

Your local club



REGIONAL
ACADEMY
GAMES

2025

OFFICIAL PROGRAM



HOSTED BY



NORTHERN INLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT

WELCOME MESSAGE

NSW GOVERNMENT

On behalf of the NSW Office of Sport, it is my pleasure to officially welcome you to the Northern Inland Region and the city of Tamworth for the 2025 Your Local Club Academy Games. A highlight on the calendar for many of our aspiring regional athletes, each year the Games brings together the NSW Regional Academies of Sport (RAS) to compete and participate in an environment that promotes high standards in competition, respect and responsibility.

Nearly 2000 of the most talented young athletes from across NSW from the eleven Regional Academies of Sport will showcase their talents at this year's Games. It will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the wonderful efforts of the dedicated coaches and support staff that play an integral role in the development and success of these athletes.

At the Office of Sport we are proud to support the Games as part of our long-standing investment in regional academies. Off the back of an incredibly successful Olympic and Paralympic year, and as we move towards Brisbane 2032, we understand the importance of providing opportunities for the development of athletes in our regional communities and achieving sporting success across our athlete pathways.

The RAS play an important role in the sport performance pathways, providing education and advancement opportunities for local athletes, coaches and officials, and leveraging community support for sport across the State.

To all participants competing in this year's Games, I wish you the best of luck and hope that you have an incredible and memorable experience. To all the incredible carers and parents who provide support to the athletes, I hope you get to enjoy the special moments.

Adam Berry
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Office of Sport



WELCOME MESSAGE

REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

It is with great pleasure and on behalf of all 11 Regional Academies of Sport (RAS) that I welcome everyone to the 2025 Your Local Club Academy Games.

Events like this are crucial for the future sporting endeavors of our athletes and the sporting reputation of New South Wales. Our state has a deep love for sport and a strong reputation for hosting world-class sporting events. The Regional Academies are excited to welcome almost 2000 athletes to Tamworth for the next three days of competition.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Northern Inland Academy of Sport for hosting this fantastic event. I am confident we will witness some outstanding competition at some of the state's best venues and facilities.

In addition to the exciting line-up of sporting events planned to unite athletes and supporters, you will also have the chance to witness the enthusiasm and talent of the youth from regional NSW.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers and other non-playing supporters. Your contributions are vital to the success of sport at all levels. Without the dedication of coaches, managers, volunteers, and sports science personnel, events like this would not be possible.

RAS is delighted to once again acknowledge the generous support of ClubsNSW (Your Local Club) as the principal partner of the games. This year we also celebrate 20 years of this fantastic partnership; to ClubsNSW, thank you for your ongoing support over the past 2 decades. Also a big thank you to the NSW Government through the Office of Sport for their continued backing and strategic leadership in providing opportunities for regional athletes. We also extend our appreciation to Tamworth Regional Council, Regional Australia Bank, the University of New England for their support, together with Tamworth City Toyota, Wests Entertainment and media partners NBN and Super Radio Network (92.9FM, 2TM).

Finally, on behalf of the RAS, I wish all participants the best in their chosen sporting events. I trust we will see fair, hard-fought, and exciting competition in the days to come. The Your Local Club Academy Games offers a unique opportunity for regional athletes to showcase their skills, and I hope many will progress to higher levels of competition. Good luck to everyone involved.

Brett O'Farrell
Chairperson
Regional Academy of Sport Inc



WELCOME MESSAGE

NORTHERN INLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT

On behalf of the Northern Inland Academy of Sport, I would like to warmly welcome all athletes, families, carers, coaches, support personnel and supporters to Tamworth, the host of this year's Your Local Club Academy Games, our first of three.

The Northern Inland Academy of Sport covers 12 local government areas within the beautiful New England North West region of NSW. The region is a powerhouse in agriculture, a strong commercial hub, a fantastic place to live and bring up a family and is synonymous with sporting achievements in many disciplines. Tamworth, the Capital of Country, is a vibrant, dynamic city, renowned equally for its country music and its booming agricultural and commercial industries as much as its outstanding sports achievements and facilities. It is also surrounded by many unique and interesting communities which are also worth a visit. I hope your time in Tamworth and the Northern Inland for the games is both rewarding and enjoyable.

