

Future Stars Program – Guidelines Document

Effective 1 July 2023

Supported by Wests League Club Campbelltown

1. Background

- 1.1 The Future Stars program of the South West Sydney Academy of Sport is a program for high-performing athletes; being athletes who achieve consistent and sustained performance at a State or National level; and who do not currently fit into a currently serviced sport/squad program within the Academy structure.
- 1.2 The program's primary aim is to provide an athlete the additional benefits provided to Academy scholarship holders in the identified Academy Lifecycle, including sports education, sport science strength and conditioning, and access to additional athlete support and wellbeing services.
- 1.3 The program exists to compliment the athletes ongoing individual skill development and performance opportunities currently provided within their chosen sporting field, and with their individual coach or club.
- 1.4 The program is not intended as a monetary scholarship fund. Whilst components of the program may allow reimbursement or financial support for ongoing high-performance participation within the athlete's sport, this should not be the sole goal, motivation or expectation of an athlete's participation in the program.

2. Athlete Requirements

- 2.1 Athletes selected into the Future Stars program are required to pay an athlete scholarship levy in line with that of the Academy Sports Program athletes.

This levy assists in the offsetting the program costs including Annual Athlete Membership, Training and Development, and Education and Support Services costs.

- 2.2 Athletes are expected to provide at minimum, a monthly online check-in with the Academy, which shall provide the Academy updates on the athlete's performance and development; including the provision of an up-to-date calendar of proposed competitions and events, training schedule, and results.
- 2.3 Athletes are expected to attend at minimum four (4) Education sessions/events within the Academy program. These may be completed alongside established Academy Sports program sessions, or as stand-alone Future Stars education sessions.

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The Academy will provide a calendar of these proposed sessions as soon as possible in the program, and athletes are to nominate their attendance as required. Failure to attend the required education sessions will result in the negation of any financial support, or scholarship funding.

- 2.4 Athletes are expected to undertake a strength and conditioning program. The athlete must maintain this program for a minimum of 12 weeks throughout the program. Athletes who do not currently have a program will be connected with an Academy Strength and Conditioning partner and may include initial consultation/s and program setup and review.
- 2.5 Athletes who already are maintaining a strength and conditioning program relevant to their sport with an external provider or individual coach, shall provide a copy of the program, including details of the provider, to the Academy.
- 2.6 Failure to undertake a strength and conditioning program may result in the negation of any financial support or scholarship funding.
- 2.7 Athletes are to attend sport science testing / functional movement screening as a part of an Academy program on at least three occasions, throughout the calendar year.
- 2.8 Athletes may be required to support the Academy's Future Stars program corporate funding partner Wests League Club by, but not limited to; attending promotional opportunities on behalf of the Academy and the partner; if over the age of 18, undertake a membership of Wests League Club Campbelltown; feature in media and/or social media articles recognising the partnership.

3. Athlete Benefits

- 3.1 New Athletes will receive an Academy uniform consisting of walk out polo shirt, walk out shorts, full tracksuit and gym t-shirt at no cost. All Athletes will be entitled to purchase additional / replacement uniform items at their own cost.
- 3.2 Athletes will receive access to the Academy Athlete Services network; including Sports Education and Development, Strength and Conditioning and Sports Science Testing opportunities, the Academy health and wellbeing program, plus where possible, performance opportunities within the Regional Academy Network, as and when available.
- 3.3 **In consideration of meeting the requirements of Item 2**, as budgets allow, athletes are able to apply for financial support for ongoing high-performance participation within their sport, in accordance with the criteria and set limits as detailed in Item 5. of this policy.

