

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR NOMINATING NETBALL PLAYERS –
SSA 2025/26 PROGRAM**

The Southern Sports Academy (SSA) is a not-for-profit organisation that supports young athletes in achieving sporting excellence. SSA takes a holistic approach to athlete development and values education. Athletes are expected to attend school or tertiary education, engage in meaningful employment, or participate in other educational or training opportunities.

The SSA Netball program offers high-performance coaching and training to develop athletes' skills and support progression to higher-level representation within Netball NSW's Athlete Pathway Framework. The program sits between local representative netball and higher-order representation, such as NSW state team selection.

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

- Athletes must turn 15 or 16 in 2026 (born in 2010 or 2011).
- Athletes must reside or attend school within the SSA catchment area.
- Athletes must be current registered members of their local netball association and Netball NSW.
- Athletes must demonstrate dedication to improving performance and commitment to the program.

Proposed Program of Events *(dates and locations may be subject to change)*

- **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)

Important Note on Selection and Program Commencement

Selection into the SSA Netball program requires payment of the full levy prior to participation in the first 2025/26 event. Due to calendar constraints, the period between trials and program commencement may be short. Payment plans can be arranged by contacting cathy@regionalacademies.org.au, specifying the amount, frequency, and preferred day for payments (e.g., \$50 every Wednesday).

How are selections made?

- Athletes must submit the SSA nomination form by the closing date and attend trials.
- Previous squad membership does not guarantee selection.
- Selection criteria include physical capability, technical competence, tactical awareness, potential to improve, competitive ability, coachability, behaviour, and performance in specific events.
- Selected athletes are listed on the SSA website, and trialling athletes are notified by email.
- Offers must be accepted by the due date or may be withdrawn and offered to another athlete.

Expectations of SSA Netball Athletes

- SSA expects netball to be the athlete's primary sport of participation.
- Full attendance at all program activities is required, including the presentation evening. SSA avoids clashes with higher-level events where possible; exemptions may be considered in special circumstances.
- Athletes must adhere to the SSA Code of Behaviour, participate to the best of their ability, display exemplary behaviour, maintain high dress standards, and show enthusiasm.
- Athletes are expected to improve their physical profile through testing and participation in the strength and conditioning program.

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:

- Netball NSW levy for the Regional Academy Camp (approx. \$110, based on 2025 levy)
- Levies for Regional Academies of Sport Academy Games and Academy Challenge (April & September 2026)