



TRIAL INFORMATION AND SELECTION GUIDELINES

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Australian Football, 14 Years & Under Boys

The School Sport Australia (SSA) 14 Years & Under Boys Australian Football Championships will be held in **Melbourne, VIC** from **Saturday, 25 July to Friday, 31 July 2026**.

Age Eligibility:

- 14 years and under as of 31 December 2026 (born 2012 or 2013).

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 attend all stages of the selection trial process.
- Due to the high number of trialists expected to register, there is not an option to change the trial date or venue selected by the family during the registration process - please choose carefully.
- Start times for trials will be allocated at random - there is not an option to change the allocation.
- Trial times will be communicated to all registered participants by email from the Trial Coordinators.
- 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.
- In 2026, SSV will fill the remaining place in the competition draw. There will be two teams selected for this Championship - Blue and White.
- A maximum of **25** players will be selected for each team - **50** players in total.
- Up to **4** non travelling emergency players may be selected and offered the opportunity to train with the selected teams.
- Selection is not confirmed until school's endorse their student's participation in the SSA Championships as a representative of their school and SSV.

STAGE 1 - CONFERENCE TRIALS	
Saturday, 28 March 8:30am - 3:00pm approx. Eastern Ranges Football Club 95 Colchester Rd, Kilsyth VIC 3137	Sunday, 29 March 8:30am - 3:00pm approx. Bungaree Recreation Reserve Bungaree-Wallace Rd, Bungaree VIC 3352
Tuesday, 7 April 8:30am - 3:00pm approx. Crofts Reserve Blackshaws Rd, Altona North VIC 3025	Wednesday, 8 April 8:30am - 3:00pm approx. Officer Recreation Reserve (Robert Porter) Starling Rd & Princes Hwy, Officer VIC 3809
STAGE 2 - STATE TRIALS	
Trial 1 - Sunday, 26 April 8:30am - 3:00pm approx. Xavier College 135 Barkers Rd, Kew VIC 3101	Trial 2 - Sunday, 10 May 8:30am - 3:00pm approx. Xavier College 135 Barkers Rd, Kew VIC 3101

***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
- Team officials / Trial coordinators / Team selectors reserve the right to not require a player to participate in any trial stage if they deem it to be unnecessary.
- 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:

- High standards in the basics of marking, handballing, and kicking
- Proficiency handballing and kicking with both sides of the body
- Strong, fair attack on the football with an ability to win possession
- Ability to read the play, positioning themselves where they are of best value to the team





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- Strong defensive skills such as tackling, smothering and blocking
- Ability to play at high intensity for a prolonged period
- Developed ability to dispose of the football to the benefit of teammates
- 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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