

**Waikato  
Secondary Schools  
Sports Association**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

**2023-28**

## **Our Goal:**

To increase student participation in sport from 53% to 67% (based on appetite to do more) and satisfaction from 32% to 66% (e.g., very or extremely satisfied with their experience).

## **Our Vision:**

An equitable, participant-focused, quality and enjoyable secondary school sport landscape in the Waikato region, where every student has the opportunity to participate and thrive.

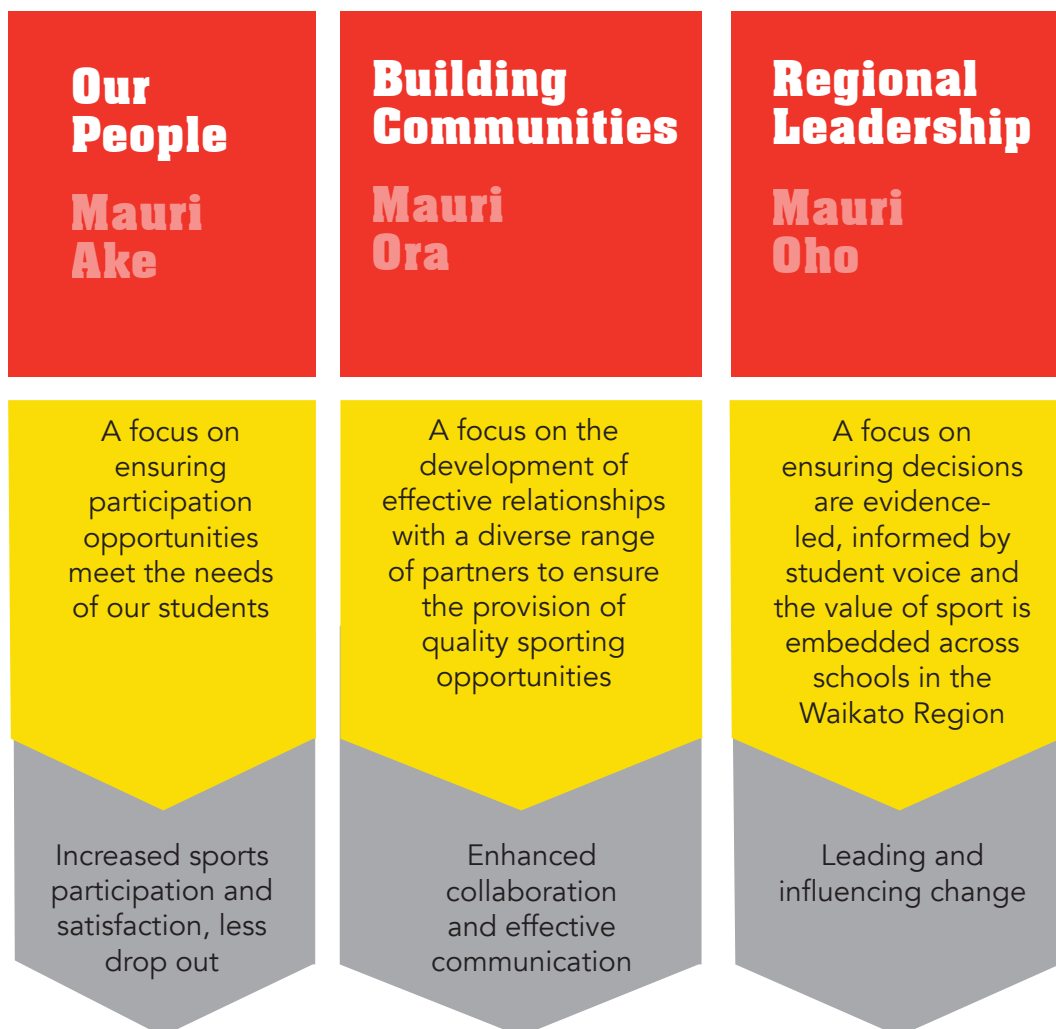
## **Our Purpose:**

To ensure every Waikato Secondary School student has equitable access to quality sporting opportunities that meet their needs.