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4. Athlete Eligibility

- 4.1 The Future Stars program operates on an annual intake period, with nominations called for between 1 July and 30 September each year. Athlete scholarships and associated claims are valid until 30 September of the year following selection.
- 4.2 Athletes may nominate for inclusion into the program at any time throughout the Calendar year, however nominations received outside the period detailed in 4.1 may only be accepted should a position be deemed available.
- 4.3 The Future Stars program may contain up to thirty (30) scholarship holders at any one time. The Academy does not have to fill the quota should it decide not to.
- 4.4 Athletes who nominate may be asked to attend an interview as a part of the selection process. Not all athletes who nominate may be interviewed. The Academy reserves the right to reject any nomination with reason.

The Academy shall prioritise selection of athletes who fall within the 'NSWIS Talent Radar / Pursu32+ RAS Talent Program selection criteria', followed by sports of an individual athlete or lone-star nature, prior to any selection of athletes within a team sport not serviced by the Academy.

Should any scholarship positions be vacant after such time, the Academy may award scholarships to athletes who have previously be a part of an Academy serviced program, who no longer meet the age criteria applicable to that Academy program.

- 4.5 At the conclusion of the annual nomination period, Unsuccessful athletes will be advised in writing, and added to a waiting list for consideration should a future position become available.
- 4.6 Successful athletes will be offered an athlete scholarship.
- 4.7 Athletes who have concluded their scholarship must re-apply for re-selection for the Future Stars program on an annual basis.
- 4.8 To be eligible for re-selection, athletes must have demonstrated of compliance with Item 2, and maintain eligibility as detailed in Item 4.9 and Item 4.10.
- 4.9 Athletes must fulfil the Criteria, detailed in the Academy's **Athlete Eligibility Policy**, not limited to;
 - 4.9.1 Reside in, or;
 - 4.9.2 attend school in, or;
 - 4.9.3 compete for an association / club within the Academy catchment area of Liverpool, Campbelltown, Camden, or Wollondilly Local Government Areas.

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- 4.10 **In addition**, for selection into the Future Stars program, Athletes;
- 4.10.1 Shall participate within a sport or recreation activity that has a recognised State or National Governing body, which has, or is in the process of establishing, a clearly defined athlete development pathway, from Regional representation through to an International level, recognised by Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, or regular International Competition;
 - 4.10.2 Will have achieved a notable result at a State and/or National level within that sport in the twelve months prior to applying; or,
 - 4.10.3 Be an NSWIS athlete, or athlete identified meeting the NSWIS Talent Radar / Pursu32+ RAS Talent program selection criteria.
- 4.11 Sporting disciplines with pathways into International High School / Collegiate sporting systems, or similar opportunities, such as the NCAA, may also be considered, with additional supporting documentation relevant to a College showing interest in, the academic records of the athlete applying, and the ability to demonstrate that the undertaking of an Academy scholarship will assist with the athletes pathway into an International High School / Collegiate system.
- 4.12 Depending on the specific sports program development pathway; the athlete must be aged between 12 – 21 years of age in the year of nomination to be considered within the Future Stars program.

5. Financial Support

- 5.1 Future Stars scholarship holders may be able to request financial support in the form of cost reimbursement to assist in their participation within their sporting program, in accordance with the criteria set out in this policy.
- 5.2 Athletes must request the financial assistance, in writing, via the online reimbursement form, including attaching additional details receipts or invoices and forward to the Academy for processing and shall be approved by the CEO
- 5.3 New athletes are unable to claim for financial support during the first six months of the scholarship, however after six months may claim for financial support dating back to the start of their scholarship.
- 5.4 Athletes will receive “credits” towards their financial support within the program year, commensurate with the level of participation and engagement as detailed in Item 2. Each credit will have a financial value that will be added to the Athlete’s scholarship fund to be claimed for within the program year. The maximum an athlete can accrue in any one program year is **\$750**.

