

# ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY POLICY

## Policy Statement

The Northern Inland Academy of Sport services a region bounded by the Local Government Areas of Armidale Regional, Glen Innes Severn, Gunnedah, Gwydir, Inverell, Liverpool Plains, Moree Plains, Narrabri, Tamworth Regional, Tenterfield, Uralla, and Walcha.

To be deemed eligible to access an Academy program an athlete must either:

- a. Reside in the Academy region; or
- b. Attend a school located in the Academy region; or
- c. Be registered and competing with an association/state affiliate which has its base within the Academy region.

**NOTE:** Athletes involved in the NSWIS Emerging Athlete Program or PURSU32+ are eligible to apply for a program with the Academy.

Discretionary eligibility may also be provided to athletes outside the qualification area subject to approval from the Chief Executive Officer, following consultation with the appropriate bordering Academy of Sport.

## Guidelines

1. Athletes are required to be registered with an SSO affiliated association, club or similar at the time of their selection for the following reasons:
  - 1.1 Academy programs exist to assist an athlete's progress along the athlete pathway for their sport. If an athlete is not registered with the relevant SSO they are ineligible to progress along the pathway, and therefore should not be in the Academy program.
  - 1.2 Athletes participating in Academy programs are covered by insurance through their sport registration and the NIAS insurance policy. Therefore, athletes who are not registered with the SSO are not covered by insurance if they should sustain an injury during their time with the Academy.
2. An Association's base is deemed to be the facility at which the association conducts its activities. The base of sports that do not have one primary facility will be defined as that sport's postal address.
3. In the event that an athlete ceases to meet the eligibility criteria after being initially accepted into the program, the Academy will review the athlete's eligibility with a view to determining if he/she should be permitted to continue in the program. In the event that there is a dispute regarding eligibility, the matter should be referred to the NIAS Board for consideration.

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