BACKGROUND INFORMATION
INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE PROGRAMS

The Western Region Academy of Sport (WRAS) is a non-profit organisation that assists young athletes from the region to achieve sporting excellence. WRAS programs are endorsed and supported by relevant State Sporting Organisations and provides pathways for pre-elite athletes to progress to higher representative levels in their chosen sport. WRAS supports athlete development in a holistic manner and recognises the value of education. WRAS expects athletes to be attending school or tertiary education, meaningfully employed or undertaking other educational or training opportunities.

The WRAS catchment includes the following council areas - Bathurst Regional, Bland, Blayney, Cabonne, Cowra, Dubbo Regional, Forbes, Gilgandra, Hilltops, Lachlan, Lithgow, Mid-Western Regional, Narromine, Oberon, Orange, Parkes and Weddin.

Who can nominate for the WRAS 2021 individual athlete program?

Athlete must reside or attend school in the WRAS catchment area and meet the requirements of a Lone Star or Para-sports athlete.

Lone star program – are tailored for athletes who are ineligible for WRAS squad programs (ie. there is no squad in their sport). It is expected that athletes are at the level of representing NSW in their sport. Athletes must be turning 15-18 years of age in 2021. These scholarships are designed to assist pre-elite youth athletes in any sport, who are living or attending school in the western region.

Para-sports program – are tailored for athletes who regularly compete at national events (representing NSW) and who are aspiring to represent Australia in para-sports competition in their chosen sport. Athletes must be turning 15-18 years of age in 2020. These programs are designed to assist pre-elite youth athletes in any sport, who are living or attending school in the western region.

How are selections made?

- Athletes wishing to be considered for a lone star or para-sports athlete program must complete the WRAS nomination form before the closing date/time.
- Being an athlete in a previous WRAS program does not guarantee selection.
- Each applicant is assessed on their application. WRAS may contact relevant sports associations to verify sporting results.
- A list of selected athletes is placed on the WRAS website and athletes are advised by email.
- Offers must be accepted by the due date or the offer may be withdrawn.

What is expected of an athlete?

- Individuals athletes are expected to attend WRAS orientation (7 November 2020 in Bathurst), WRAS presentation evening (21 August 2021) and events as negotiated with WRAS.
- WRAS athletes are expected to commit to improving their physical profile and should be aware that this includes undertaking physical activities and testing.
- WRAS athletes are expected to participate in a regular injury prevention screening and gym training program.
- WRAS athletes are expected to adhere to the WRAS Code of Behaviour policy, participate to the best of their ability and display exemplary behaviour.

What does the individual athlete program cost?

Athlete Levy	$165
Compulsory uniform – WRAS polo shirt, training singlet, training shorts, white socks and hoodie	$197
Total cost	**$362**

Selected athletes will be advised how they can offset their levy by seeking personal sponsorships through the 'Friends of the Academy' program. WRAS also invites athletes to apply for assistance from funding received from some of the Central West ClubsNSW member clubs.