The Your Local Club Academy Games is the signature event on the Regional Academies of Sport annual calendar – providing many of the most talented emerging athletes from the 11 Regional Academies within NSW the opportunity to experience competition at the highest level and advance in their chosen sport. I sincerely thank our partner regional academies and guest academies for the support they have shown to again deliver a platform from which the games can grow. We could not begin to undertake this significant event without our valued partners who continue to contribute generously to provide such opportunities to our youth. I would like to especially acknowledge and thank our principal partner of the Your Local Club Academy Games, ClubsNSW in their 20th year of this partnership with the Regional Academies of Sport, as well as our other major event partners in NSW Government Office of Sport, Tamworth Regional Council, University of New England, Regional Australia Bank, and associate partners Wests Entertainment Group, NBN TV, Super Radio Network (92.9 FM & 2TM), Tamworth City Toyota and Pro-Active Physiotherapy.

I would also like to pay tribute to our Regional Academies of Sport executive, program managers, communications and administrative staff, along with our volunteer coaches and support personnel for the enormous amount of time and effort on and off the field. It is often their guidance, dedication and passion that inspires our junior athletes to progress through the pathways and delivers the high standards we will witness across the games.

Wishing all athletes, coaches and support personnel all the very best for this event. I trust you have an enjoyable experience and return to the Tamworth and wider Northern Inland region in the future.

Mr Chris Ash
Chairperson
Northern Inland Academy of Sport

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RAS SPORT CONVENORS

Basketball: Stephen Craig (SWSAS), Joel Martelli (IAS), Ian Robilliard (CCAS)

Golf: Brett O'Farrell (HAS) & D'Arcy Van Den Bossche (NCAS)

Hockey: Gerry Knights, (SWSAS) & Jamie Hetherington (NCAS)

Netball: Clare Green (FWAS) & Mark Calverley (SSA)

Cycling (MTB): Candice Boggs (WRAS), Dan Bunyan (WRAS) & Roxanne Wain (HAS)

Triathlon: Emily Burgess-Moore (CCAS), Jared Kahlefeldt (SSA) & Annie Gallacher (NIAS)

Softball: Gerry Knights (SWSAS) & Dave Ferguson (CCAS)

Indoor Volleyball: Salv Carmusciano (IAS)



A photograph of two young women celebrating. They are wearing dark blue athletic tops with pink and white star patterns and blue medals around their necks. The woman on the left is holding a large, multi-tiered trophy. Both women have their arms raised in the air, and they are smiling broadly. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a person in a blue shirt.

**Where celebration
belongs**

Your local club

Celebrating 20 years of supporting
the Academy Games.

A THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS



Your local club

Your Local Club

Registered clubs in NSW have long-supported the Academy Games since the competition's inception back in 2005. NSW clubs contribute \$65 million to junior sport every year with many young athletes starting their sporting dream with the encouragement and support from their local club. Your local club is proud to be the Principal Partner once again this year. ***This year we are celebrating 20 years of partnership with Clubs NSW and the Regional Academies of Sport.***



NSW Government Office of Sport

The Office of Sport works with key sector partners to develop a vibrant and valued sport and active recreation sector that enhances the lives of the people of NSW. The Office is responsible for planning, managing and delivering high quality venues, facilities and sport and active recreation development programs, high performance sport and sports integrity and safety.



Tamworth Regional Council

Tamworth Regional Council is known for its progressive approach and strong community engagement. Located in New South Wales, the council serves a vibrant region that blends city living with rural charm. The council is dedicated to sustainability and provides excellent services, including high-quality medical, transport, and educational facilities.



