



Marjorie Jackson-Nelson

**CENTRE FOR  
WOMEN'S SPORT**



**SPORT  
SA**



**Government of South Australia**

Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing

# PROGRAM APPLICATION & GUIDELINES



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# MESSAGE

from The Honourable Rhiannon Pearce MP, Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing



I'm delighted to open applications for the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport Program; a pioneering initiative that champions opportunity, equality, and leadership for women involved in sport across South Australia.

This outstanding program offers around 40 to 50 women each year the chance to enhance their skills and confidence in a wide range of sporting roles: from athletes, coaches, and officials to administrators, board, and committee members, and those working in schools and community sport.

The Malinauskas Labor Government is deeply committed to supporting women and girls in sport. By investing in programs like this, we are removing barriers, strengthening pathways for development, and creating spaces where women can lead, inspire, and succeed.

Sport plays an important role in our lives; it connects people, fosters belonging, and builds stronger communities. It's also a powerful force for driving social change and gender equality. While progress has been made, there's still more work ahead to ensure genuine equality both on and off the field.

By empowering and celebrating women in sport, we're not only enriching the sporting landscape but also boosting economic participation, encouraging innovation, and motivating future generations to aim higher. The legacy and success of women's sport in Australia have showed us just how transformative sport can be, at every level, from community to elite competition.

The program's namesake, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, perfectly embodies these values. As Australia's first female Olympic gold medallist in track and field and South Australia's 33rd Governor, Marjorie has been a lifelong advocate for excellence, leadership, and fairness in sport. She continues to be an inspiration and a proud supporter of this initiative.

My sincere thanks go to Sport SA for their stewardship of this program. Through its eight core modules and tailored elective options, participants gain vital knowledge and practical experience in areas such as leadership, financial management, empowerment, culture, media, and inclusion.

I look forward to meeting this year's participants and seeing the remarkable impact they will make both within sport and in their broader communities

The Honourable Rhiannon Pearce MP  
Minister for Recreation, Sport and Racing



# MESSAGE

from Sport SA CEO Leah Cassidy



Conceptualised by Sport SA, and the Helix Group and funded by the state government, The Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport is the first of its kind in Australia. The Centre offers education, training, support and networking opportunities to women in sport, as well as a range of electives for both men and women.

The Centre's range of programs are designed to increase female participation in all aspects of sport as well as leadership on and off the field.

In addition, we provide networking opportunities for women and girls to connect and build mutually beneficial relationships with other people in the sport and business industries.

While important progress has been made, gender discrimination continues to prevent women and girls from accessing the full benefits sport has to offer. Just 24% of CEOs across 63 National Sporting Organisations (NSO's) identify as women. While 40% of sports participants are female, women's sport receives only 10-15% of all sports media coverage signaling a need for women's visibility in sport. Sport SA is leading in changing perceptions and closing the gender gap in South Australia.

South Australia is the first state to develop such a program for EVERY SPORT EVERY LEVEL EVERY WOMAN, positioning it as a leader in its efforts to increase funding and overall participation in the industry. Sport SA is very proud to lead this work in partnership with the state government and humbled to have the incredible Marjorie Jackson- Nelson lend her name to the Centre.

Leah Cassidy  
CEO, Sport South Australia



# MESSAGE

from our patron The Honourable  
Marjorie Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE



I am delighted this project is named after me. All women have the opportunity to be a part of this exciting development no matter their background or culture and there is a breadth of opportunities from community to elite levels.

The building of resilience in our sportswomen is a vital component to any future successes and I am confident that the Centre provides that foundation and support. During my time as Governor of South Australia, I was fortunate to travel the length and breadth of the State and meet girls and women who were passionate about their sports, realised the health benefits of maintaining regular exercise and also valued the community connections that came with being part of a sporting club or organisation. The Centre collaborates with those organisations with the view to increasing opportunities and participation.

