

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR NOMINATING NETBALL UMPIRES – SSA 2025/26 PROGRAM

The Southern Sports Academy (SSA) is a not-for-profit organisation that assists young athletes and officials to achieve sporting excellence. SSA holistically supports development and recognises the value of education. SSA expects athletes and umpires to be attending school or tertiary education, meaningfully employed, or undertaking other educational or training opportunities.

As an integral component of the Netball NSW Umpire Pathway, SSA delivers a program that supports identified talented umpires in accessing quality education and development opportunities, offered by professional and specialised service providers in a well-managed, monitored, and supportive environment. Netball NSW endorses the program and provides talented umpires with the opportunity to grow both as umpires and as individuals. The program will allow umpires to upskill and work towards attaining a National C or B badge, depending on their experience.

Who can nominate for the SSA 2025/26 Netball Umpire program?

- Be aged between **14–18 years in 2026** (born in **2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 or 2012**).
- Be working towards a **National C or B badge**.
- Display the potential to progress through the Netball NSW and Netball Australia Umpire Pathway.
- Demonstrate a dedication to improving performance.
- Reside, attend school, or be employed in the SSA catchment area.

Proposed Program of Events – Guide Only

The SSA Netball Umpiring program will run from November 2025 to September 2026, with a presentation in mid-2026

- **1st November** – Induction Day PCYC Wagga Wagga
- **March 2026** – Netball NSW Academy Camp (Sydney Olympic Park)
- **16-19 April 2026** – Regional Academies of Sport Academy Games (Tamworth)
- **September 2026** – Academy Challenge (Illawarra)
- **Training days/workshops** scheduled across the program period in Southern NSW locations.

Note: Only a limited number of umpires may be selected to attend Academy Games and Academy Challenge. This will be at SSA's discretion.

How are selections made?

- Umpires must complete the **SSA nomination form** before the closing date/time and attend trials.
- A detailed selection process is used, including assessment of technical knowledge, application of rules, positioning, communication, potential to improve, coachability, and behaviour.
- Selected umpires will be listed on the SSA website, and all trialling umpires will be notified by email.
- Offers must be accepted by the due date or may be withdrawn and offered to another umpire.

Expectations of SSA Netball Umpire Athletes

- Attendance at **all activities** in the SSA program (including presentation evening). SSA avoids clashes with higher-level events where possible. Exemptions may be considered in special circumstances.
- Commitment to the **SSA Code of Behaviour**, demonstrating professionalism, enthusiasm, exemplary behaviour, and high dress standards.

What does the SSA program cost?

The 2025/26 netball 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 athletes are required to purchase a compulsory uniform * \$145

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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Additional Costs:

- NNSW HP Academy Camp – Self-travel event.
- Levies for the Regional Academies of Sport Academy Games (April 2026) and Academy Challenge (September 2026).
(Participation dependent on selection to these events.)