Regional Australia Bank

Regional Australia Bank is a customer-owned bank dedicated to helping regional Australians achieve their lifestyle goals for over 50 years. Known for its flexible and personable approach, the bank offers a range of financial products, including home loans, personal loans, savings accounts, and credit cards. With a strong focus on community support, Regional Australia Bank reinvests profits into local initiatives, fostering social inclusion and wellbeing across New South Wales and South-East Queensland



The University of New England

The University of New England (UNE) in Armidale, New South Wales, is a leader in providing high-quality education and research. Established as an independent university in 1954, UNE has a strong tradition of distance education, making it accessible to students worldwide. UNE offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs, with a focus on practical and innovative learning experiences. The university is committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive community, helping students achieve their academic and career goals.

REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

HUNTER ACADEMY OF SPORT (HAS)

Commencing operations 34 years ago, HAS is the largest regional Academy with an average of 600 athletes participating in 17 talent development programs annually.

The Hunter region is rich in resources and underpinned by the world's best quality coal, natural water resources, significant electricity generation capacity, an innovative manufacturing sector and a progressive business culture.

The Hunter boasts leading research and education facilities, world class wine and equine industries, vibrant cultural and tourism opportunities, and a quality lifestyle for its population.

HAS is represented by 228 athletes, umpires, coaches and managers at this year's Academy Games across every sport on offer.

NORTH COAST ACADEMY OF SPORT (NCAS)

NCAS' geographic region is vast, extending over 500kms of coastline from its most southern point of Laurieton to Tweed Heads on the Queensland border. The region includes major regional centres such as Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay, Lismore, Ballina, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey and Port Macquarie. The North Coast is home to some of the world's most beautiful beaches and stunning locations for sport and active recreation.

The North Coast is a diverse town-based region and continues to develop high level talent across a wide range of sports. Currently the Academy offers 13 sports programs and will be represented at the Games in Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Netball Umpires, and Triathlon.

NCAS is represented by 165 athletes and 15 coaches and managers at the 2025 YLC Academy Games. In total over 1,500 NCAS athletes, coaches, managers and staff have attended the Academy Games since 2008.

CENTRAL COAST ACADEMY OF SPORT (CCAS)

The Central Coast Academy of Sport (CCAS) was founded in April 2004. Since then the CCAS has built a proud history of success, with over 4,300 scholarships provided to athletes across 22 sporting disciplines, helping to develop numerous state, national, international and professional athletes from the Central Coast.

The CCAS currently provides around 300 scholarships annually across a range of twelve (12) sports program. These include AFL, Athletics, Basketball, Future Stars, Golf, Hockey, Indigenous Talent ID, Netball, Netball Umpires, Swimming, Tennis and Triathlon.

The CCAS has competed at every Your Local Club Academy Games since the games' inception in 2005. This year a total of 135 athletes, umpires, coaches and managers will be back on tour representing the Central Coast with every athlete keen to continue the outstanding success of previous campaigns.



REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

FAR WEST ACADEMY OF SPORT (FWAS)

The Far West Academy of Sport (FWAS) was started back in 1997 and has some unique challenges due to geographic size. It has the largest territorial region of all Academies with a coverage area of 220,000 sq km. and makes up 42% of the state of NSW. Although this area is the largest, it is comprised of the smallest population of all academies with approximately 33,000 residents between its Warren to Broken Hill catchment area.

Currently the academy offers 3 squad sports (Tennis, Netball, Girls and Boys Tackle Rugby League) to developing athletes of our region.

FWAS will be competing in Netball at the Academy Games in 2025.

ILLAWARRA ACADEMY OF SPORT (IAS)

The Illawarra Academy of Sport celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2025, being the first Regional Academy established. Over 8,000 athletes have been awarded an IAS scholarship during this time.

The 2025 cohort comprises 266 scholarship holders across 13 development programs, including 70 individual athletes undertaking our Future Stars program.

The Academy operates through the Illawarra's geographic region comprising the five local government areas of: Kiama, Shellharbour, Shoalhaven, Wingecarribee and Wollongong. Illawarra has a rich history in developing and elevating athletes to higher representative honours.

The IAS has produced 22 Olympians and Paralympians, 21 Commonwealth Games Representatives, 11 World Champions and 75 Senior National Team Representatives since 1985.

