

SAMBO FEDERATION OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

Strategic Plan for the Development of SAMBO in Australia

2023-2028

With a Focus on the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games and Participation in the Paralympic Movement through Blind SAMBO

Respect | Discipline | Inclusion | International Representation

Document	Strategic Plan
Period	2023-2028
Organisation	SAMBO Federation of Australia Limited
Status	Approved by Board



1. Introduction

SAMBO in Australia has strong potential for growth as a modern, disciplined and inclusive sport that combines wrestling, self-defence, physical education and international sporting cooperation.

The period from 2023 to 2028 is a key stage in building a sustainable national system for the development of SAMBO in Australia. Particular importance is given to preparation for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which create a unique opportunity to promote SAMBO nationally and internationally.

This strategic plan outlines the main directions for the development of SAMBO in Australia, including strengthening the organisational structure, athlete development, coach and referee education, expansion of programs for children and young people, promotion of Beach SAMBO, Combat SAMBO and Sport SAMBO, as well as the creation of a full Blind SAMBO pathway for athletes with vision impairment.

2. Vision

By 2028, SAMBO in Australia will become a recognised, well-organised, inclusive and actively developing sport represented across key Australian states and ready to participate in international initiatives connected with Brisbane 2032.

3. Mission

To develop SAMBO in Australia as an accessible, safe, culturally diverse and inclusive sport that supports physical development, discipline, leadership, self-defence, social inclusion and Australia's international representation.

4. Key Strategic Goals for 2023–2028

Goal 1. National Recognition and Strong Governance

The main objective is to further develop the Sambo Federation of Australia as a national sporting organisation capable of representing the interests of SAMBO in Australia before government bodies, sporting organisations, international federations and potential partners.

Priority actions:

- Develop a transparent national governance structure, including state representatives and commissions for refereeing, coach education, athlete development, safety and inclusion.
- Continue working towards official recognition of SAMBO in Australia through relevant sporting and government bodies.
- Maintain regular communication with FIAS, sporting agencies, local councils, schools, clubs and community organisations.
- Develop unified national policies for safety, child protection, inclusion, anti-doping, refereeing and competitions.

Goal 2. Preparation for Brisbane 2032 Opportunities

Brisbane 2032 represents a strategic opportunity for the promotion of SAMBO in Australia. At the same time, it is important to understand that the inclusion of new sports in the Olympic or Paralympic Games depends on decisions made by international sporting organisations, the IOC, the IPC and the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee.

FIAS has already been conducting international work to develop Para SAMBO and Blind SAMBO, including engagement with the International Paralympic Committee.

Priority actions:

- Establish a national SAMBO Australia — Brisbane 2032 working group.
- Prepare an official position statement from the Sambo Federation of Australia supporting the inclusion and development of SAMBO and Blind SAMBO within international sporting programs.
- Establish working connections with the Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee, Paralympics Australia, the Australian Olympic Committee, the Australian Sports Commission, the AIS and relevant government bodies.
- Deliver national and international events in Australia that demonstrate the country's capacity to develop SAMBO at a high organisational level.
- Support FIAS in the international campaign to promote SAMBO and Blind SAMBO.

Goal 3. Development of Blind SAMBO and the Paralympic Pathway

Blind SAMBO should become one of the central development areas for SAMBO in Australia. This direction has significant social, sporting and inclusive value, as it gives people with vision impairment the opportunity to participate in wrestling, self-defence, physical activity and competition.

Strategic goal:

By 2028, Australia will establish a sustainable national Blind SAMBO program with qualified coaches, adapted rules, safe infrastructure and opportunities for athletes to participate in national and international competitions.

