

# ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

## **Policy Statement**

### **1. Eligibility**

- 1.1 The South West Sydney Academy of Sport will service a region bounded by the Local Government Areas of Campbelltown, Camden, Liverpool and Wollondilly.
- 1.2 To be deemed eligible to access an Academy program an athlete must either:
  - a. Reside in the Academy region; or
  - b. Attend a school located in the Academy region; or
  - c. Be registered and competing with an association / state affiliate which has its base within the Academy's region.
- 1.3 Athletes involved in the NSWIS Emerging Athlete Program, NSWIS Talent Radar, NSWIS Pursu32+ RAS Talent Program, or Paralympics Australia RAS Talent Program are eligible to apply for a scholarship with the Academy.
- 1.4 Where the Academy provides a provision of service (as opposed to operating a full sport program) to a State Sporting Organisation high performance program, the SSO shall determine the athlete's eligibility through their own application and selection process. Athletes selected in this method are not required to meet the eligibility criteria of the Academy in addition to that of the SSO operated program.
- 1.5 Discretionary eligibility may also be provided to athletes outside the qualification area subject to approval from the Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the appropriate bordering Academy.

### **2. State Sporting Organisation Affiliation**

- 2.1 Athletes are required to be registered with an SSO affiliated club at the time of their selection for the following reasons:
  - 2.1.1 Academy programs exist to assist athlete's progress through the state system. If an athlete is not registered with the relevant SSO they are ineligible to progress through the system, and therefore should not be in the Academy program.
  - 2.1.2 Athletes participating in Academy programs are covered by insurance via their sport registration. Therefore, athletes who are not registered with the SSO are not covered by insurance if they should sustain an injury during their time with the Academy.

Authorised by: Gerry Knights	Title: Athlete Eligibility Policy	Page: 1
Version Date: September 2023	Next Review: June 2025	No of Pages: 3

- 2.2 An association's base is deemed to be the facility at which the association conducts its activities. The base of sports that do not have one primary facility will be defined as that sport's postal address.

### **3. Athlete Levies and additional fees.**

- 3.1 Athletes selected into the Academy are required to pay levies or fees which assist in offsetting the costs for participation within the program, noting costs to participate are heavily subsidised.

These levies and fees include the Athlete Scholarship Levy, as well as subject to each sport program, any additional Camp or Event fees, Uniform fees, Academy Games fees or additional and nominal amounts throughout the program.

- 3.2 The Athlete Scholarship Levy must be paid in full before an athlete may receive their uniform and is due within 30 days of the athletes letter of offer being accepted.
- 3.2 All additional levies or fees are due by the notified due date on the invoice and shall be paid for the athlete to remain eligible.
- 3.3 In the event that an athlete ceases to meet the eligibility criteria after being initially accepted into the program, including failure to meet the costs of additional camp levies or fees, the Academy will review the athlete's eligibility with a view to determining if he/she should be permitted to continue in the program. In the event that there is a dispute regarding eligibility, the matter should be referred to the Board for consideration.
- 3.4 Should an athlete's eligibility be withdrawn, or the athlete be unable to maintain a financial status throughout the program, the athlete may be required to return any Academy uniform provided to them by the Academy. The athlete may however keep any additional items paid for by themselves.
- 3.5 Athletes selected via Criteria 1.4, and one in which the athlete pays levies or fees directly to the SSO, are not required to pay fees to the Academy, unless advised by the SSO.

### **4. Refund Policy**

- 4.1 Commitment by an athlete is for the entirety of the program, irrespective of later motivation. While fee reduction may be considered on a case-by-case basis in the event of serious injury, relocation, or severe financial hardship, full fees are assessed upon application.

### **5. Financial Hardship Policy**

- 5.1 Cases of genuine financial hardship can be brought to the attention of the Academy. Requests for levy relief should be sent to the CEO by the participant (if under 18 years of age, the parent of the participant). Any requests for levy relief will be dealt with in confidence and on a case-by-case basis.

Authorised by: Gerry Knights	Title: Athlete Eligibility Policy	Page: 2
Version Date: September 2023	Next Review: June 2025	No of Pages: 3

- 5.2 Athletes who require financial assistance may be placed on a payment plan, of which details will be confirmed in writing from the Academy, which will detail the length and amount required. The maximum term available for a payment plan shall be eight (8) weeks.
- 5.3 Athletes must have paid their Athlete Scholarship Levy in full to be eligible for a payment plan for any additional levies or fees.

Authorised by: Gerry Knights	Title: Athlete Eligibility Policy	Page: <b>3</b>
Version Date: September 2023	Next Review: June 2025	No of Pages: 3