

Individual Athlete Scholarship Program Framework

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Background

Regional Western Australia has historically produced an array of extremely talented athletes across a wide range of sports. However, as the demands of elite performance become more and more complex, it is becoming apparent that both the Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) and many state sporting associations (SSA) are finding it more and more difficult to cater to the regional talent development agenda.

To succeed at any given sport requires dedication and commitment. Historically, this has meant an enormous amount of travel or even relocation for the families of many young talented athletes in regional WA. This causes considerable disruption to family life and education at a critical time in young people's lives. Regional Academies of Sport are designed to minimize the travel requirements and allow an athlete to continue their sporting development within the stability of their regional community during their formative years (12-18).

The South West Academy of Sport (SWAS) has been formed for the purpose of assisting with the identification and sporting development of talented young athletes from across the South West of WA. The academy's primary objective is to provide opportunities for talented athletes to achieve excellence in sport with support from their home environment.

The academy will provide support to SW athletes via two programs: its partner sport programs and an individual athlete scholarship program. Athletes involved in either program will receive assistance with strength development, life skills, athlete career education and specialist coaching. The partner sport programs will be run in conjunction with the state association's development program and be delivered at venue facilities across the entire South West. The individual scholarship program will provide financial support to individual athletes to assist in meeting the costs of their development. It is estimated that between 150 and 200 young athletes will be directly assisted by the academy in its first year of operation.

Individual Athlete Scholarship Program

The key objective of the SWAS Individual Athlete Scholarship Program (IASP) is to assist talented athletes make the transition from a state to national and / or international level of competition by offsetting travel, training and competition costs associated with the sub elite sporting environment.

The IASP is an initiative of SWAS to support sub-elite athletes competing in events not supported by the SWAS Sport Programs.

The IASP will provide athletes with a 12 month scholarship for the period July – November in line with the principles of the WAIS IASP scheme. Scholarships will be selected annually and will be advertised in the month prior to the annual intake.

South West Academy of Sport Individual Athlete Scholarship Program

1. Athlete Categories

All SWAS IASP athletes will be classified into one of the following four categories as part of program selection:

Category	Level	Description
1	Potential International	<p>Athlete has been selected to represent Australia in an international event as an individual athlete or as part of a national junior team.</p> <p>Selection has been conducted by the National Sporting Organisation (NSO) and / or the event is sanctioned by the NSO.</p> <p>Eligible national representation includes sporting organisations recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and for open and age group categories.</p> <p>Ineligible national representation teams not selected/ endorsed by the NSO, specific population competitions like University Games and / or national touring teams not selected by the NSO and events where the athlete has chosen to represent Australia in an event they have qualified or nominated for and has not been selected by the NSO.</p>
2	Emerging International	<p>Athlete has been selected in a national junior talent squad program, national junior team training squad and / or as a reserve for a national team. Athlete has the potential to compete in an international event in the next 1 – 3 years.</p> <p>Selection has been conducted by the NSO and / or the squad is sanctioned by the NSO. Potential must be justified by the NSO coach.</p> <p>Eligible national talent squads, training squads and / or teams include sporting organisations recognised by the ASC and for open and age categories.</p> <p>Ineligible national talent squads, training squads and / or teams include squads not selected/ endorsed by the NSO, specific population training squads like University Games and / or national touring squads not selected by the NSO where the athlete has chosen to represent Australia in an event they aim to qualify or nominate for and has not been selected by the NSO.</p>
3	National – Junior	<p>Athlete has been selected/ qualified to represent Western Australia in a national junior event as an individual athlete or as part of a state team.</p> <p>Selection has been conducted by the SSA and / or the event is sanctioned by the NSO.</p> <p>Eligible state teams/ national events include sporting associations recognised by the Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR) and for open and age categories.</p> <p>Ineligible state teams/ national events include those not selected/ endorsed by the SSA, specific population competitions like Country Week, University Games and/ or state touring teams not selected by the SSA and competitions where the athlete has chosen to represent Western Australia in an event they have qualified or nominated for and has not been selected by the SSA.</p>
4	Potential National – Junior	<p>Athlete has been selected in a state talent squad program, state team training squad and / or as a reserve for a state team. The athlete has the potential to compete in a national event in the next 1 - 3 years.</p> <p>Selection has been conducted by the SSA and / or the squad is sanctioned by the SSA. Potential must be justified by the SSA coach.</p> <p>Eligible state talent squads, training squads and teams include sporting associations recognised by DSR and for open and age categories.</p> <p>Ineligible state talent squads, training squads and teams include those not selected/ endorsed by the SSA, specific population training squads like Country Week, University Games and / or state touring squads not selected by the SSA and squads where the athlete can choose to represent Western Australian in an event they aim to qualify or nominate for and has not been selected by the SSA.</p>