At the 2025 Your Local Club Academy Games the IAS will be represented by 130 athletes, coaches and staff across the sports of Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Netball, and Volleyball.

Special mention to the IAS Girls Rugby 7's team that are also competing in The Armidale School Rugby Carnival this weekend.

NORTHERN INLAND ACADEMY OF SPORT (NIAS)

The Northern Inland Academy of Sport has been identifying and developing talented athletes since 1992.

Geographically, NIAS athletes hail from one of the largest rural regions - from the beautiful tablelands of Glen Innes and Armidale to the rich black soil plains of Moree, Narrabri & Gunnedah, and the vibrant hub of its largest city, Tamworth, the Capital of Country. The maroon and golden colours of the region are reflected on the NIAS athletes' uniforms.

In 2025, NIAS offers 9 Sporting programs including Future Stars (individual sports), and will be represented at this year's Your Local Club Academy Games by 104 athletes and 17 Coaches, Managers and staff, across 6 sports: Basketball, Golf, Netball, Netball Umpires, Hockey, Mountain Bike & Triathlon.

NIAS has been supporting regional athletes for over 30 years and during this time more than 4000 athletes, as well as over 500 coaches and volunteers, have been a part of the NIAS community, many continuing on to higher levels of achievement and many more contributing to their respective communities.

2025 marks the first of a three year tenure for NIAS hosting the Your Local Club Academy Games, and they can't wait to show you what Tamworth has to offer.

Northern Inland Academy of Sport

REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

SOUTHERN SPORTS ACADEMY (SSA)

The Southern Sports Academy was the fifth of eleven Regional Academies established across New South Wales.

The Southern Sports Academy was officially opened in July 1992 and since then has successfully provided over 1,000 talented athletes with the expertise to nurture both their sporting prowess and their holistic personal development.

The Southern Sports Academy has currently 180 athletes across 9 sporting programs in their 2025 intake. They have had 11 Olympians, and 60 Athletes represent Australia who have come from the Southern region.

Southern Sports Academy aims to provide those athletes living in Southern NSW with access to high-level of professional resources that are not readily available to athletes in regional areas, therefore trying to eliminate the high cost of their athletes to travel to seek these resources. They cover a large geographical location of 156000 sq kms, spanning over a massive 22 LGA's.

At these games, Southern Sports Academy have representation across Basketball, Netball, Hockey and Golf - and they're looking forward to having continued success at the Academy Games again this year.

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT (SWSAS)

The South West Sydney Academy of Sport currently provides 300 athlete scholarships across 13 varied sport scholarship programs. These programs are supported not only by a strong administration team, but by over 60 volunteer coaching and support staff, who actively coach and support local club and representative association teams in addition to their Academy program commitments.

The South West Sydney Academy of Sport might have one of the smallest geographical regions of the NSW Academies, covering just four Local Government areas of Campbelltown, Camden, Liverpool, and Wollondilly, but it has one of the fastest growing populations, being driven by the new Western Sydney Airport at Bradfield, and ongoing housing developments in the rural areas of Camden and Wollondilly.

In 2025, the South West Sydney Academy of Sport boasts just over 140 athletes, and 45 coach and support staff, with squad teams participating in Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Softball, Triathlon and Volleyball; making this the largest South West Sydney Academy of Sport contingent post-Covid. Athletes and staff are ready and waiting to experience all the Your Local Club Academy Games has to offer and looking forward to the great Tamworth and Country NSW hospitality.

WESTERN REGION ACADEMY OF SPORT (WRAS)

Formed in 1991, the Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) has seen over 4500 athletes awarded scholarships in Academy programs.

Based in the Central West of NSW and covering over 90,000 square kilometres, WRAS is one of the largest geographical academies covering 17 local government areas, with Bathurst, Orange and Dubbo as the major cities in the catchment.

In 2025, WRAS will support over 180 athletes, coaches, and officials across 11 sporting programs. WRAS is represented at this year's Academy Games by 100 athletes, coaches and officials competing in Basketball, Golf, Hockey, Netball and Triathlon.

