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Subject Biggest ever nib Hunter Festival of Sport kicks off this weekend

A record number of children from across the Hunter and beyond will be active during the July school holidays as part of the 20th annual nib Hunter Festival of Sport.

The festival which starts this Saturday is expected to attract more than 15,000 participants who will take part in over 100 different activities.

Hunter Academy of Sport Chief Executive Officer, Ken Clifford, said the festival had grown significantly since its inception to become one of Australia's largest youth sporting festivals.

"What began as a small Hunter event now features thousands of participants from across New South Wales and even interstate, who will participate in a range of activities across more than 30 different sports," Mr Clifford said.

"Since its creation, the festival has provided elite competition for a number of our Hunter Academy of Sport squads, including netball, rugby league, softball, athletics, tennis and archery.

"The growth in the festival has been through the development of our 'come and try' days, where we provide the opportunity for children of all abilities to get out and participate in a sporting activity," Mr Clifford said.

Also included in this year's program, is a range of community activities for older participants including swimming, rifle shooting, croquet and tennis, as well as courses and workshops for coaches and sports administrators.

nib health funds is continuing to lend its support to the festival. The national health fund is a foundation sponsor of the Hunter Academy of Sport and has been the major sponsor of the nib Hunter Festival of Sport since 1991.

nib Chief Executive Officer, Mark Fitzgibbon said nib is proud to continue its long-term association with the nib Festival of Sport – an event that plays a key role in promoting the benefits of active and healthy living through participation in sport.

"We continue to hear alarming statistics around the incidents of childhood obesity in Australia. In most of these cases a lack of regular exercise is a key contributing factor," Mr Fitzgibbon said.

"Events such as the nib Festival of Sport promote the importance, not only for children but people of all ages, of leading an active and healthy lifestyle that reduces the incidences of these health and social issues within our society," Mr Fitzgibbon added.

"That's why nib is delighted to be involved in the Festival of Sport. We are not just supporting an event but investing in the future health and wellbeing of our children."

The festival kicks off on Saturday 3 July and runs until Sunday 18 July.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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