSSA is transitioning to a refreshed, streamlined model starting in **2027**.

What's Changing for 2027?

COPSSA will focus on **four primary regional events** each year, placing a stronger emphasis on team participation, inclusion, and high-engagement activities:

- **Term 1:** Regional COPSSA Athletics
- **Term 2:** Regional COPSSA Rippa Rugby
- **Term 3:** Zone-Based Team Sport Competition
- **Term 4:** Zone-Based Orienteering Competition

A Note on Traditional Events (Swimming, Cross Country, & Triathlon)

As part of this shift, centralised regional COPSSA events for Swimming, Cross Country, and Triathlon will no longer sit on the regional calendar. **Decisions on whether to continue running localised events for these sports—or to replace them—will now sit directly with each individual Zone.** This gives your local zone the flexibility to run the events that best suit your unique community, facilities, and school preferences.

Looking Ahead

We want to thank all of our local sports clubs, teachers, principals, and parent volunteers who have given so much time and support to primary school sports over the years. We are excited about this next chapter as our population grows, and we look forward to delivering fun, active, and accessible sporting opportunities for all our tamariki in 2027 and beyond!

For any questions regarding local zone planning, please reach out to your school's Sports Coordinator.