

Thank you for opening the frequently asked questions (FAQ) document for the South Australian Performance Pathway, 2023/24 Cycle. Below, you will find headings in bold, and the FAQs related to each title below. If there are any questions that you feel should be added, or you would like further clarification, please contact [joey.y@volleyballsa.com.au](mailto:joey.y@volleyballsa.com.au).

### **Applications and/or Applications to Trial for 2023/2024**

#### **Why are there two different applications based on an athlete's year of birth?**

The SA Performance Pathway Applications have been differentiated for two sets of athlete year of birth.

Athletes born in <b>2005, 2006 or 2007.</b>	Athletes born in <b>2008, 2009, 2010 or 2011.</b>
Athletes that are within this age group will be eligible for U18, U19 and U21 competitions in 2024, which are classified as "Junior" events nationally.	Athletes that are within this age group will be eligible for U14, U15, U16 and U17 competitions in 2024, which are classified as "Youth" events nationally.

#### **Why do the 2005, 2006 and 2007-born athletes apply, but are not required to trial? What tier/s are these age groups eligible to join?**

Athletes that are 2005-2007 eligible are those considered for Tiers 2 and/or 3. At this level of skill development and competitive experiences, the Pathways Selection Panel will differentiate between athletes based on their submitted applications, performance within State Teams, South Australian Volleyball League, School Competitions, and other training experiences.

#### **What happens if I am born between 2005-2007, and do not get offered a Tier 2 position?**

- The athlete may still be offered a placement position in Tier 3.
- The athlete may request feedback from the selection panel.

#### **Why do the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011-born athletes apply and are still required to trial? What tier/s are these age groups eligible to join?**

Athletes that are 2008-2011 eligible are those considered for the Developing Squads (Tiers 3 and 4). At this level of skill progress and competitive experiences, young athletes are developing rapidly, at different rates and across physical, social, emotional, and mental domains. The Pathways Selection Panel, therefore, requires a trial for all athletes within these age groups. There are exceptions with talented athletes in this age group, where they may be offered a Tier 2 position.

#### **What happens if I am born between 2008-2011 and do not get offered a Tier 3 or 4 position?**

- The athlete may be recommended to trial for an Emerging Talent Hub (Tier 5) position in January 2024.
- The athlete may request feedback from the selection panel.

#### **Are the Performance Cycles different from Tiers 2-4 to Tier 5 (Emerging Talent Hubs)? Why is this?**

Yes, they are different, and the summary is below:

	<b>Term 1</b>	<b>Term 2</b>	<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Term 4</b>
<b>Tier 5 (Emerging Talent Hubs)</b>	Trials and training (indoor)	Training (indoor)	Training (indoor)	Training (beach) and conclusion of the cycle
	<b>Phase 3 APR-JUN</b>	<b>Phase 4 JUL-SEP</b>	<b>Phase 1 OCT-DEC</b>	<b>Phase 2 JAN-MAR</b>
<b>Tiers 4, 3 &amp; 2.</b>	Training (Indoor)	Training and Indoor Competition Phase, and conclusion of the cycle.	Trials and training (beach)	Training and Beach Competition Phase

The Emerging Talent Hubs will follow the school year cycle, whereas the Tiers 4, 3 and 2 cycle begins at the start of the SABVS beach volleyball season and concludes at the end of the SAVL indoor volleyball season.

#### **How do I apply/try for an Emerging Talent Hub (Tier 5) Position?**

The formal entry into your nearest Emerging Talent Hub will be through trials within the first term of school, in 2024. However, there will also be informal entry points through advertised dates and events found on the [Emerging Talent Hub](#) information web page.

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## Tier 2 (Performance Squad), and Tiers 3 & 4 (Developing Squads)

### How many athletes are selected in each Tier of the SA Performance Pathway?

	Females	Males
<a href="#">Tier 2 – Performance Squad</a>	10	10
<a href="#">Tier 3 – Developing Squad</a>	20	20
<a href="#">Tier 4 – Developing Squad</a>	30	30
<a href="#">Tier 5 – Emerging Talent Hubs</a>	N/A	N/A

### When is training?

SA Performance Pathway athletes will complete sessions throughout the school term on the following evenings:

	Phase 1 & 2		Phase 3 & 4	
	OCT-DEC	JAN-MAR	APR-JUN	JUL-SEP
	Term 4, 2023.	Term 1, 2024.	Term 2, 2024.	Term 3, 2024.
	<b>Tier 2</b>	*Monday, Wednesday & Friday Evenings.		Monday & Wednesday Evenings.
<b>Tier 3</b>	Monday & Wednesday Evenings.		Thursday Evenings.	
<b>Tier 4</b>	Thursday Evenings.		Sunday Mornings.	
<b>Tier 5</b>	Please refer to the <a href="#">Emerging Talent Hub</a> information web page.			

\*For Tier 2 athletes, sessions will continue throughout the summer holiday period during beach volleyball season.