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2. Athlete Eligibility

To be eligible for a scholarship, athletes must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a. Meet the criteria in one of the four SWAS athlete categories;
- b. Be an Australian citizen;
- c. Permanently reside in the South West region within one of its 12 local government authorities: City of Bunbury, Shires of Harvey, Collie, Dardanup, Capel, Donnybrook-Balingup, Busselton, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Augusta-Margaret River, Manjimup and Nannup (athletes who board in Perth are ineligible);
- d. Be a current registered member of a club or association that is affiliated with the SSA and operates within the SW region;
- e. Be 14 – 18 years of age* (as at the 1 November);
- f. Demonstrate, through past performance or potential capacity, the ability to improve performance to a high level; and
- g. Be endorsed by the NSO or SSA.

(*Note: In certain circumstances, SWAS may consider athletes outside this age group and these exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis).

Greatest consideration will be given to athletes competing in sports and events within the following categories, in order of priority:

- a. Events on the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games programs and sports of national cultural significance; and
- b. World Championship sports.

3. Funding Bands

Assessment of an athlete's current situation will be conducted on a case by case and needs basis. The amount of funding provided to each scholarship holder will be determined upon a range of considerations including, but not limited to, the athlete's performance category, their training and competition commitments and their travel and accommodation requirements. Financial allocation will be applied within the following funding bands*:

Category	Level	Funding Band
1	Potential International	To be advised
2	Emerging International	To be advised
3	National – Junior	To be advised
4	Potential National – Junior	To be advised

(*Note: Flexibility in the application of these funding bands may be considered by SWAS. Negotiations may be conducted between SWAS and the individual athlete and their parent/ guardian/ significant other).

4. Activities / items that are eligible for funding

Successful athletes involved in the IASP will be able to use their scholarship to offset costs that support their daily training environment including:

- Training and competition costs e.g. entry fees, coaching fees, gym memberships, access to training facility, subsistence;
- Travel to training camps and/ or competitions;
- State/ national squad/ team fees; and
- State/ national squad/ team uniform fees.

5. Activities / items that are not eligible for funding

Activities/ items that are not able to be funded under the IASP include:

- Loss of wages/ salary;
- Sporting equipment;
- Medical / physiotherapy expenses.

Retrospective funding for activities / items conducted / required before the closing date of applications will be deemed ineligible.

6. Additional scholarship / funding disclosure

Athletes will be required to declare additional sources of scholarship / funding in the application to ensure that financial assistance is provided on a fair and equitable basis.

Scholarship recipients may receive assistance from more than one source as long as there is no surplus income for their sporting commitments.

7. Application & Selection Procedure

Application Procedure

1. Athletes can apply for an individual athlete scholarship on the SWAS IASP application form from August to mid September each year.
2. Athletes must complete all sections of the application form including contact details, highest sporting achievement, sporting history and proposed budget.
3. Applications must be submitted to SWAS by the closing date in mid September.
4. Applications must be accompanied by the required supporting documents including:
 - a. Completed endorsement form signed by an appropriate representative of the athlete's NSO or SSA;
 - b. Signed endorsement by parent and/ or significant other for athlete's under the age of 18 years.

Selection Procedure

1. SWAS will consult with NSO and / or SSA to confirm information in application is accurate (if required) and seek a priority rating.
2. The SWAS selection panel will review, assess and discuss all applications and make recommendations to the SWAS Board for the offer of scholarships.
3. SWAS will notify all athletes whether their application has been successful or not.
4. SWAS will announce scholarships by the beginning of November each year.

8. Selection Panel

The SWAS selection panel will review, assess and recommend the annual IASP scholarships. The panel will include a range of representatives from the following organisations:

- South West Academy of Sport Chief Executive Officer
- DSR representative
- WAIS representative
- 2 x neutral representatives
- SSA representative

9. Acquittal Process

By accepting the scholarship, the athlete has agreed to fulfil the following acquittal requirements of the SWAS:

- a. Submit an acquittal statement with receipts for up to 75% of the total financial value of the scholarship;
- b. Submit two 6 monthly performance reports against program objectives;
- c. Final report and acquittal statement to be submitted within one month of completion of scholarship year by end of December.

