

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

2009/10 SMARTER THAN SMOKING COUNTRY SPORT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Department of Sport and Recreation (DSR), in partnership with Healthway, has provided a scholarship scheme for talented regional athletes called the Smarter than Smoking (STS) Country Sport Scholarship program since 1995. In this time, approximately 3000 sub elite athletes have been assisted by a total investment of over \$2 million in their pursuit of State and National team selection.

The key aim of the STS program is to increase opportunities for young sub elite regional athletes to access sport participation and talent development pathways and to act as community role models through a scholarship incentive scheme. The program objectives are to increase country representation in State and National teams and to develop elite athletes within a regional setting.

DSR, in consultation with the Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS), State sporting associations (SSAs) and Regional sporting associations, has identified that coordinated and integrated pathways and support programs are critical to the development of talented athletes. With this in mind, DSR conducted a strategic and operational review of the STS program over the last year to ensure that management and delivery of the program is contemporary, that it meets the needs of talented regional athletes and is of value to sport.

Regional athletes will now be selected on a state-wide basis against a set of performance categories that are designed to provide a pathway from a STS scholarship into a regional academy like the South West Academy of Sport and into the elite environment at WAIS. Talented athlete's residing long distances from Perth require additional support to offset financial demands associated with travelling these distances (mainly by air). Consequently, a new grant program called the Isolated Athlete Scheme will be introduced this year to regional athletes who fall within this scenario.

As part of the Department's integrated approach to athlete development, STS athletes will also be supported in their development of life skills that are essential to balancing sport and life. DSR and WAIS have developed the Gifted Athlete Program (GAP) which is designed to assist talented sub elite athletes to gain personal development skills through the National Athlete Career and Education (ACE) program. STS athletes will have the opportunity to learn about nutrition, time management and goal setting, planning and managing transitions, drugs in sport, development self awareness, athlete leadership and their sporting pathway.

DSR is committed to developing its talented regional athletes and the STS Country Sport Scholarships program provides an opportunity for regional athletes to access training, competitions, development camps, coaches and facilities to improve their performance and assist them to represent Western Australia and ultimately, Australia.

**APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 5PM FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2009 TO YOUR NEAREST
DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION REGIONAL OFFICE**

It is essential that all applicants read and understand the guidelines to ensure that they provide themselves with the best opportunity to be successful in being awarded a scholarship.

SELECTION CRITERIA

A: Performance Categories

Athletes will be selected for scholarships on a state-wide basis disregarding all regional boundaries. Athletes must meet one of the four performance categories to be eligible for a scholarship:

Performance Category	Level	Description
1	International – Sub elite	<p>Athlete has been selected to represent Australia in an international event as an individual athlete or as part of a National 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>
2	Emerging International – Sub elite	<p>Athlete has been selected in a national talent squad program, National 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>
3	National – Sub elite	<p>Athlete has been selected to represent Western Australia in a national 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>
4	Emerging National – Sub elite	<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 fully sanctioned national event in the next 1 – 2 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>

Ineligible include:

- National/ State representation teams, talent squads, training squads and/ or touring teams **not** selected/ endorsed by the NSO/ SSA.
- Specific population National/ State representation teams, talent squads, training squads and/ or touring teams e.g. University Games, National/ State Country and/ or National/ State School Girls/Boys, **not** selected/ endorsed by the NSO/ SSA.
- Events where the athlete has chosen to represent Australia/ Western Australia in an event they have qualified or nominated for and has **not** been selected by the NSO/ SSA.

B: Isolated Athlete Scheme

Athletes who **permanently** reside in a town greater than 500km from Perth may be eligible for additional support through the Isolated Athlete Scheme:

Isolated Athlete Category	Distance from Perth CBD
A	Above the 26 th Parallel e.g. Broome, Carnarvon, Exmouth, Karratha, Port Hedland
B	Over 700km e.g. Meekatharra, Leonora, Esperance, Wiluna
C	Over 500km e.g. Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Kalbarri

ELIGIBILITY

Athletes must:

- Meet the criteria in one of the four performance categories;
- Be an Australian citizen or permanent resident;
- Be aged 13 – 21 years (as at 1 July 2009)*
- Permanently reside in the one of the Western Australian State government’s regional areas (**athletes who attend boarding school or university in Perth are ineligible**);
- Be a current registered member of a club or association that is affiliated with the SSA and the SSA is currently funded by DSR;
- Demonstrate, through past performance, the ability to improve performance to a high level; and
- Be endorsed by the National Sporting Organisation or SSA.