I am proud that this Centre has been established for South Australian girls and women to aspire to be involved in sporting programs in some way and that it will no doubt provide them with the inspiration, encouragement, support, and guidance to be able to fulfil their ambitions. Not every girl aspires to be an athlete, but opportunities are there for other career paths such as coaching, officiating, administration, board members, and media professionals, to name just a few. Women have the opportunity to follow a unique path based on their own interests and talents and the gender equity programs will benefit all South Australians. What a wonderful legacy for the next generation of South Australian girls! Sport in this State has an exciting future.

The Honourable Marjorie  
Jackson-Nelson AC CVO MBE



# PROGRAM

## UNDERSTANDING FINANCE



The essential ingredient for lifelong financial wellbeing and personal financial management. Gain the ability to understand and effectively interpret reports, prepare budgets, and understand investing.

## MEDIA

Learn about the media, how to prepare for a media interview and write a media release. Increase your social media presence by understanding digital platforms and your target audience.



## EMPOWERMENT & CONNECTION

Create and grow positive interactions and develop networks that can be applied in career and volunteer settings. Gain skills and knowledge that allow you to navigate a career transition including voluntary board roles.



## LEADERSHIP

Leading, communicating, influencing. Learn the skills to enhance your confidence and build your ability to influence change for yourself and others.



## PEOPLE, CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Enhance your ability to effectively communicate and speak publicly. How to influence team performance while maintaining psychological safety and create flow.



## PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

Understand the basics of physiological systems, rehabilitation of sports injuries, concussion and women's health that will assist in decision making and work life balance.



## MENTAL WELL-BEING

Explore ways to improve performance through the positive influence of mental well-being. Understand profiling and how it impacts individual thinking. Learn how to influence groups and group behaviour.



## SOCIAL SPORTING INFLUENCES / DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Understanding nutrition/health with a focus on women. Learn how to make informed choices relating to sports integrity. Develop an understanding of diversity and inclusion and why it's important.





# ABOUT

The Sport SA Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport Program supports and empowers female athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, volunteers and board members to play, lead and contribute to the game for future generations. The Program is available for women working or volunteering (or those who aim to work or volunteer) in the South Australian sport industry. Applicants for the Program will require written confirmation and financial support from their organisation. The aim of the Program is to incrementally increase the level of expertise and develop the number of women in sporting roles.







# ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants who work or volunteer (or those who aim to work or volunteer) in sport must apply with written confirmation and attach a letter of support from one of the following:

- State sport organisation
- Local government authority.
- Sporting association, club, or league.
- Education institution.

**Eligible applicants must:**

- Identify as a woman or have been assigned female at birth
- Aged 18+
- Be a South Australian resident
- Provide written confirmation and a letter of support & evidence of a potential practical opportunity of a role in sport.







# ROLES IN SPORT

- Athletes
- Coaches
- Officials
- Administrators
- Board Members
- Support Staff (Dietitian, Sports Trainer etc.)
- Volunteers

# THE PROGRAM

The Program involves 8 core modules and 2 additional elective modules over a 12-month period.

The 2 elective modules will reflect the participant's additional education and training needs once analysed. These modules are based on participant's technical, physical, psychological and personal skills.

Upon graduation, participants will receive a graduation certificate and a LinkedIn badge to display on their profile, signifying successful completion of the program and the development of new knowledge and skills.



# APPLICATION QUESTIONS



We require -

- Applicant and organisation contact details
- Descriptions of the applicant's current position in sport (if applicable) and any previous relevant experience
- How this opportunity will contribute to the applicant's development and career or volunteering aspirations in sport.
- An outline of how the applicant's participation in the program would benefit their organisation and the sport community.

# PROCESS FOR APPLICANTS

1. Check your eligibility.
2. Secure and submit written confirmation of financial support from one of the organisations in which you work or volunteer, or evidence of a practical opportunity of a role in sport.
3. Complete the application online by the due date.

Please ensure you have the information to complete and answer the application questions and submit supporting documentation.