### Why does this change to fewer trainings in the winter/indoor season?

Throughout the indoor/winter phases, athletes will balance commitments academically (secondary or tertiary study), work, family, and socially. In addition, the volleyball calendar also includes school indoor, South Australian Volleyball League and State Team competitions and training commitments. Therefore, in winter, there is generally limited availability and more commitments to consider in balancing the load.

### What is the importance of participating in both indoor and beach volleyball training and competitions?

The VSA Performance Pathway is a dual-discipline program. It provides athletes with a balanced approach to learning both disciplines of the sport (indoor and beach volleyball) and creating as many opportunities as possible in progressing to higher performance. When gaining experience as an aspiring volleyball athlete, a dual-discipline approach creates opportunities for the young learners to play a variety of roles on the court, learn all skills at game speed, develop critical thinking and decision-making skills in competitive settings and focus on the holistic development of each athlete in their individual pathway.

### What are the training attendance expectations for Tiered athletes?

All athletes are expected to commit to a minimum of 80% of scheduled training sessions for each phase.

### When striving for higher performance, athletes may be extremely busy and struggle with time and/or load management. There may also be clashes in schedules with SAVL, etc. What happens then?

The training schedule for each tier has considerations for commitments that athletes of that level generally must balance. In exceptional cases of athletes playing in higher/lower than expected teams, managing a high academic load, taking part in other higher performance sports and or extracurriculars, the pathways coaches will communicate with key staff to assist and empower you re-balance your load to reach achievable set goals. The Pathways staff will also work and communicate closely with club, school, state, and national coaches to ensure the athlete remains central to all decision-making and planning.

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### What are the competition expectations for Tiered athletes?

Athletes are expected to compete in all local competitions in the summer and winter seasons. The level and frequency of competition varies for athletes as they gain experience. A general guide is below:

Tier	Discipline	Competitions
2	Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SABVS – South Australian Beach Volleyball Series (Challenge)</li> <li>SA Open</li> <li>AJBVT – Australian Junior Beach Volleyball Tour (U19 or U21)</li> <li>ABVT – Australian Beach Volleyball Tour</li> <li>AYBVC – Australian Beach Volleyball Championships (U14-U18)*</li> </ul>
	Indoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAVL – South Australian Volleyball League</li> <li>AJVC – Australian Junior Volleyball Championships (U19 &amp; U23)*</li> <li>AYVC – Australian Beach Volleyball Championships (U14-U17)*</li> <li>AVSL – Australian Volleyball Super League*</li> </ul>
3 & 4	Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Australian Beach Volleyball Series (Futures and/or Challenge)</li> <li>SA Open</li> <li>AYBVC – Australian Beach Volleyball Championships (U14-U18)*</li> </ul>
	Indoor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAVL – South Australian Volleyball League (Juniors and/or Seniors)</li> <li>AYVC – Australian Beach Volleyball Championships (U14-U17)*</li> </ul>

\*If selected for these events/teams.

### Are Pathway athletes required to trial for VSA State Teams?

Yes, however competing in the tournament is an individual decision.

### How do athletes elevate to a higher tier within the SA Performance Pathway?

Pathways coaches will assess and elevate athletes throughout the cycle. These decisions will be made by the Pathways coaching panel and will take into consideration an athlete's skill level, progression and projected development, readiness, and commitment. For example, throughout the 2022/23 SA Performance Pathways cycle six athletes were elevated to Tier 2, from Tier 3, thirteen athletes were elevated to Tier 3, from Tier 4 and 5, and two athletes were elevated to Tier 4, from Tier 5.

### What is next for athletes who may progress beyond Tier 2 in the SA Performance Pathway?

The goal of the pathway is to elevate athletes into the next stage of their athlete life. As athletes graduate from secondary study, and seek a full-time daily training environment (DTE) the following opportunities are considerations to pursue:

<p><b>Tier 1 – South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) Beach Volleyball</b></p>	<p>The top tier in the South Australian Performance Pathway is a full-time beach volleyball program led by SASI Head Coach Andrew Schacht. This is a progression that prepares athletes to compete nationally and internationally and evolve with the following stage being elevation into the Developing Volleyroos (DVR). The DVR males are also based in Adelaide and the DVR females are in Brisbane.</p>
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<b>Australian Volleyball Academy (AVA)</b>	<p>The AVA is a full-time, dual-discipline program (beach and indoor volleyball) based in Canberra at the Australian Institute of Sport. From this program, athletes may then progress into DVR and/or use it as a platform to go to college abroad, and/or to obtain a professional indoor contract overseas.</p>
<b>Study Abroad (College Volleyball)</b>	<p>Athletes/families will need to facilitate this beyond the SA Performance Pathway.</p>
<b>Pathways into Coaching and/or Refereeing</b>	<p>Coaching: <a href="https://www.volleyballsa.com.au/get-into-volleyball/coaching">https://www.volleyballsa.com.au/get-into-volleyball/coaching</a>  Refereeing: <a href="https://www.volleyballsa.com.au/get-into-volleyball/refereeing">https://www.volleyballsa.com.au/get-into-volleyball/refereeing</a></p>

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## Cost

### How much does the 2023/2024 cycle cost for Tiers 2-4?

The South Australia Performance Pathway levy for 2023/24 is \$935 (excluding GST).

