

Background Information Future Stars Program

The Southern Sports Academy (SSA) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to assisting young athletes within the region in attaining sporting excellence.

SSA adopts a holistic approach to athlete development and acknowledges the importance of education. The organisation expects its athletes to attend school or tertiary education, be meaningfully employed, or engage in other educational or training pursuits.

The SSA Future Stars program is specifically designed to support pre-elite youth athletes in their chosen sport. This program for the Southern Sports Academy is divided into two tiers.

FSP SPONSORED Athletes

Receive an individual cash grant, access to the Southern Sports Academy sporting consultants, SSA apparel and facilities access. The FSP scholarship is designed to assist athletes in meeting costs associated with training and competing at the state or National level and provide relevant information from our range of consultants that can contribute to improved performance.

FSP SCHOLARSHIP ATHLETES:

Receive the same program support as the sponsored athlete without the monetary cash grant component. There is also a subsidised athlete levy attached to the program to help cover program costs.

ALL Athletes selected in the program are required to:

- Maintain monthly communication with the Southern Sports Academy office;
- Attend the program induction.
- Attend workshops with a range of Southern Sports Academy consultants;
- Fulfil a community-based component of their scholarship, which involves working in a voluntary capacity within their local communities, e.g., coaching at junior level, involvement in a sports club, working bees, etc.
- Attend all scheduled activities;
- The FSP needs to be prioritised as a principal commitment in the 12 months.
- Abide by the Southern Sports Academy Code of Conduct and anti-doping policies;
- Wear Academy apparel when representing the Academy at events/functions.
- Make yourself available (within reason) to sponsors and the media for promotional purposes;
- Attend the Southern Sports Academy Graduation Night.

Who Can Nominate For The SSA 2025 Future Stars Athlete Program?

Athletes may participate in individual or team sports.

Indigenous athletes are strongly encouraged to apply.

Applications from athletes eligible to apply for a Southern Sports Academy squad-based program during 2026 will not be considered.

Scholarships will be awarded based on the most recent performances by the athlete at the state age level or higher.

An athlete can only have an FSP-sponsored scholarship for 2 years.

Athletes must be registered members of a regional or state body.

Athletes must reside or attend school in the SSA Catchment Area

Athletes must be turning 14-18 years old in 2025

How Are Selections Made?

Athletes wishing to be considered for a Future Stars athlete program must complete the SSA nomination form before the closing date/time.

Participating in a previous SSA program does not guarantee selection.

Each applicant is assessed on their application. SSA may contact relevant State Sporting Organisations to verify sporting results.

A list of selected athletes is placed on the SSA website, and athletes are advised by email.

Offers must be accepted by the specified due date; otherwise, the offer may be withdrawn.

What Is Included In The Program?

- STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING - The main component of the Future Stars program is support with strength and conditioning.
- ATHLETE EDUCATION/INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT
- PARTICIPATION IN SSA EVENTS – where applicable via sports
- 1st November Induction Day – PCYC Wagga Wagga
- Mid 2026 – SSA Presentation Night

What Is Expected Of An Athlete?

SSA athletes are expected to adhere to the SSA Code of Behaviour policy, participate to the best of their ability, display exemplary behaviour, show enthusiasm, and maintain high dress standards.

SSA athletes are expected to commit to improving their physical profile and should be aware that this includes engaging in physical activities and undergoing testing. Athletes are also expected to undertake a strength and conditioning training program.

What Does The Future Stars Scholarship Athlete Program Cost?

An athlete levy will be applied to the program. A 50% deposit will be required to secure a spot in the squad for a successful athlete. The number of athletes in the team will determine the levy.

NEW squad athletes' compulsory uniform costs \$175*

Inter–Academy Tour Events – TBC

Academy Games levy \$850 **

*Athletes returning to SSA are not required to purchase new uniforms unless their current items no longer fit or are damaged. Subject to expenditure /pricing variations

** Subject to expenditure /pricing variations; only if applicable to the chosen sport