

NTSA Coach and Official Scholarship Program

Guidelines 2026-27

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Acronyms	Full form
AROs	Active Recreation Organisations
LD	Learning and Development
LDP	Learning and Development Plan
NTG	Northern Territory Government
NTSA	Northern Territory Sports Academy
PSBs	Peak Sporting Bodies
SRC	Sport, Recreation and Concessions
SSPs	Sport Service Providers

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1. Overview

Sport, Recreation and Strategic Infrastructure (SRSI), within the Department of People, Sport and Culture (the Department), supports the delivery of services to the community through a suite of programs aimed at increasing participation in sport and active recreation, which in turn leads to improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, and other social and community benefits.

One such program is the Northern Territory Sports Academy (NTSA) Coach and Official Scholarship Program (the Program), which is available to accredited volunteer coaches and officials who are aspirational, self-directed learners committed to improving their knowledge, experience and applied practices.

The Program is self-nominated and requires candidates to submit an online application. Requests for applications will be distributed via eligible Peak Sporting Bodies (PSBs), Sport Service Providers (SSPs), Active Recreation Organisations (AROs) and Northern Territory Government (NTG) communication channels.

2. Key Dates

There will be one scholarship intake each year with the program running from 1 September to 31 May.

Annual Intake	
Applications open online	1 June
Closing date for applications	30 June
Applicant assessment and follow up meetings	July-August
LDP Development	July-August
Notification of successful applicants	July-August
Scholarship commencement	1 September
Scholarship Review*	31 May

*Following the 9-month scholarship period, a formal review process will assess LDP outcomes achieved and inform any scholarship renewal process.

3. General Information

- The recipient of an NTSA Coach or Official Scholarship will be supported to undertake an individual needs analysis which will guide the development of a Learning and Development Plan (LDP).
- The LDP will contain contextually relevant Learning and Development activities designed to meet their individual needs over a 9-month period.
- Learning and Development activities can include, but will not be limited to, coursework, personal research of written or audio-visual resources, attending group seminars/workshops, one-on-one mentoring and coaching, 'field-based' observational learning, and other training and competition exposure opportunities.
- Learning and Development activities will be facilitated and delivered by qualified Department staff and other external subject matter experts where appropriate and possible.
- Funding can be provided to offset costs of agreed learning and development activities.

- Funding is subject to the appropriation of funds through the normal Northern Territory Government budget process each year.
- Funding is limited and subject to financial year budget allocation.
- Funding should not be deemed automatic or guaranteed, regardless of history of previous funding.
- Candidates should contact the NTSA before submitting an application to discuss eligibility and scholarship commitments.
- Recipients can be awarded scholarships over multiple intakes/periods.

4. Eligibility Criteria

- To be eligible for an NTSA Coach or Official Scholarship, applicants must:
 - be an Australian citizen or permanent resident who has lived in the NT continuously for 12 months or more;
 - be a volunteer coach or official with current coaching or officiating accreditation and be actively involved in coaching or officiating during the scholarship period;
 - hold a current NT Working with Children Clearance; and
 - have personal attributes and circumstances that facilitate a commitment to identified Learning and Development activities over the 9-month scholarship period.
- Coaches or officials whose primary source of income is coaching or officiating, including employment with a Peak Sporting Body, are eligible for a Coach or Official Scholarship. However, no direct funding is available for learning and development activities undertaken by these scholarship holders.

5. Who cannot apply

- Applicants who are not a registered member of an NT Peak Sporting Body that is affiliated with a National Sporting Organisation cannot apply.
 - Refer https://www.sportaus.gov.au/australian_sports_directory for the current list of recognised NSOs.

6. How to apply

- Applications must be submitted online via the relevant form.
 - Coach from: <https://forms.office.com/r/Hr0Ah8E0FQ>
 - Official form: <https://forms.office.com/r/M8GLkiQHjG>

7. Definitions

Accreditation

An officially recognised and certified competency-based training program.

ARO

An organisation whose primary focus is the promotion of active recreation activities and programs, with active recreation being a physical activity engaged in for the purpose of relaxation, health, wellbeing and enjoyment outside of organised sport.

Coach

A person with coach accreditation that is involved in the direction, instruction and training of an athlete or sport team.

Official

A person with officiating accreditation who controls the running of a competition by applying the rules and laws of the sport. "Official" is the generic word. Other titles can include classifier (for disability sports), commissaire, judge, linesperson, marshal, referee, scorer, technical official, timekeeper or umpire.

PSB

The pre-eminent governing body for the sport in the NT recognised by the NTG as the peak sporting body.

SSP

An organisation that is not a sport governing body but delivers sport-related services recognised by the NTG.

Volunteer

Unpaid, or paid an honorarium, in a non-playing role in sport. This excludes a person with an employment contract to coach or officiate in a sport capacity where payment for coaching or officiating is the person's primary form of income.

8. Contacts

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