### How much does the 2024 cycle cost for Tier 5 (Emerging Talen Hub)?

The South Australia Performance Pathway levy for 2023/24 is \$600 (excluding GST).

### What is the value of the performance pathway?

Beyond individual training sessions, the following contribute to the value of accepting a pathway placement if applicable:

- Coaching from Nationally recognised coaches.
- Participating in a pathway that is aligned, and in partnership with the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI) and Volleyball Australia (VA).
- Individual athlete case management, that is pathway related and separate to school, club, state team and/or academies.

### When will this be invoiced, if the offer is accepted?

Pathway placement fees are invoiced following the completion of the trial process and once you accept your offer. This will be in September for Tier 2 selected athletes, and in October for Tier 3 and 4 selected athletes.

### Is it possible to go on a payment plan?

We can offer a payment plan to ease the financial pressure on families. Please contact our Finance Manager if you would prefer to go on a payment plan. Email [finance@volleyballsa.com.au](mailto:finance@volleyballsa.com.au) to request a payment plan for your yearly fee.

### Is there a pro-rata reduction if you enter the program late, or leave the program early?

Athletes will not receive a pro-rata reduction if they enter late or leave early. The Pathway fee is a payment for the full cycle.

## Uniform

### What uniform does each Tier receive?

Each Tier receives the following item/s inclusive of the pathway levy:

Tier 2*	Tiers 3 & 4	Tier 5
<b>1 x</b> Performance Squad Tee <b>1 x</b> Pathway shorts <b>1 x</b> Pathway Hat	<b>1 x</b> Development Squad Tee	<b>1 x</b> Emerging Talent Tee

\*Tier 2 athletes will receive shorts and a hat in addition to the tee. This is due to the increased competition calendar, travel, and representative opportunities that these athletes are expected to participate in.

### Is this included in the Pathway levy?

Your yearly fee includes the uniform.

### When are athletes expected to wear this uniform?

The Performance Pathway uniform is required to be worn at all VSA sessions (except when specified). In addition to this:

- Throughout the summer, beach volleyball season, athletes are expected to also wear their Pathways Uniform between games (pre- and post-games) as representatives of the Pathway.
- When attending National Development Camps and Australian Beach Volleyball Tour Events.

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## Training Venue/s

### **Where do these athletes complete their training?**

Currently, all sessions are conducted at the South Australian Sports Institute (SASI), 27 Valetta Road, Kidman Park South Australia 5025.

### **When the newly operating South Australian Sports Institute is operational, will training relocate there?**

Once this is finished and operational in Mile End, the training venue will be adjusted. This may include additional venue/s to SASI.

## State Teams, National Development Program Camps and Competitions

### **Does involvement in the SA Performance Pathway mean the athlete is an automatic selection for South Australian Youth/Junior State Teams?**

Involvement with the South Australian Performance Pathway does not provide an advantage to athletes who trial for any Volleyball South Australian State Teams. Each State Representative team will hold respective trials, where all South Australian athletes are selected on their own merit, by a selection panel at the time of trial. These Championships are normally held at various locations across Australia. Attendance at these championships, if selected, will be at the cost of the athlete/parent/guardian.

### **Does involvement in the SA Performance Pathway mean the athlete is an automatic selection at Volleyball Australia-related camps & competitions?**

Like the State Representative Teams, each athlete may be selected for a National Development Program opportunity on their own merit. Volleyball Australia determines which athletes are invited to attend camps and competitions.

Current and Past VSA Volleyball athletes have competed at many levels of volleyball competition including:

#### **Beach Volleyball**

- Junior and Senior South Australian Beach Volleyball Teams
- Junior & Senior Oceania Beach Volleyball Championships
- Junior & Senior Asian Beach Volleyball Championships
- Youth Commonwealth Games
- Youth Olympic Games
- U17, U19, U21, U23 Beach Volleyball World Championships
- Senior Beach Volleyball World Championships
- Beach Volleyball World Tour
- Olympic Games

#### **Indoor Volleyball**

- Junior and Senior South Australian Indoor Volleyball Teams
- Youth, Junior, and Senior Asian Indoor Volleyball Championships
- World University Games
- U23 Indoor Volleyball World Championships
- Senior Indoor Volleyball World Championships
- Senior Indoor Volleyball World Cup
- Senior Men's Indoor Volleyball World League
- Senior Women's Indoor Volleyball Grand Prix
- Olympic Games

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for some High Performance Pathway athletes to be invited to several National Training Camps. These camps are normally held at various locations across Australia. Attendance at these camps, if invited, will be at the cost of the athlete/parent/guardian.

## Key Contacts

### **Who are the key contacts within the Volleyball South Australia Performance Pathway for 2023/24?**

Please find staff details on the following page - <https://www.volleyballsa.com.au/performance-pathway/staff>.