# Introduction

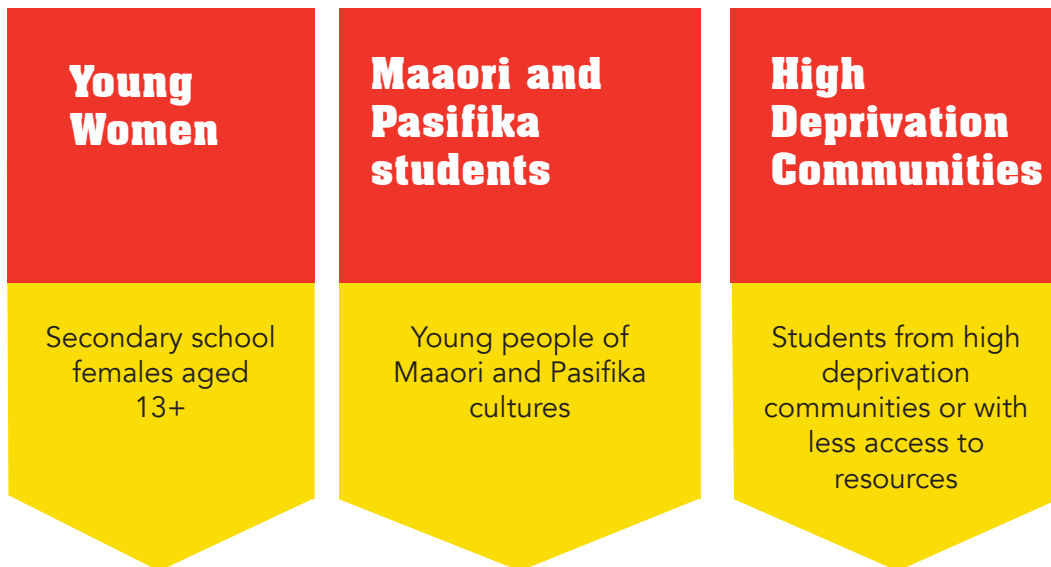
The Waikato Secondary Schools Sports Association strategy is a unified strategy for secondary school sport participation among Rangatahi in the Waikato region that gives focus towards the year 2028. It seeks to build on the positive momentum of key partnerships and initiatives and to increase the provision of opportunities for participation and quality experiences in sport for secondary school-aged students in the Waikato region.

The strategy is based on evidence, insights and is responsive to the changing environment in order to meet the needs of the Rangatahi in our region. We are in Horizon One of our strategy.



# Horizon One Priority Groups and Settings

In order to achieve our vision, we understand that there are specific groups that we need to provide additional support in the next five years.



We also understand that we will need to work in some targeted ways and with key partners in the delivery of the sport for secondary school-aged youth.



## Our People

### Mauri Ake

## A focus on ensuring participation opportunities meet the needs of our students

# FOCUS AREAS

Our goal is to increase sports participation and satisfaction and have less drop out.

We will achieve this by:

- Adopting a participant-centred approach to governing sport delivery for youth and enabling participant-led opportunities for participation.
- Creating inclusive, equitable, accessible and enjoyable sporting environments for Rangatahi, including with a specific focus on young women, Maaori and Pasifika students and high deprivation communities.
- Enhancing players' experiences through quality coaching and refereeing
- Enabling locally-led solutions to participation challenges
- Encouraging the implementation of Balance is Better and Good Sports philosophies and principles to enable young people to play multiple codes, experience participation and development opportunities regardless of ability, to have fun and feel valued

## **Building Communities**

**Mauri  
Ora**

**A focus on the development of effective relationships with a diverse range of partners to ensure the provision of quality sporting opportunities**

# FOCUS AREAS

Our goal is to facilitate enhanced collaboration and effective communication.

We will achieve this by:

- Working in partnership with schools and Sport Waikato in the development of individual school sport strategies that align with the Waikato Secondary School Sport Association's (WSSSA) strategic plan, values and direction
- A focus on working across the school network to ensure the identification development and retention of the quality people who work in youth sport in our school system
- Developing and fostering partnerships with sporting bodies to ensure the quality delivery of competitions and events are relevant and accessible to all students
- Enhancing existing digital platforms and utilising innovative approaches to connect with students, parents and the wider secondary school sport community

## Regional Leadership

Mauri Oho

**A focus ensuring decisions are evidence-led, informed by student voice and the value of sport is embedded across schools in the Waikato Region**

# FOCUS AREAS

Our goal is to lead and influence change.

We will achieve this by:

- Utilising available research, data and evidence to ensure we are at the forefront of understanding participation barriers and participant needs
- Harnessing the power of data and analytics to enable informed decision making and understanding of our progress and impact
- Building internal leadership capability to effect transformational shifts and impacts in secondary school sport
- Ensuring Principals around the region understand the value of sport and feel supported to deliver sport in a way that meets students needs in their school
- Ensuring that Principals and other designated sport contacts (e.g., Directors of Sport and Sport Coordinators) are informed advocates to influence others, to access services and resources through organisations such as WSSSA and Sport Waikato, and can share best models of practice across the network