REGIONAL ACADEMIES OF SPORT

WESTERN SYDNEY ACADEMY OF SPORT (WSAS)

The Western Sydney Academy was established in 2004 and after more than 20 years of successful operation, has provided over 3,800 scholarship opportunities to talented young athletes.

The Academy's catchment includes seven Local Government Areas in Western Sydney and a total population of some 2 million people, a rich vein of talented young sports people who can take advantage of the Academy's development programs.

The Academy offers scholarships across 13 programs including Indigenous Talent, Future Stars, Para Athletes, BMX, Golf, Netball & Netball Umpiring, Volleyball, Softball and Softball Umpiring, Hockey, Rowing and Triathlon with participation of over 260 athletes, 40 volunteers and 37 coaches.

In this year's Academy Games, the Western Sydney Academy has provided a total of 160 athletes across the sports of Golf, Netball, Softball, Hockey, Volleyball and Triathlon and are excited and ready for a weekend of competition and fun with all Regional Academies.

SOUTH EAST SPORTS ACADEMY (SESA)

The South East Sports Academy (SESA) commenced in 2017. SESA provides holistic programs for talented athletes from within the region for Golf, Basketball, Netball, hockey, Snow Sports and Surfing, Talented athletes from other sports are supported via the Individual Athlete Program and the Future Champions Athlete program.

SESA supports athletes and coaches across south-eastern New South Wales, to the immediate north, east and south of the Australian Capital Territory. It covers the NSW local government areas of: Bega Valley, Snowy Monaro, Eurobodalla, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Goulburn-Mulwarree, Yass Valley, Upper Lachlan and Hilltops.

SESA values the role of coaches and is committed to supporting coach development. SESA will be competing in netball, basketball and golf at the Academy Games in 2025.



EVENT SCHEDULE

All draws and event programs are available on academygames.com.au

FRIDAY 11th APRIL

Opening Ceremony: Athletics Track - Tamworth Sports Dome

Basketball: Tamworth Sports Dome

Hockey: Tamworth Hockey Centre

Netball: Tamworth Sports Dome

Indoor Volleyball: Calrossy School, William Cowper Campus

She Hoops Clinic: Tamworth Sports Dome

SATURDAY 12th APRIL

Basketball: Tamworth Sports Dome

Hockey: Tamworth Hockey Centre

Netball: Tamworth Sports Dome

Indoor Volleyball: Calrossy School, William Cowper Campus

Softball: Riverside Softball Complex

Triathlon: Tamworth Town Centre

Golf: Tamworth Golf Club/Long Yard Golf Club

Cycling (MTB): Mt Borah

Pathways In Sport Q&A Panel: Tamworth Sports Dome

SUNDAY 13th APRIL

Basketball: Tamworth Sports Dome

Hockey: Tamworth Hockey Centre

Netball: Tamworth Sports Dome

Indoor Volleyball: Calrossy School, William Cowper Campus

Softball: Riverside Softball Complex

Triathlon: Tamworth Town Centre

Golf: Tamworth Golf Club/Long Yard Golf Club

Cycling (MTB): Tamworth MTB Park



MERCHANDISE

The 2025 Your Local Club Academy Games merchandise will be available for purchase from EVO at the Tamworth Sports Dome across the weekend. All online orders placed pre-event on evosportswear.com.au/academy-games will be available for collection at the Sports Dome.



