

USSSA unveils plans

By Gabriel Esiku

The Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) is charting a new course for 2026, placing athletics at the centre of its sports agenda in a bid to elevate national performance at the secondary-school level.

USSSA President Justus Mugisha revealed that the upcoming calendar will feature heightened investment in athletics ranging from increased funding to structured training programs and regional trials across all 19 zones. He noted that despite Uganda's strength in senior athletics internationally, school-level athletics has lagged behind, especially at the Federation of East Africa Schools Sports Association (FEASSA) Games.

For years, Uganda has returned from the FEASSA competitions without an athletics trophy, consistently overshadowed by regional powerhouse Kenya. Mugisha believes the renewed focus and deliberate preparation will end that dominance when the 2026 edition takes place in Tanzania.

To build a stronger pathway, USSSA and the Uganda Athletics Federation plan to conduct grassroots benchmarking programs, targeting talent identification right from primary to secondary levels.

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Athletes in one of the events