

SKATEBOARDING - BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR NOMINATING ATHLETES

The Southern Sports Academy (SSA) is a not-for-profit organisation that supports regional athletes to pursue excellence in sport. SSA offers high-quality development experiences that go beyond skill development to include education, mindset, and performance preparation.

The SSA Skateboarding Program supports young athletes at the start of their skate journey, emphasising growth, creativity, and progress—both on and off the board. It is endorsed as a regional initiative aligned with the Skate Australia Strategic Plan 2023–2028, offering a distinctive platform for emerging talent in regional NSW.

Who Can Nominate for the SSA 2025–2026 Skateboarding Program?

- Target age group: 8–14 years (born 2011–2017); however, SSA may accept athletes outside this age range under special consideration. If you believe you are a strong fit for this program but fall outside the specified age bracket, we encourage you to apply nonetheless.
- Must reside within the Southern NSW catchment area (residents from bordering Victorian communities will be considered)
- Should demonstrate a strong commitment to progression and training

How are selections made?

- Skaters wishing to be considered for the SSA Skateboarding Program must complete the official SSA nomination form before the closing date/time.
- Being part of a previous SSA squad **does not guarantee selection**.
- A detailed selection process is used, which includes:
 - Video submission demonstrating skill, creativity, and style
 - Athlete attitude, commitment, and willingness to improve
 - Potential for growth and progression
 - Coachability and overall behaviour
- SSA may also consider applications outside of the standard age group under its own discretion.
- A list of selected athletes will be published on the SSA website.
- Offers must be accepted by the due date or may be withdrawn and offered to another athlete.

Expectations of an Athlete

Athletes selected into the SSA Skateboarding Program are expected to:

- Prioritise the program and attend all scheduled activities
- Participate fully and uphold the SSA Code of Behaviour
- Show enthusiasm, commitment, and good sportsmanship
- Maintain high personal and team standards—on and off the board
- Engage in strength and conditioning and other physical development initiatives
- Represent themselves, their region, and SSA with pride

Proposed Program of Events – Guide only

The SSA Skate Program will run from October 2025 to April 2026

Program Location

Primary Hub: Albury

Potential Satellite Locations determined by applicants

Coaching Team

Head Coach: Al Taylor (Al's Skate Co)

Assistant Coach(es): Matthew Brunt (Wagga)

Program Overview

This program aims to build not only better skaters, but well-rounded young athletes. The curriculum combines:

- Professional coaching support
- Performance mindset and athlete education
- Exposure to competitions and skate events
- Personal development through a positive, inclusive skate culture

Key Components Include:

- Technical skill development & progression plans
- Strength and conditioning
- Nutrition education
- Sport psychology and mindset
- Media & communications training

Anticipated Events & Competition Opportunities – subject to change

The SSA Skate Program targets meaningful exposure to both grassroots and national-level events.

Anticipated competitions include:

- King of Concrete Series (VIC/NSW) – A leading national park skateboarding comp series hosted by Skate Australia
- Skate Australia endorsed Competitions (VIC/NSW) – To be confirmed with Skate Australia schedule.
- North East Skate Park Series – Localised events offering emerging talent exposure and experience
- Combined Academy Camp (NCAS/SSA)
 - SSA Academy Games (Tamworth – April 2026) – Skateboarding included as part of SSA's broader inter-academy event

Selection Process

Primary method is video submission:

- 2 x 45-second lines showcasing skills & style
- 3 x best trick clips
- 1 x 30-second self-intro video (goals, strengths/weaknesses, fun fact)

Program Costs

What does the SSA program cost?

An athlete levy will be applied to the program. A 50% deposit will be required to secure a successful athlete's spot in the squad. 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