



TRIAL INFORMATION AND SELECTION GUIDELINES

Updated: 28 January 2026

Phone :
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Website :
www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic

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Australian Football, 12 Years and Under, Boys

The School Sport Australia (SSA) 12 Years and Under Australian Football Championships will be held in **Canberra, Australian Capital Territory** from **Sunday, 02 August to Sunday, 09 August 2026**.

Prior to Registration:

This pathway is highly competitive and intended for students who are already performing at an advanced representative level beyond local competition. It is **not** designed as a developmental, preparatory, or 'come and try' opportunity.

Student Eligibility:

Please notify your School Principal or Physical Education teacher of your intention to register for this team. Each school can endorse up to 3 students to participate in the selection trials. If there are more than 3 students registered from your child's school, your child may not be selected to trial. A refund of your registration will then be provided. For further information, please read the guidance contained in the [Student Endorsement Process](#).

Age Eligibility:

- 12 years and under as of 31 December 2026 (born in 2015 or 2014).
- Students who are born in 2013 or 2016 are not eligible to trial.

SSV Member Schools:

- Trialling for Team Vic is only possible if your child's school is a financial member of School Sport Victoria (SSV) for 2026.
- SSV will contact you if the school your child attends is not a financial member.
- For more information about your child's school region, please [click here](#).

Trials Progression:

- Trial participants are required to begin their selection trial process at the Stage 1 - Region Trials.
- Participants will be allocated to the most suitable trial venue based on their school location.
- Participants will be notified if they have progressed to the next Stage.

State Selection:

- To be considered for selection, a student must meet the requirements in the selection guidelines.
- A maximum of **20** players will be selected for the team.
- Up to **4** non travelling emergency players may be selected and offered the opportunity to train with the selected team.
- Selection is not confirmed until school's endorse their student's participation in the SSA Championships as a representative of their school and SSV.



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| STAGE 1 - REGION TRIALS | |
|---|---|
| Eastern Metropolitan Region Thursday, 26 March Time: TBC Reicheks Reserve, George St and Victoria St, Doncaster East, VIC 3109 | Gippsland Region Thursday, 2 April Time: TBC Morwell Recreation Reserve, Travers St, Morwell, VIC 3840 |
| Greater Western Region Monday, 30 March 10:00am – 12:00pm Coughlin Park, 14 Hamilton St, Horsham VIC 3400 | Hume Region Monday, 30 March 10:00am – 2:00pm HP Barr Reserve Oval 1 or 2, 41 Schilling Dr, Wangaratta, VIC 3677 |
| Loddon Mallee Region Wednesday, 25 March 12:00pm – 2:00pm Harry Trott Reserve, Neale St, Kennington, VIC 3550 | Northern Metropolitan Region Tuesday, 31 March 8:30am – 2:30pm Anthony Beale Reserve, 277 St Helena Rd, Greensborough, VIC 3088 |
| Southern Metropolitan Region Thursday, 26 March 9:00am – 2:30pm Belvedere Reserve, 151 East Rd, Seaford, VIC 3198 | Western Metropolitan Region Tuesday, 24 March 9:00am – 2:30pm Saltwater Reserve, 1-5 Saltwater Promenade, Point Cook, VIC 3030 |
| Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to a total of 25 students may progress to the next stage per region. These numbers are subject to the discretion of SSV and may be altered without notice. | |
| STAGE 2 - CONFERENCE TRIALS | |
| Country Regions – Conference Trial Sunday, 17 May 9:00am – 3:00pm Venue: TBC (will be in metropolitan Melbourne) | |
| Metropolitan Regions – Conference Trial Monday, 18 May 9:00am – 3:00pm Venue: TBC (will be in metropolitan Melbourne) | |
| Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student progression numbers to the next stage are subject to the discretion of SSV and may be altered without notice. | |



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STAGE 3 - STATE TRIALS

State Trial #1 (Combined Conferences)

Tuesday, 26 May

9:00am – 3:00pm

Venue: TBC (will be in metropolitan Melbourne)

State Trial #2 (Selection)

Wednesday, 3 June

9:00am – 3:00pm

Venue: TBC (will be in metropolitan Melbourne)

***Note - SSV reserves the right to adjust trial dates, times and venues**

SELECTION GUIDELINES

School Sport Australia Championships consists of both educational and sporting components. Being a member of a School Sport Victoria Team Vic representative team provides the opportunity to be involved in all educational and sporting excursions and aim for national selection.

Team Officials run a selection process that is fair and transparent. This process involves the design of guidelines and trial activities, assessment of players and ensuring students, parents and teachers are made aware of this process.

Team members are required to abide by the following responsibilities:

- Attend all sessions (i.e., including but not limited to training, practise sessions, uniform presentation, team photo, online professional learning sessions etc.,) as deemed compulsory by Team Officials.
- Must be accompanied by a parent/carer to the 2026 Championships. Parent/carer is responsible for the travel, meals and accommodation for themselves and their child.
- Purchase the compulsory uniform (approx. \$300.00 - \$450.00)
- Complete and return all team documentation to the Team Manager by the due date.
- Pay all team fees by the due date (approx. \$800.00 - \$1300.00)
- Attend all SSA Championship sessions, including the opening and closing ceremonies and the championship team experience as per the [SSA Championship Attendance Policy](#).
- Recognise that the SSA Championships are school activities, and the decision-making regarding each team member's participation in those activities or in preparation for those activities, is the responsibility of the Team Officials.
- Be respectful of the role of the Team Officials in making decisions regarding each team member's participation in SSA Championship activities or other preparation activities.
- Follow and comply with any health or safety advice that is issued.



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Guidelines for selectors

- Appropriate playing time to assess each trialist - selection is based on trial performance.
- Trialists must participate in at least one stage of the selection trial process to be considered eligible for selection.
- Where a student is unable to attend a trial, a request for an exemption is to be approved by SSV for the student to remain eligible. For further information about exemptions, please refer to the State Teams Trial Exception Policy.
- Where a student has progressed to the final state trial, they must be in attendance to be considered eligible for selection.
- Team officials reserve the right to select a player who is injured or unavailable due to an approved reason during the trial process for reasons applicable to the State Teams Trial Exception Policy. Players who are part of this process may be required to provide a statutory declaration and / or medical certificate and may also be required to attend the trial process.
- Where there may be a perceived or actual conflict of interest such as: trial coordinators assessing the selection of a friend or relative, this must be communicated to SSV and a plan to manage the conflict will be developed and implemented.
- Consider team composition so players from the same school or team are not advantaged over individual representatives.
- Where appropriate, concentrate on selecting players with generic skills rather than players for specific positions.
- Team balance is critical to selection of the final squad.

Selectors are looking for:

- Strong ball control, safe hands / feet
- Agility, balance, poise
- Solid attacking / defensive skills
- Knowledgeable positional and tactical play
- Concentration and focus during play
- Positive on and off field behaviour
- Strong sense of team spirit / good sportsmanship
- Ability to communicate / cooperate with teammates / Team Officials
- Understands rules of the game
- Adequate level of fitness
- Ability to follow instructions
- Ability to control emotions
- Leadership skills
- Carry out above skills under pressure
- Ability to listen to advice
- Team player



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