

School Sport ACT Student Eligibility Policy

Responsible Person	Executive Officer	Version	5.0	Scheduled review date	2025
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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the parameters of eligibility for ACT students to compete in regional, state and national levels of School Sport representation.

Enrolment Eligibility

To participate in School Sport ACT (SSACT) Regional and State conducted events students must be formally enrolled in a SSACT Member School that pays the annual Membership Fee.

In accordance with the School Sport Australia (SSA) Student Eligibility Policy, to be eligible to be selected in a state representative team to compete at a School Sport Australia Championship, a student must attend an affiliated school of an SSA member body, which is School Sport ACT.

Age Eligibility within the ACT

The SSA Sport Participation Policy allows for the provision of age dispensation to state and territory teams participating in SSA events, where it is considered appropriate. The SSA National Programs Committee (NPC) determines if age dispensation will be beneficial to the requesting state or territory and what form of dispensation is most appropriate.

Requests for age dispensation to NPC from SSACT, if deemed necessary, are made either on an annual or triennial basis dependent on the sport. Being granted age dispensation is not guaranteed.

The ACT is the beneficiary of age dispensation across many sports in a variety of forms, the most common is the allowance of a third of selected players being up to 6 months older than the sports specified age eligibility. Age dispensation is not granted for the sports of Rugby League or Australian Football, due to the safety issues of body size in relation to the direct contact nature of these sports.

- As age dispensation is granted from SSA for state teams, it is only utilised, where necessary, in the selection of ACT teams at open trials. It is up to the discretion of the state team coach to open the trials to students falling outside the age eligibility range, it is not an automatic process.
- Students whose date of birth falls within the age eligibility range will always be considered for selection above those that fall outside. If age dispensation is not required, it will not be used.

Note: In the sport of Rugby League it has been determined by the National governing body to disallow students playing against students over a year older, in all junior competitions. Therefore, only students turning 11 or 12 are eligible to trial in this specific sport at both regional and state level.

- The age eligibility range for the sports of Cross Country, Swimming and Track and Field for 12&U Regional and ACT events is for students turning 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 in the year of competition, and if the student is still 13 and

attending a Primary School. Students turning younger than 8 in the calendar year of competition **are not eligible to be entered.**

- The age eligibility range for the sports of Cross Country, Swimming and Track and Field for competing at 12&U School Sport Australia Championships, is for students turning 10, 11 and 12 in the calendar year of competition.
- At times, the age eligibility range of a State Team selection trial may be restricted. For example, if there is an anticipated large number of students registering to attend a trial the lower age may be excluded. This may mean 10 year olds may not be considered eligible in a 12&U team selection trial or 13, 14, 15 year olds may not be considered eligible to trial in a senior team selection trial. The determining of the age eligibility range of a selection trial will be at the discretion of Team Officials and SSACT.

State Team Selection – Qualifying Eligibility

In the sports of Swimming, Cross Country and Track and Field, students must compete at, and qualify for State Team selection from, the relevant 12&U or 13&O ACT Championship. Students who do not compete at these ACT Championship events will not be considered eligible for selection. There is no exemption process for selection consideration for those who are absent due to a school, other sport or family commitment, injury or suffering from illness.

Gender Eligibility

School Sport ACT, as a member of School Sport Australia, supports their Transgender Participation Position statement, which is as follows;

School Sport Australia acknowledges the National Guidelines for the inclusion of transgender and diverse people in sport developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission in partnership with Sport Australia and the Coalition of Major Professional and Participation Sports, whilst acknowledging and respecting that each of School Sport Australia's member bodies (the Education Departments in each State and Territory) have their own policies, rules, guidelines and protocols on transgender and gender diverse students.

The National Guidelines can be accessed at: www.sportaus.gov.au/transgender.

SSACT supports the participation of transgender students who identify themselves with a gender differing from their gender at birth. SSACT will respect and recognise the transgender student's gender identification and will address each circumstance individually and on a needs' basis.

As School Sport Australia and School Sport ACT competitions are currently based on age and gender divisions, students identifying as non-binary must choose a gender division to compete.