Priority actions:

- Develop a national Blind SAMBO program in cooperation with FIAS, Blind Sports Australia, Blind Sports SA, local sporting organisations and organisations supporting people with vision impairment.
- Train coaches, referees and volunteers in the fundamentals of working with athletes with vision impairment.
- Create adapted training protocols that consider safety, mat orientation, communication, contact signals and classification requirements.
- Conduct demonstration sessions and pilot programs in South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia.
- Include Blind SAMBO divisions in national Sambo Australia competitions.
- Prepare Australia's first athletes with vision impairment for participation in international FIAS events.

5. Athlete Development

For the long-term success of SAMBO in Australia, it is necessary to create a clear athlete development pathway: from children's classes and club-level training to the national team and international competitions.

Main areas:

- Children's SAMBO: developing basic coordination, gymnastics, wrestling skills, discipline and safe falling techniques.
- Youth SAMBO: building competition skills and participation in state and national tournaments.
- Adult SAMBO: preparing athletes for national and international competitions.
- Combat SAMBO: developing this discipline for experienced athletes, with strong attention to safety, rules and medical control.
- Beach SAMBO: promoting a dynamic, attractive and accessible format that is especially suitable for Australia's beach culture.
- Blind SAMBO: creating a separate inclusive pathway with the potential for participation in international competitions.

6. Coach and Referee Development

High-quality coach and referee education is the foundation of safety, growth and recognition for SAMBO.

Priority actions:

- Conduct annual national seminars for coaches and referees.
- Develop English-language educational materials in line with FIAS international standards.
- Introduce a staged coach development system: club coach, state coach and national coach.
- Introduce a staged referee development system: trainee referee, state referee, national referee and international pathway.
- Include modules on working with children, participant protection, first aid, inclusion and Blind SAMBO.
- Send Australian coaches and referees to international FIAS seminars.

7. Competitions and Event Calendar

By 2028, the Sambo Federation of Australia should maintain a stable annual competition calendar covering club, state, national and international levels.

Key events:

- State Championships across different states.
- Australian National SAMBO Championships.
- Beach SAMBO National Championships.
- Combat SAMBO events.
- Blind SAMBO demonstration and competition divisions.
- National referee and coach seminars.
- International training camps and exchange programs.
- Open tournaments for wrestling, judo, jiu-jitsu, MMA and other related clubs.

8. Infrastructure and Equipment

One of the main barriers to the development of SAMBO in Australia is the lack of permanent training venues and specialised equipment.

Priority actions:

- Work towards securing a permanent training centre or national SAMBO base.
- Develop partnerships with schools, sports centres, council halls and community organisations.
- Ensure access to safe wrestling mats, including Olympic-standard mats suitable for training, competitions and Blind SAMBO programs.
- Create a system for equipment storage, transport and maintenance.
- Seek grant funding for mats, uniforms, protective equipment, sound and tactile aids for Blind SAMBO.

9. Schools and Youth Engagement

The preparation of high-performance athletes should begin at school age. SAMBO can be successfully integrated into school and after-school programs as a system of physical education, self-defence, discipline and confidence building.

Priority actions:

- Develop an Introduction to SAMBO school program.
- Offer schools sessions in gymnastics, safe falling, self-defence and basic wrestling skills.
- Create after-school SAMBO programs.
- Develop partnerships with schools, colleges and youth centres.
- Conduct demonstration lessons and school SAMBO festivals.

- Use SAMBO as a tool to prevent bullying, build confidence and support social inclusion.

10. Inclusion, Multiculturalism and Social Impact

SAMBO in Australia should develop as an open and inclusive sport for people of different ages, cultures, physical abilities and life experiences.

Main areas:

- Programs for children and teenagers.
- Programs for women and girls.
- Programs for people with vision impairment.
- Programs for migrants and multicultural communities.
- Programs for veterans, police, security services and people interested in self-defence.
- Family sporting events and festivals.

11. International Cooperation

The development of SAMBO in Australia requires strong connection with the international SAMBO community.