You will receive confirmation that your application has been submitted online.

If you need assistance with applying online, please contact Julie Anderson on

**0439 752 482** or **womenssport@sportsa.org.au**

**APPLY NOW**

Applications for the 2026/2027 Program must be submitted by 12pm, 2 June 2026, with a view to commencing the program in July.



Government of South Australia  
Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing



# FUNDING MODEL

The Office of Recreation, Sport and Racing/Sport SA invest and heavily subsidise each participant in the Program. In addition, each sport/organisation and the participant are required to invest in the participants professional development in the interest of sport. Below are the sport/organisation and participant fees.

## **Core and elective modules together (\$850) includes:**

- **\$500 Sport/Organisation Fee\***
- **\$350 Participant Fee\***

## **Scholarship Opportunity**

The sport/organisation or participant will need to provide details of hardship for a scholarship to be considered for an application. The scholarship can be for both the sport/organisation and participant fee (up to \$850) or, one or the other for a part scholarship.

\*fees subject to change and continuous funding from the government





# FUNDING OBLIGATIONS

The Applicant will enter into a funding agreement with Sport SA. They will do this by accepting and agreeing to comply with the terms and conditions as set out in the application form and these guidelines. By completing the application form, the Applicant is making an offer to Sport SA and will be bound by the terms of the offer if accepted by Sport SA. These terms establish the parties and their commitments and obligations to each other and set the general terms and conditions of funding.

If the Applicant is successful, Sport SA will notify the Applicant via an Email of Acceptance. This will form an agreement between the Applicant and Sport SA on the terms contained in the Applicant's application, the Email of Acceptance, the guidelines, and the terms and conditions of the funding in the application form.

An authorised representative of the Applicant will need to acknowledge the Email of Acceptance.

The funding agreement will include reference to the following:

- Participants must adhere to the Code of Behaviour.
- Funding related to the 12-month Program.
- Participants in the Program agree to provide information related to their career development if requested.
- Participants agree to participate in surveys as requested by Sport SA.
- Participants must attend all modules of the Program within a 2-year period unless there is evidence of extenuating circumstances that result in non-attendance at a module. Sport SA may consider these circumstances and extend the period of completion if warranted.
- The sport and participant will provide funding for the program. Scholarship funding for the program will be made available at the discretion of Sport SA.





# SELECTION PROCESS

## Process

Eligible applicants will be assessed on the content in the application form and against the criteria.

## Criteria

- Relevance of applicants current or proposed role in sport
- Alignment and ability of the Program to support the applicant's development and career or volunteer aspirations in sport
- Potential benefit(s) the applicant's participation in the Program would bring to their organisation and the sport community.

Please note eligibility is only one part of the application. An assessment panel will be convened by Sport SA to review and assess each application. All decisions regarding applications are at the sole discretion of Sport SA. Sport SA reserves the right to amend this Guideline at any time.

# TIMELINE

- 1** Application closing date, 2 June 2026 (we are accepting rolling applications until the closing date)
- 2** Successful applicants advised via Email of Acceptance 16 June 2026
- 3** Announcement of successful applicants 30 June 2026
- 4** Program commencement July 2026







# PRIVACY

Sport SA is committed to protecting your personal information in accordance with the principles of Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth).

Personal information you provide in your application will be collected, managed and stored securely by Sport SA.

Your personal information may be shared by Sport SA with a third-party provider, to enable them to contact you to participate in the evaluation of the Program.

As part of our administration, Sport SA may need to disclose your personal information with others for the purpose of assessment, consultation, and reporting. This can include other Sport SA staff and/or external stakeholders (members of the assessment panel, module providers or government).

If you include personal information about third parties in your application, please ensure that they are aware of this privacy statement, noting how it is collected, managed, disclosed, or shared in accordance with the Privacy Act 1988 (Commonwealth) and other applicable laws.

A copy of our privacy statement is located on the Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Centre for Women's Sport website.