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

Important Information:

- Applications from SSAs and region/ association/ club/ sporting organisations who have outstanding DSR grants (of any form) will **not** be considered eligible unless these are reconciled prior to short-listing of athletes.
- **Retrospective funding will not be considered.** Activities outlined in the athlete training and competition plan must occur within the 12 month scholarship period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. Activities outside of the timeframe will be deemed ineligible.
- Coaches, officials, administrators, support personnel and practitioners are not eligible.

What can a STS scholarship be used for?

STS scholarships can be used to offset costs that support the athlete’s daily training environment including:

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

What is not supported by a STS scholarship?

STS scholarships cannot be used to offset the following costs:

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

These costs may be included in the Athlete Budget as a financial contribution by the athlete or another source.

Additional scholarship / funding disclosure

Athletes may receive assistance from more than one source i.e. WAIS scholarship, South West Academy of Sport (SWAS), local government funding, State sporting association etc. as long as there is no surplus income or duplication on the program submitted.

Athletes must disclose, in the application form, any additional source(s) of income, type of support, what the funding will be used for and the value of the income.

Athletes who receive any of the above assistance are **not** guaranteed a STS scholarship.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

- Applications must be supported and submitted by an incorporated body including State sporting association/ regional association/ club/ sporting organisation on behalf of the athlete.
- Applications must be submitted on the endorsed application form and all sections must be completed.
- Only one scholarship per athlete will be provided in a financial year.
- Scholarships will be paid to the applicant sporting organisation, not to the individual athlete.
- **All outstanding scholarships must be acquitted prior to any further applications being considered.**
- Management of all scholarships will principally be the responsibility of the SSA/ region/association/ club/ sporting organisation. They must certify they have the capacity to provide support for the athlete and manage, report and acquit the scholarship.
- Applicant organisations should read and understand the application guidelines. The applicant organisation makes a commitment to the athlete and the program in signing the application.
- Applicant organisations should assist the athlete in completion of the Application Form. Organisations should not complete the form without the athlete being present. Athletes need to be aware of the commitment they make in submitting an application.
- All applications must be lodged at a Department of Sport and Recreation Regional Office before 5pm on the published closing date. **No late applications will be accepted.**
- DSR reserves the right to initiate a scholarship at any time outside of the annual application period.

Funding Framework

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 athlete will be determined upon a range of considerations including, but not limited to, the athlete's performance category, additional support received, training and competition commitments, travel and accommodation requirements and distance located from Perth. The funding framework is as follows:

Performance Categories

Performance Category	Level	<u>Funding Examples</u>
1	International – Sub elite	Up to \$2000
2	Emerging International – Sub elite	Up to \$1500
3	National – Sub elite	Up to \$1000
4	Emerging National – Sub elite	\$500-\$750

Isolated Athlete Scheme

Isolated Athlete Category	Distance from Perth CBD	<u>Funding Examples</u>
A	Above the 26 th Parallel	Up to \$1,500
B	Over 700km	Up to \$1,000
C	Over 500km	\$500 - \$750

Important Information:

- **Flexibility in the application of this funding framework may be considered by DSR.**
- **Scholarship amounts are subject to overall budget and availability of funds.**

Selection Process

1) Regional Assessment

- 9 Regional Assessment panels in each State government regional area will review, assess and recommend scholarships for their region to the State-wide Assessment Panel.*
- Regional Assessment panels will consist of a range of representatives from DSR, Local Government, Regional Sporting Associations, Local Community and/or Sporting Clubs.

*** Note: Athletes recommended by a Regional Assessment Panel are not guaranteed a STS scholarship.**

2) State-wide Assessment

- DSR will consult with the NSO and / or the SSA to confirm that the information about the athlete's performance level is accurate (if required) and seek a priority ranking of athletes.
- A State-wide Assessment panel will review, assess and recommended scholarships from each Regional Assessment panel to ensure consistency across the application of the selection criteria and funding framework.
- The State-wide Assessment panel will consist of a range of representatives from DSR, WAIS, SSAs, Regional associations/ organisations and/ or sporting clubs.
- The State-wide Assessment Panel's decision is final and no appeal regarding a decision will be entered into.

3) Notification

- Athletes will be notified whether their application has been successful or not by their local DSR Regional Office by the end of September.