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- 5.5 Any amount not expended by an athlete within one program year may be carried over to a second program year. Amounts not expended after a two-year cycle will be forfeited.
- 5.6 An athlete may request a reimbursement on multiple occasions throughout the program year, until the allocation has been exhausted. Athletes who are not re-selected or do not continue within the program have two months following the cessation of their scholarship to claim any outstanding amounts against the scholarship, in accordance with Item 5.8.
- 5.7 The Academy does not guarantee that an athlete will be reimbursed either the full, or any amount for each claim. The program expenditure and amounts detailed in 5.4 remains subject to the ongoing funding for the program.

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5.8 Reimbursement Claims may be submitted for the following;

5.8.1 Event participation where the Academy has advised the athlete's participation is required, such as the Academy Games or targeted Sport Leaders training. The Academy may fund up to 100% of the value, out of the athlete's allocation, provide a reduced competition levy for the athlete to attend, or provide the opportunity at no cost to the athlete. This does not however include attendance at events detailed in Item 2.

5.8.2 National /International competition/event participation
 If representing NSW or Australia; including entry fees and assistance with travel, if the event is held outside of NSW. The Academy will also assist in directing the athlete to external sources of grant funding, where available.

5.8.3 State Squad / National High-Performance Program / Development Camp
 Attendance at a High-Performance Program or Development Camp conducted or endorsed by the sports State, or National Governing Body, including entry fees and assistance with travel, if the event is held outside of NSW.

5.8.4 Specialised Training Equipment
 Including specialist skill development venue hire (ie batting cages), protective uniform items, and/or training items required to participate; where the training equipment is not ordinarily available to an individual, or recognised as normal "playing uniform / athletic / active wear".

Injury prevention devices such as knee or ankle braces, mouthguards may be considered in this respect.

Where such an opportunity involves a venue or service provider that may currently or have the ability to service multiple Academy athlete, the Academy may engage with that provider to secure a partnership, or discounted hire rate opportunity for the athlete as opposed to providing financial reimbursement.

5.8.5 Strength and Conditioning programs
 Including ongoing programs in addition to Item 2, using an approved and affiliated Academy Strength and Conditioning Partner Organisation.

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5.8.6 Individual Specialist Coaching Sessions

May be considered, including ongoing individual coaching sessions provided by a recognised high-performance coach/specialist within the athlete's sport, who is not their ordinary team, club or representative coach, and for a limited number of sessions, and normally in conjunction with 5.8.4. Athletes wishing to claim reimbursement on 5.8.6 should seek approval from the Academy CEO prior to making the claim.

5.9 The following items are considered as usual and expected costs for participation in sport, and **claims for these items may not be reimbursed:**

- Costs considered to be 'ordinary costs' associated with the athlete's participation in their sport, including but not limited to; playing uniform, shoes, bats, balls, sports bags etc unless listed in 5.8.
- Ongoing Gym Memberships with a non-affiliated Academy Strength and Conditioning Partner Organisation.
- Registration fees, or memberships with Club, State or National governing body.
- Team or Individual Coaching fees, including ongoing team / squad based-coaching sessions, or tutoring.
- Association / Club based "high performance" or skills-based development programs, including "Prep for Rep" or ordinary club / team seasonal and/or off-season training.
- Training programs, including development camps not operated by, or endorsed by, the State or National governing body.
- Meals, unless included as a part of 5.8.1.
- Nutritional Supplements.
- Medical items, including strapping tape, pain spray or medications etc.
- Professional services that are not provided by the Academy, including external psychologists, physiotherapists, sports trainers, doctors, managers, lawyers, accountants etc.
- Personal health or other insurances, including travel insurance.
- Costs associated with attending an Academy session required in Item 2, including fuel, transport, internet, or computer costs.
- NCAA or equivalent entrance tests, including SAT's, exam preparations, or ordinary education expenses.
- Other items not approved by the Academy CEO.
- Regional, Metro or Zone representation and/or tournament participation. Ie Sydney South West, Macarthur Zone etc
- State Championships, State Titles and/or State All-School tournaments.
- Parent / Sibling fees or costs, including spectator entry fees, accommodation, and transport.

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