SASI African Talent Program

Program Aim

The SASI African Talent Program aims to increase the participation of young people of African descent in Olympic and Paralympic sports and support talented athletes to enter and progress within South Australia's high-performance sport pathway via a targeted SASI African Talent Squad.

Program Outline

The SASI African Talent Program is a three-day sport sampling, education, and cultural experience held at SASI, Mile End between 9 am and 3 pm on Tuesday, 8th, Wednesday, 9th & Thursday, 10th December 2026.

Athletes will have the opportunity to explore a range of Olympic and Paralympic sports while engaging in educational components such as nutrition, psychology and physical health literacy in a culturally safe environment. Following the program, selected athletes may be invited to join the SASI African Talent Squad for ongoing talent development opportunities.



Nomination Process

Eligible athletes will need to complete the SASI African Talent Program nomination form on the SASI website prior to the due date (Friday, 30th October 2026).

Click here for the nomination form.

Key Dates

- Friday, 4th September 2026: Nominations open
- Friday, 30th October 2026: Nominations close
- Friday, 13th November 2026: Invitations sent to successful athletes
- Friday, 20th November 2026: Invitation acceptance deadline
- Tuesday, 8th – Thursday, 10th December 2026: SASI African Talent Program
- January 2027: SASI African Talent Squad Training commences, details TBC, pending selection

Nomination Criteria

Athletes may nominate for the SASI African Talent Camp if they:

1. Identify as being of African descent and have a connection to the African community in South Australia.

2. Are an Able-bodied athlete aged between 14 and 21 years or a Para athlete aged between 12 and 40 years. N*ominations may be considered outside of these age groupings for exceptional cases, at the discretion of the Nomination Review Panel.*

3. Demonstrate sporting talent or potential through one or more of the following:
    a. Performance in a recognised sport;
    b. Results from physical testing or talent identification activities; or
    c. Recommendation from a coach, school, sporting organisation, community leader or other relevant referee.

4. Show potential to progress within an Olympic or Paralympic sport pathway, including the capacity to participate in talent development and high-performance programs.

5. Demonstrate positive personal attributes, including:
    a. Commitment and willingness to learn;
    b. Strong work ethic;
    c. Respect for coaches, teammates, officials and the wider community;
    d. Readiness to engage in a high-performance environment.

6. Commit to participating in athlete development activities, which may include education in:
    a. Nutrition;
    b. Mental health and wellbeing;
    c. Recovery and injury prevention;
    d. Leadership and personal development; and other high-performance habits and behaviours.

Participant Support

Successful applicants will be advised of their selection outcome and will then work with SASI to develop an individual support plan. This process will identify barriers to participation and provide targeted support where possible, including assistance with transport, equipment, financial challenges and other factors that may impact engagement in the program.

Contact

For more information or enquiries, contact SASI.TalentSearch@sa.gov.au