

GOLF - BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR NOMINATING ATHLETES

The Southern Sports Academy (SSA) is a non-profit organisation that assists young athletes in achieving sporting excellence. SSA holistically supports athlete development and recognises the value of education. SSA expects athletes to attend school or tertiary education, be meaningfully employed, or undertake other educational or training opportunities.

The Regional Academies of Sport Golf Programs are supported and endorsed by Jack Newton Junior Golf, and formally recognised within the Golf NSW/JNIG talented athlete pathway. The program sits between local representative golf and high-order representation, such as the NSW state team selection.

Who can nominate for the SSA 2025/26 golf program?

- Golfers must be turning 12 to 17 years of age in 2026.
- Golfers must reside or attend school in the SSA catchment area.
- Golfers must be a current registered member of Golf NSW and their local golf club.

Proposed Program of Events – Guide Only

The SSA golf program will run from November 2025 to August 2026, with a presentation night in mid-2025.

- 1st November – Induction Day, Wagga Wagga. All athletes, returning and new.
- Major Competitions – Peter O'Malley Junior Masters (Feb–March 2026), South Camp (6–8 February 2026, location TBC, proposed Canberra), Wagga Wagga Junior Masters (Feb–March 2026), The Regional Academies of Sport Academy Games, Tamworth (16–19th April 2026), North v South Cup* (May–June 2026, selected athletes only)
- Training Days – athletes can expect a monthly training day from November 2025 onwards. Athletes can expect to train mainly at Wagga Wagga Country Club and Thurgoona Golf Resort. Training may be held at separate venues, which will be discussed with selected athletes.
- Strength and conditioning training program
- Mid-2026 – SSA presentation evening

How are selections made?

- Golfers wishing to be considered for the SSA squad must complete the SSA nomination form before the closing date/time.
- Being part of a previous SSA squad does not guarantee selection.
- Athletes will be selected based on their individual applications, including performance and results at specific events. SSA may contact relevant sports associations to verify the accuracy of 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- Offers must be accepted by the due date, or they may be withdrawn and offered to another athlete.

Notes on selection for the North v South Cup

- Athletes wishing to be in contention to represent SSA and the Southern Academies of the Regional Academy Network at the 2026 North v South Cup must attend the Wagga Wagga Junior Masters, the Peter O'Malley Junior Masters, and the Academy Games.
- Presently, we are waiting for confirmation of event dates from JNJG and Golf NSW regarding the Peter O'Malley Junior Masters and the Wagga Wagga Junior Masters. Once we have confirmation of these dates, SSA will be able to confirm the date and location.
- Final selection is at the discretion of SSA.

What is expected of an athlete?

- If selected in a squad, SSA expects that this is the athlete's primary sport of participation.
- Attendance at ALL activities in the SSA program (including presentation evening). SSA aims to avoid clashes with higher-level events run by the State Sporting Organisation where possible. In certain circumstances, exemptions can be applied.
- 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 undertaking physical activities and testing. Squad athletes are also expected to undertake a strength and conditioning training program.

What does the SSA program cost?

The 2025/26 Golf program is heavily subsidised by SSA, reducing the levy to be paid by selected athletes.

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

NEW squad athlete compulsory uniform cost (SSA Polo, Golf specific polo, Training Shirt/singlet, training shorts): \$175*

Major Events will include a separate Tour Levy.

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

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