Priority actions:

- Strengthen cooperation with FIAS.
- Develop relationships with SAMBO federations across Asia, Oceania and Europe.
- Organise international seminars, training camps and exchange programs.
- Participate in the Asia and Oceania SAMBO Championships, World Championships, World Beach SAMBO Championships and other international competitions.
- Promote Australia as a future host country for international SAMBO events.

12. Marketing, Communication and Public Awareness

To grow SAMBO in Australia, the sport must be actively promoted to the wider community.

Priority actions:

- Create a unified national SAMBO Australia brand.
- Regularly update the website and social media channels.
- Publish stories of athletes, coaches, referees and families.
- Explain to the public that SAMBO is not only wrestling, but also a system of education, self-defence, discipline and international sport.
- Promote Beach SAMBO as an exciting format suitable for the Australian lifestyle.
- Promote Blind SAMBO separately as an example of genuine sporting inclusion.

13. Funding and Partnerships

For sustainable development, SAMBO requires a mixed funding model.

Sources of support:

- Government grants.
- Local council grants.
- Sport and inclusion programs.
- Corporate sponsors.
- Partnerships with schools and sports centres.
- Membership fees.
- Paid seminars and training programs.

- Fundraising and charity events.
- Partnerships with organisations supporting people with disability.

14. Roadmap 2023–2028

2023–2024: Maintaining Foundation

- Strengthen the structure of the Sambo Federation of Australia.
- Develop states and clubs.
- Deliver national competitions.
- Begin work on recognition and partnerships.
- Prepare core documents, policies and the event calendar.

2025: Expansion and Inclusion

- Launch pilot Blind SAMBO programs.
- Develop cooperation with organisations supporting people with vision impairment.
- Participate in international seminars and competitions.
- Strengthen Brisbane 2032-related work.
- Promote Beach SAMBO and Combat SAMBO.

2026: National Consolidation

- Deliver a national championship including a Blind SAMBO division.
- Expand coach and referee education programs.
- Actively communicate with Brisbane 2032, Paralympics Australia and sporting agencies.
- Prepare an official documentation package on the development of SAMBO in Australia.

2027: International Positioning

- Support Australian athletes, coaches and referees to participate in FIAS international events.
- Host an international seminar or training camp in Australia.
- Strengthen Blind SAMBO programs.
- Develop the national team.
- Prepare athletes for international-level participation.

2028: Evaluation, Strengthening and Preparation for the Next Stage

- Evaluate the implementation of the 2023–2028 strategy.
- Prepare a new 2029–2032 plan with a direct focus on Brisbane 2032.
- Expand the national athlete base.
- Form a strong group of candidates for international competitions.
- Continue supporting the international FIAS campaign for Olympic and Paralympic recognition.

15. Expected Outcomes by 2028

By 2028, the Sambo Federation of Australia aims to achieve the following outcomes:

SAMBO is represented in each Australian state.

A stable national competition calendar is in place.

Regular seminars for coaches and referees are conducted.

A Blind SAMBO program is established and operating.

Australian athletes participate in international competitions.

Working relationships are established with key sporting and government organisations.

A strong foundation is created for further preparation towards Brisbane 2032.

SAMBO is recognised as a safe, disciplined, inclusive and socially valuable sport.

16. Conclusion

The Strategic Plan for the Development of SAMBO in Australia 2023–2028 is aimed at creating a strong foundation for the long-term growth of the sport. Brisbane 2032 provides a unique opportunity for Australia to become an active participant in the international promotion of SAMBO and Blind SAMBO.

The main task of the Sambo Federation of Australia is not only to develop high-performance athletes, but also to demonstrate that SAMBO is an accessible, inclusive and socially valuable sport that can bring together people of different ages, cultures and physical abilities.

A strong focus on Blind SAMBO will allow Australia to make a meaningful contribution to the development of the Paralympic movement and create new opportunities for athletes with vision impairment.

Approval

Approved by	Chair of SAMBO Federation of Australia Limited
Date of approval	25 June 2022
Next review date	26 June 2028
Signature	