2025 OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE



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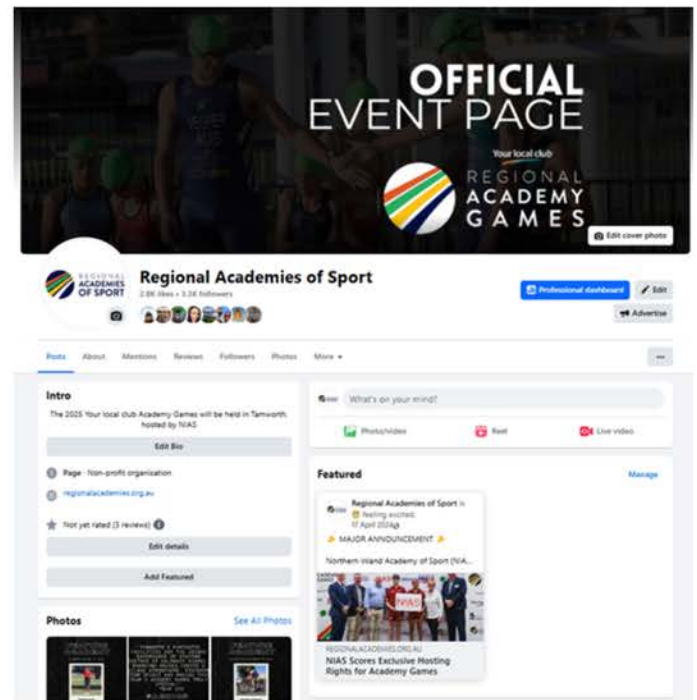
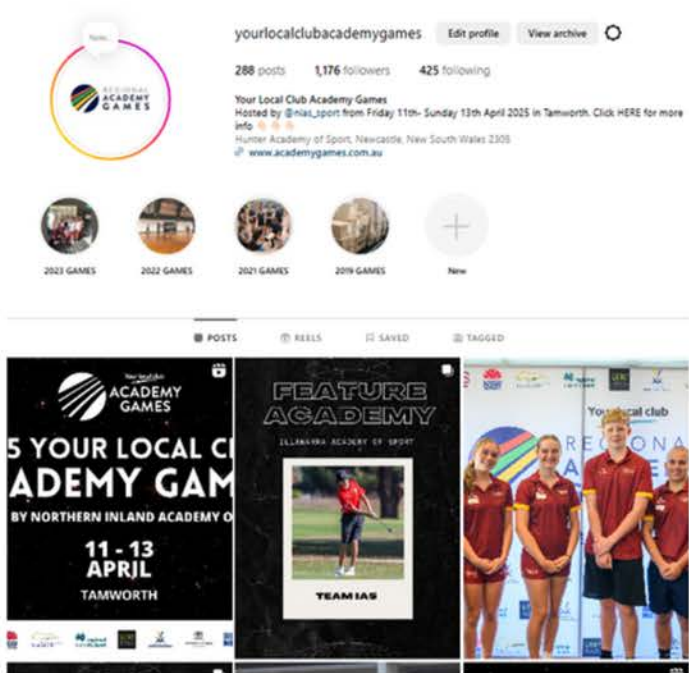


MEDIA COVERAGE

Visit www.academygames.com.au for the latest news, venue information, contact details, draws, and daily results.

You can follow the games on Facebook and Instagram on @yourlocalclubacademygames

The hashtag for the Games is #AG2025 – where you can find pictures, news and articles from the Academy Games weekend.



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ABOUT THE ACADEMY GAMES

In 2025, the [Regional Club Academy Games](#) will be hosted by the [Northern Inland Academy of Sport \(NIA\)](#) from Friday 11th - Sunday 13th April 2025 in Tamworth.

The 2025 Your Local Club Academy Games is a provincial series of the state's most watched sporting events across eight (8) sports including Basketball, Cycling, Golf, Hockey, Netball, Soccer, Surfboard and Triathlon. It's in the spirit of the Your Local Club Academy Games and works with the most local academy to co-ordinate the event.

[Regional Club](#) has been the Principle Partner for the Academy Games since its inception and the Regional Academies of Sport Incorporated is proud to be associated with such a supportive and progressive organisation.

The NSW Government, through the Office of Sport, also provides strong support for the conduct of the Academy Games.

The development of the Academy Games is the first demonstration of the state government's commitment to the NSW sector to deliver tangible benefits to athletes throughout NSW.



PHOTOGRAPHY

We are proud to announce our official photographers for this year's Academy Games:

- **Alpine Films** – Benham Fisher & crew

The photography team will be present throughout the weekend across all events at different times, with the intention of capturing as many squads as possible. Should an athlete not wish to be photographed, please advise the photographer or the event staff.



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