



Selection Policy for SSACT 12&U and 13&O State Teams for School Sport Australia Cross-Country Championships

12 Years and Under State Team Selection Process

Team members are selected on performance at the ACT Combined Cross Country Championships and must be turning 10, 11 or 12 years old in the year of the School Sport Australia Championship.

The top 6 place getters in each event at the ACT Championships can be offered a place on the ACT Cross Country team to compete at the SSA National Championship. Please note – placing in top 6 does not automatically guarantee a place in the team.

Students wishing to be considered for selection must complete the nomination process as outlined on the School Sport ACT website and pay the online registration fee by the date specified.

Students unable to compete at the ACT Championships and wish to be considered for team selection need to submit a Request for Selection Consideration form (found on the Cross Country page of the SSACT website), **via their school** to the SSACT Executive Officer eo@schoolsportact.org.au. The form must be submitted within 2 days of the conclusion of the ACT Championships and contain performance information from the relevant regional cross country events, and where relevant, be provided with supporting medical documentation attached.

A student cannot be considered for team selection if they did not compete at either the Regional event or ACT Championship.

13 Years and Over State Team Selection Process

The ACT 13yrs & Over team has a maximum size of 60 students, which does not include places that can be offered for eligible Multi-Class students (previously referred to as Athletes with Disabilities). This is a School Sport Australia rule for cross country.

The age groups covered by the 13yrs & over team are:

- **Under 14** (turning 13 years of age in the year of the competition),
- **Under 16** (turning 14 years or 15 years of age in the year of the competition),
- **Under 18** (turning 16 years or 17 years of age in the year of the competition) and
- **Under 20** (turning 18 years or 19 years of age in the year of the competition).

There is no mandated requirement from School Sport Australia to include a minimum, or maximum, number of athletes in any specific double-age group, or any single age within a double-age group, as long as the total team size does not exceed 60.

The Selection Trial for places in the ACT team is the ACT Combined Cross Country Championship.

Students wishing to be considered for selection must complete the nomination process as outlined on the School Sport ACT website and pay the online registration fee by the date specified.

After the nomination period closes, the ACT Selectors will offer places to students under the following criteria:

- Students who finished in the first 6 of the Selection Trial for each double age group (as specified above) will automatically be offered a place in the team subject to them having completed the nomination process. This selection process will result in up to 48 places being automatically offered from the Selection Trial.
- The first student from each single age within a double-age race will automatically be offered a place in the team if they finish outside the first 6 in the Selection Trial but within the first 10 in the Selection Trial. These athletes can only be considered subject to them having completed the nomination process. This means that each age, within a double-age group, will have at least one student selected. This selection process could result in up to 4 additional places being automatically offered from the Selection Trial.

In the first instance **Selector's Discretion**, and secondly the **Top 50 Standard**, will apply to all other places available in the ACT team beyond the places offered from the points above.

Selector's Discretion:

The following considerations will be used to offer additional places to students.

- Students who have nominated for the team by the due date but were not able to compete in the Selection Trial due to reasons such as illness, injury, school excursions, school exams or any misadventure.

Illness and injury reasons will require supporting medical documentation from a qualified practitioner or physiotherapist. Other reasons as listed above may be considered, but in all cases students seeking selection consideration are also required to fill in a Request for Selection Consideration form (found on the Cross Country page of the SSACT website), **via their school** to the SSACT Executive Officer eo@schoolsportact.org.au. The form must be submitted within 2 days of the conclusion of the ACT Championships and contain performance information as outlined in the points below.

For these students above, Selectors will consider:

1. Their prior (in the previous 18 months) performances at **National Championships** in cross country, or track distance races (1500m and above).
2. Their prior (in the previous 12 months) performances at **ACT State Championships** in cross country, or track distance races (1500m and above).
3. Their prior (in the previous 6 months) performances at **Secondary Regional Events** in cross country, or track distance races (1500m and above).

No consideration will be given to school-organised events for cross country or track distance events.

Students will need to complete information in 'Playing History' in the online Nomination registration if they wish to be considered under the above criteria. With regards to cross country performances, relative results against other athletes will be the main consideration. Race times will be less of a consideration due to the variability of courses used and the inexact nature of distances raced over (with the exception of timed performances at the Stromlo Forest Park Cross Country course over the recognised distances).

Top 50 Standard

After Selector's Discretion has been applied to offer additional places to students unable to compete at the Selection Trial, and should there be places still available in the team further students will be considered for the offer of a place in the team under the following criteria:

- Students who race in the Cross Country Selection Trial and regardless of their finishing place, have met the following Standards, will be considered for places in the team. These Standards are based on the approximate timed result for 50th place in the previous 5 years of the National Cross Country Championships.

Age Group	National XC Distance	Average time for 50th place at National XC
Under 14 Male	3k	11:00
Under 14 Female	3k	12:00
Under 16 Male	4k	14:00
Under 16 Female	4k	16:00
Under 18 Male	6k	21:00
Under 18 Female	4k	16:00
Under 20 Male	8k	21:00* (6k at ACT Championships)
Under 20 Female	6k	16:00* (4k at ACT Championships)

- If less additional places are available than the number of students who are eligible under the Standards above, then students will be ranked based on their how much faster than the Standard they are.

If additional places are still available after Selector’s Discretion and the Top 50 Standard are applied, places may be offered based on how close students are outside the Top 50 Standard.

Notwithstanding anything set out in this Policy document, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to name any student in the team if they believe it is in the best interests of School Sport ACT to do so.