



# TRIAL INFORMATION AND SELECTION GUIDELINES

Phone : (03) 9084 9001

Website : [www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic](http://www.ssv.vic.edu.au/team-vic)

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Updated: 14 April 2026

## Hockey, 12 Years and Under Boys

The School Sport Australia (SSA) 12 Years and Under Hockey Championships will be held in **Newcastle, NSW** from **Sunday, 25 October to Friday, 30 October 2026**.

### Age Eligibility:

- 12 years and under as of 31 December 2026 (born 2014, 2015 or 2016).

### 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.

### Trials Progression:

- Trial participants are required to participate in all stages of the selection trial process.

### State Selection:

- To be considered for selection, a student must meet the requirements in the selection guidelines.
- A maximum of **14** 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 schools endorse their student's participation in the SSA Championships as a representative of their school and SSV.

#### STAGE 1

**Saturday, 30 May**

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Venue: Essendon Hockey Club – 1 Hockey Lane, Ascot Vale 3032 (Pitch 1)

#### STAGE 2

**Saturday, 13 June**

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Venue: Essendon Hockey Club – 1 Hockey Lane, Ascot Vale 3032 (Pitch 2)

#### STAGE 3

**Saturday, 20 June**

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Venue: Essendon Hockey Club – 1 Hockey Lane, Ascot Vale 3032 (Pitch 2)

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



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## 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.

### 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.



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- 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:**

- Stick skills – hitting, pushing, one-on-one skills, receiving passes, tackling and specialist skills (trapping, drag flick, toss)
- Receiving the ball – trapping, leading into space, tackling skills, vision (including the ability to see passes, a move ahead, good peripheral vision, etc...)
- Balance – over the ball, when moving towards the ball, when hitting, trapping and receiving a pass
- Decision making – distribution of the ball, communication, positioning to receive a pass, marking a player etc.
- Elimination skills – including commitment to the ball
- Solid attacking and defensive skills
- Pitch awareness plus flexibility/adaptability (demonstrate the ability to play in a number of positions)
- Knowledgeable – positional / tactical play / game play awareness
- Temperament – teamwork, cooperation, focus, concentration, enthusiasm, communication with teammates through the use of verbal and signal communications



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