APPLICATION FORM

INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP

Personal & Contact Details

Name of athlete:			
Sport:			
Postal Address:			
Suburb:		Postcode:	
Residential Address: (if different to above)			
Suburb:		Postcode:	
Does the athlete permanently reside at the above address?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If NO please provide address details below		
Does the athlete board at school/ university during the year?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If YES please provide address details below		
School/ University:			

Postal Address:			
Suburb:		Postcode:	
Phone (Home/Mob):		Phone (Work):	
Fax:		Email:	
Date of Birth:		Gender:	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>

Are you an athlete of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> *
Are you an athlete from a non-English speaking background?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> *
Are you an athlete with a disability?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> *

* Please note that this information has no bearing on the success of the application or the amount granted.

Parent Details

Name of parent:			
Postal Address: (if different to above)			
Suburb:		Postcode:	
Phone (Home/Mob):		Phone (Work):	
Fax:		Email:	

Sporting Achievements

Level of competition:	Please indicate which of the following athlete categories reflects your highest level of achievement to date?		
Category	Level	Yes / No	
1	International – Junior	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Emerging International – Junior	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3	National – Junior	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Potential National – Junior	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Details of competition:	Please provide details of the category and level selected above for your highest level of achievement to date?		
Year achieved:			
Competition:			
Team/ Event:			
Age group:			
Result:			
Other relevant information:			

Athlete Budget

Please indicate what costs you anticipate for the scholarship period from _____ ? This may include coaching fees, travel, accommodation, necessary training manuals, specific equipment, safety gear, specific team uniforms, etc.

REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed Amount
SWAS Scholarship	\$
Other organization (please specify) -	\$
Other organization (please specify) -	\$
Personal/ family contribution	\$
Other (please specify) -	\$
Other (please specify) -	\$
TOTAL REVENUE	\$
EXPENDITURE ITEMS	Proposed Amount
Training and competition costs e.g. entry fees, coaching fees, gym memberships, access to training facility, subsistence.	\$
Travel for training	\$
Accommodation for training	\$
Travel to access coaching and development camps	\$
Accommodation at development camps	\$
Travel associated with local and regional competition	\$
Accommodation associated with local and regional competition	\$
Travel associated with competing at State titles	\$
Accommodation associated with competing at State titles	\$
Travel/ accommodation to Perth to join a state team/ compete as an individual travelling to national championships	\$
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$

Additional scholarship/ funding disclosure

Source	Item(s) to be supported (if applicable)	\$ Value	Sought (S) or Agreed (A)
WAIS Scholarship		\$	
DSR – Smarter than Smoking Scholarship		\$	
DSR - State Team Scholarship		\$	
State Sporting Association		\$	
Local Government Grant		\$	
Private Sponsorship		\$	
Personal/Family Contributions		\$	
Other (please specify)		\$	

Declaration by the Athlete/ Parent/ Guardian*

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge, the information given above and in the attached documentation is true and correct.

I acknowledge that the sponsorship support places obligations on myself, which I agree to meet, acknowledging that failure to meet these obligations might place further funding in jeopardy. (These obligations include conditions about smoking and tobacco products, publicity, food and behaviour as outlined in the athlete agreement.

Athlete Signature

Date

***Parental signature if U/18**

Date

South West Academy of Sport Individual Athlete Scholarship Program

State Sporting Association Endorsement

<< insert name of state sporting association >> supports the application for a South West Academy of Sport Individual Athlete Scholarship submitted by **<< insert name of athlete >>**.

The above athlete is a current registered member of **<< insert name of club/ regional association >>** which is affiliated with **<< insert name of state sporting association / national sporting organisation >>**.

The above athlete has been selected in the following:

Level of competition:		Please indicate which of the following athlete categories reflects your highest level of achievement to date?	
Category	Level	Yes / No	
1	Potential International	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Emerging International	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
3	National – Junior	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Potential National – Junior	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Details of competition:		Please provide details of the category and level selected above for your highest level of achievement to date?	
Year achieved:			
Competition:			
Team/ Event:			
Age group:			
Result:			
Other relevant information:			

Name of authorised person

Signature of authorised person

/ /

Position within State Sporting Association

Date

Note: Applications will not be considered without the endorsement of the State Sporting Association.