

# ATHLETE ATTENDANCE POLICY

## POLICY STATEMENT

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The Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) expects scholarship holders to be fully committed to the Academy program. Athletes are expected to demonstrate this commitment by having a 100% attendance rate (within reason).

## BACKGROUND

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The Attendance Policy is in line with those of most state teams. The Academy sees its role as preparing athletes to compete at state level, and part of this role is preparing the athlete for the expectations that will be placed upon them.

## GUIDELINES

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1. Attendance at squad training sessions and programmed athlete education sessions is compulsory for all full scholarship Academy athletes, ie athletes must maintain a 100% attendance rate at Academy activities. Squad training sessions that fall over a weekend (Saturday and Sunday) will be considered as two separate training sessions.
2. Under certain circumstances, permission may be granted for an exemption to miss a given session provided prior approval is sought from the WRAS Sports Program Manager. Acceptable circumstances are as follows:
  - 2.1 **Illness or injury:** An athlete may be granted an exemption to miss a session due to illness or injury. For an exemption to be granted the athlete must provide a medical certificate. The athlete may be exempt from participating in the session, but may be asked to attend if it is felt that viewing the session may assist in the athlete's development and will not be detrimental to their health and the health of those at training.
  - 2.2 **Compulsory school activity:** This includes excursions, examinations and other school activities. The athlete should be prepared to provide documentation from the school.
  - 2.3 **Representative sporting honours:** Includes Combined High Schools, Combined Independent Schools, Combined Catholic Schools, and state or national representative commitments. This also includes participation in higher level development programs such as NSWIS and the AIS. The athlete should be prepared to provide documentation from the relevant governing body. If the commitment is in a sport other than the one the athlete is in the Academy for, the Sports Program Manager may refuse the request for an exemption to miss the Academy session.

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- 2.4 Family commitments: An athlete may be granted permission to miss a session to attend a major family event, eg wedding, funeral, annual holiday. The athlete should be prepared to provide a letter explaining reasons for requested non-attendance from a parent / guardian.
3. To be granted an exemption to miss a session an athlete must contact the WRAS Sports Program Manager as soon as they are aware of the clash of dates. The initial determination of the suitability of the reason for non-attendance rests with the Sports Program Manager. In exceptional circumstances, an appeal through the Executive Officer is the appropriate mechanism. The Executive Officer's decision shall be final.
  4. Attendance registers are to be maintained by the Squad Manager of each sport. Should an athlete fail to attend a session without an approved exemption, the Sports Program Manager is to contact the athlete to establish a reason. If no satisfactory reason is able to be given, the athlete will be recorded as having missed an event.
  5. Athletes who miss two sessions, without granted exemptions, will have their scholarship reviewed by the Sports Advisory Committee. In this instance, the athlete will be asked to write a letter of support outlining why they should remain in the WRAS program. The Sports Advisory Committee will take into consideration the reasons for absence before deciding if the athlete should continue with WRAS. The Sports Advisory Committee's decision shall be final.
  6. Athletes who miss two sessions, with granted exemptions for injury or illness, may have their scholarship reviewed by the Sports Advisory Committee in regards to their ability to further commit to the remainder of the program. The Sports Advisory Committee will take into consideration the severity of the athlete's injury or illness, including medical certificates before deciding of the athlete should continue with WRAS. The Sports Advisory Committee's decision shall be final.
  7. If an athlete is removed from the Academy, the Board is to be notified in writing.

Note: if WRAS does not have a Sports Program Manager, the Executive Officer will assume the role.

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