You may contact us to request access to your personal information, or for other concerns regarding the privacy of your personal information by emailing **womenssport@sportsa.org.au**.



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# DISREPUTE

Sport SA may at any time, remove an Applicant from the application and assessment process, if in Sport SA's view association with the Applicant may bring Sport SA or the program into disrepute.

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A conflict of interest is when someone in a position of trust or influence has competing professional or personal interests.

Applicants must advise Sport SA of any real or perceived conflict of interest relating to the Program for which they have applied.

Conflict of interests for Sport SA staff or Working Group will be managed as set out in the Conflict-of-Interest Policy.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



## **Who is eligible to apply?**

If you identify as a woman or have been assigned female at birth and work or volunteer (or those who aim to work or volunteer) in sport in South Australia, you are eligible to apply.

The Program is for EVERY SPORT EVERY LEVEL EVERY WOMAN. You must be 18 or over, be a South Australian resident and submit a letter of support from your organisation that identifies that you work or volunteer in South Australian sport and commits to financially supporting you in the Program.

## **What is included in the Program?**

### **Core modules (8):**

In order to graduate, each successful applicant will need to complete 8 core modules. The core modules apply to all roles in sport. The schedule for the core modules will be at the discretion of Sport SA and in accordance with the availability of the providers.

### **Elective modules (maximum of 2):**

Each participant will have the opportunity to identify 2 areas for improvement that are relevant to the participant's role in sport, separate to the core models. Sport SA will review the areas for improvement and where there is a collective requirement will host these electives.

Areas for improvement outside of the collective requirements will form part of each participants personal development plan for the participant to follow once the Program is complete.

## **Who completes the application?**

The applicant completes the application and submits a letter of support from their organisation. Questions that will be asked on the application form appear on page 8 of the guideline. Please prepare your answers to the questions before opening and completing the application form.

## **What is the length of the Program?**

The Program is conducted over 12 months. Delivery of the modules on a Friday and Sunday. You are only required to attend one of these days for each module.

## **Is my application acknowledged once it is submitted?**

You will receive an acknowledgement from Sport SA once it is received and reviewed to ensure it is complete. An incomplete application form cannot be accepted. If further information is required, Sport SA will request this information.

## **Is the Program targeted towards the younger generation?**

No. Women of all ages, 18 and over are encouraged to apply. There is no upper limit on the age.

## **Where can I find the application guideline and form?**

A link to the application guideline and form is available on the Sport SA and Marjorie Jackson Nelson Centre for Women's Sport websites. Please read the application guideline before completing and submitting the form as it will provide you with information about the Program and the application process. The application form link is also provided on page 8.





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How much does the Program cost?**

- The sport is required to commit to **\$500 Sport/Organisation Fee**
- The participant is required to commit to **\$350 Participant Fee**

## **How is my application assessed?**

An assessment panel will review all applications against the criteria on page 11 of the application guideline.

## **What happens if an organisation or applicant cannot meet the funding requirements?**

The organisation and/or applicant can apply for scholarship funding via the application form.

## **What do I receive on completion of the Program?**

On completion of the Program, you will be formally acknowledged during the graduation ceremony. Graduates will also receive a graduation certificate and LinkedIn certification badge.

## **What is the process for applying?**

Check your eligibility using the Application Guidelines

- Secure and submit a letter of support and commitment to the funding model from the organisation with the application
- Complete and submit the application form by 2 June 2026

## **Do I need a sport/organisation to support my application?**

An organisation is required to support your application to ensure the applicant has a practical opportunity to apply what they learn in the Program.

## **What obligations apply to the funding model?**

Please review the funding obligations on page 12 of the guideline. By submitting an application, you agree to these obligations.

## **Who do I contact if I have questions or require clarification?**

Julie Anderson, Sport SA Women's Sport Lead

**Contact:** 0439 752 482

**Email:** [womenssport@sportsa.org.au](mailto:womenssport@sportsa.org.au)





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