

QBE Swifts Academy

Selection Policy for 2027 Programs

As at 10 August 2026

Vision

QBE Swifts Academy leading the way in Australian netball in creating cultures of excellence that will result in NSW Swifts with a full roster of home grown athletes and inspiring young athletes throughout NSW to strive to achieve their netball dream.

Purpose

- Working in partnership with Netball NSW and Netball Australia to maximise results.
- QBE Swifts Academy have independence and autonomy in creating programs and culture.
- establish a performance support framework that is progressive and holistic and provides the right support to athletes at the right time.
- Provide a program that includes strength and conditioning, physiotherapy, physical competency testing, performance analysis and athlete wellbeing.
- Implement technical and tactical programs to impact athlete performance.

Application of the policy, processes and procedures outlined in this document will ensure:

- That NSW athletes who demonstrate high performance potential and desire have the support to progress on the NSW performance pathway and ultimately be contracted into the SSN competition
- That NSW Swifts have a succession plan for NSW talent to be contracted into their teams
- An alignment of long-term athlete development across all Netball NSW performance programs
- Transparency in process

Selection

1 Athlete eligibility

1.1 To be eligible for selection athletes must:

- a) Be a current financial member of Netball NSW
- b) Aged between 18yrs (born 2009) and 25 (born 2002)
- c) Reside in NSW
- d) Be strong performers in the Netball NSW Premier League competition, State Teams, Emerging programs or similar standard programs

1.2 Netball NSW may grant an exemption to an ineligible player if that player has clear potential to be considered a future SSN player.

2 QBE Swifts Academy

The selection process requires panels to assess the perceived standard of an individual player against the criteria set by the QBE Swifts Academy. It is acknowledged that despite the experience and expertise of the selection panels there is an element of subjectivity. There will be extremely difficult choices to be made which will require the Selection Panel to exercise their discretion and judgement. Providing the Panel has properly followed the Policy below and exercised their discretion and judgement in good faith, the Panel will have fulfilled its obligations under this Policy.

2.1 QBE Swifts Academy will offer up to 10 athlete scholarships by Date October 2, 2026. This number of athletes will exclude Training Partners, however dates for Training Partners is at the discretion of the club.

2.2 Subject to clause 3.11, the QBE Swifts will not invite additional athletes to train or join their programs on a regular basis.

2.3 Non-scholarship athletes and Waratah Academy (EAP) athletes may be invited to participate in Academy training sessions from time to time at the request of the Academy Head Coaches or Academy Performance Managers with GM Performance & Pathways. Where possible, consideration should be given to EAP athletes or athletes who submitted an expression of interest for their Academy and were not selected.

2.4 If the maximum number of athletes were not contracted, they may offer a scholarship to an athlete who submitted an expression of interest to the Academy to join their Academy program at a later time.

2.5 The Executive General Manager must notify the General Manager Performance & Pathways of any proposed changes to the approved Squad prior to an offer of scholarship.

- 2.6 If they did not select the maximum number of athletes and identify a player with SSN potential outside of the recruitment period who did not submit an expression of interest for their Academy the Executive General Manager must seek approval from the General Manager Performance & Pathways prior to an offer of scholarship.
- 2.7 The Academy is allowed to request the inclusion of up to two (2) overage athletes. These athletes will be counted in the Academy's final roster only if their inclusion is deemed necessary for development of their academy with future SSN potential. This request with need to be sent to NNSW CEO & GM Performance & Pathways.
- 2.8 Any athlete within the Waratah Academy (EAP) group can be asked to attend a training session where required throughout the year in consultation with the General Manager of Performance & Pathways.
- 2.9 These athletes will stop training with the EAP group after the 2027 Nationals unless they are selected in a Netball Australia squad for 2027/28.
- 2.10 Where an athlete who currently holds a scholarship in an Academy sustains a significant injury they can be invited to remain in the Academy for 1 year to access rehabilitation and return to court support. This athlete can be additional to the maximum number of 10 athletes.

Scholarship period

- 2.11 The date for finalisation of the Academy programs will be determined by the Academy when the 2027 competition and National Camp schedules have been finalised.
- 2.12 Categorised athletes will remain part of the Waratah Academy unless they hold a scholarship with the Academy, in which case the Academy will work collaboratively to support the ongoing development of the athlete.

3 Expression of interest

- 3.1 All athletes wishing to be considered for selection into the QBE Swifts Academy must submit an expression of interest to Netball NSW.
- 3.2 Athletes currently on scholarship are also required to complete an Expression of Interest.
- 3.3 Expression of Interest applications will open on September 4, 2026 and will close on September 18, 2026.
- 3.4 Expressions of Interest applications submitted after the EOI period should be submitted to the General Manager Performance & Pathways for consideration.
- 3.5 It should be noted that late submissions will limit the ability of selection panels to assess their performance (as outlined in clause 7).
- 3.6 The process for submitting an Expression of Interest registration will be available on the Netball NSW website.

- 3.7 All submissions will be collected and collated by the Netball NSW Performance & Pathways General Manager and reports will be forwarded to the QBE Swifts Academy on a weekly basis during the EOI period.

4 Assessment

- 4.1 The QBE Swifts Academy will determine the assessment criteria for selection into their Academies.
- 4.2 The selection panels will also consider previous performance.
- 4.3 The QBE Swifts Academy selection panels are not obliged to provide feedback to athletes.

5 Renewal and release of current scholarship athletes

- 5.1 The QBE Swifts Academy selection panels can offer to renew the scholarship of any athlete currently in their Academy for 1 year in the period from September 4, 2026.
- 5.2 Once an athlete has signed a 2027 athlete agreement, the renewal process is complete. Once an athlete has signed the 2027 Athlete Agreement, each Academy is required to forward the signed agreement to the GM Performance & Pathways.

6 Recruiting period

- 6.1 Final squad lists be submitted to the Netball NSW General Manager Performance & Pathways no later than COB October 4, 2025.

7 Review and update of policy and process in 2027

2027 SSN Academies - Selection timeline

9.00am-Friday 4 Sep	Expression of Interest Open
5pm -Friday 18 Sep	Expression of Interest Close
Open Friday 4 Oct - Close Sunday 4 Oct	Recruitment period Academy Coaches can offer a scholarship to: - Current athletes a renewal of scholarship for 1 year - Current athletes who have not already been renewed - Athletes from the alternate Academy that have not had scholarship renewed - Athletes that have submitted an EOI for their Academy
Friday 9 October	Final selection Squads sent to Board and athletes advised