

USSSA tightens net

By Chrispus Baluku

Age cheating, a long-standing problem that has undermined fairness in school sports competitions, is steadily being curbed by the Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA).

USSSA chief executive officer Christopher Mugisha says the introduction of an online registration system for all student-athletes will curb the problem. The system captures and verifies players' details before competitions, reducing manipulation and ensuring that only eligible students take part.

"One of the biggest challenges we faced was age cheating, but we have made progress by introducing an online registration system for all athletes. This has greatly improved transparency and fairness in our competitions," Mugisha said.

The improved system comes as USSSA prepares for the 2026 season to protect the integrity of school games.

Mugisha said the focus is not only on competition but also on talent development, discipline and education.

"The 2026 competitions calendar reflects our deliberate effort to strengthen structured, inclusive and competitive school sports across Uganda," he noted.

"We are focused on nurturing talent, promoting discipline and using sport as a key pillar of holistic education. We call upon all schools and stakeholders to prepare early and actively participate in making the 2026 season successful."

The season will open with the Elite Secondary School Games, scheduled for February 26 to March 1, at Janan Secondary School in Bombo. The event will bring together the top eight teams from previous championships across several sports disciplines.

This will be followed by the National Ball Games I Championship, which will run from April 29 to May 9, at Seroma Christian High School in Mukono.

Immediately after, the National football boys' Finals will take place from May 10 to 20, at Lira Town College in Lira.