

MCSS Talented Athlete Academy Application 2026

The **MCSS Talented Athlete Academy (TAA)** is designed to enhance the sporting performance of students selected, by developing a holistic approach to their athletic development. We believe a successful athlete needs to focus not only on skill development but nutrition, goal setting, motivation, correct recovery, leadership, injury prevention and rehabilitation, cross training, and tactical strategies to become as successful as possible within their chosen sport.

The **MCSS TAA** program offers students a multi-faceted platform in which they can be practically and academically engaged and extended. As part of this program students will be exposed to a variety of sessions that run across the academic year.

Opportunities which Athletes may be exposed to as part of their involvement in **TAA** include:

- Professional fitness testing with University of Canberra Research Institute for Sport and Exercise (UCRISE)
- Fitness sessions at the Canberra International Sports and Aquatic Centre (CISAC) and Club Lime
- Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) recovery sessions
- Sports leadership training
- Sports Injuries seminars
- Strength & Conditioning coaching
- Motivational speakers
- Attendance at major sporting events

Costs

Athletes who are successful in securing a position in the 2026 Talented Athlete Academy are expected to participate in all the full array of opportunities being made available to them. Every attempt is made by the TAA coordinators to keep the program costs to a minimum. It is anticipated that the fees associated with this year's academy will be approximately \$200 for students in Years 8-12 and \$100 for Year 7 (subject to change). Information letters & permission notes for each event will be emailed to athletes and families in advance.

Uniform

Athletes participating in the MCSS Talented Athlete Academy program in 2026 will be identifiable by the TAA uniform that includes a training shirt and shorts (required), tracksuit pants, winter jacket and polo shirt (required). This uniform can be worn as part of the MCSS School uniform. TAA athletes are required to wear their TAA uniform when participating in TAA program events. The full 2026 TAA uniform package is expected to cost approximately \$230 and will be available to purchase through an online platform.

Please don't hesitate to contact the TAA coordinators if you would like to discuss your student's inclusion in the MCSS Talented Athlete Academy (TAA) program in 2026.

MCSS Talented Athlete Academy Philosophy

The Talented Athlete Academy (TAA) supplements and supports the academic values of Melba Copland Secondary School and assists students in their growth and development. TAA assists in promoting the importance of teamwork, effort, goals, leadership, humility, and commitment. MCSS TAA believes in being competitive but winning is not the primary measure of success. Sportsmanship, respect for participants, and dignity in the face of adversity are more important than the outcome of the contest. All athletes do not perform at the same level, but all can demonstrate effort, dedication, and fair play.

***TAA applications are on an annual basis. All applications will be assessed by the MCSS TAA Coordinators.**

Application Form

Athlete Personal information

Student Name:

Address:

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Telephone (H):

Mobile:

E-mail address:

Date of Birth:

Parent/s or Guardians details:

Names:

Address:

.....

Telephone (Mob): **(Work):**

E-mail:

Sporting Referee details:

Name:

Position:

Telephone (Mob): (Work):

E-mail:

1. Club sport details

Sport	Club	Playing History and Achievements

2. Representative details

Include representative level and competitions (including trials) entered over the last 12months.
 E.g. 2020 – ACT U18 AFL (National Championships)

Year	Competition level

3. Current training & playing commitments.

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4. Sporting and academic information

List your major sporting goals for the next two years

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How will your inclusion in the MCSS TAA program help you to achieve the goals you have identified?

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5. Outline your post-school pathway (university, CIT / TAFE, Employment, GAP year)

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In addition, please include a letter of recommendation from your coach or team manager and your HPE teacher of choice, to support your above statements and your academic goals at MCSS.

Teacher Recommendation email:

TAA Application Timeline

Process	Date
Application for 2026 program open for MCSS students	Friday 7/11/25 (Term 4, week 4)
Application for 2026 program closed.	Monday 1/12/25 (Term 4, week 8)
Application result	Friday 12/12/25 (week 9) for Year 8-12; and End of Term 2, 2026 for Year 7.

TAA Contract Conditions

Acceptance into the TAA program requires individuals to participate/attend all whole school sporting events (swimming/Cross country and Athletics) and represent or trial for a minimum of 1 MCSS representative team per Semester or per Year. Senior students are expected to enroll in Sports & Athlete Development as part of their academic studies in their Year 10, 11 or 12 courses.

Formal acknowledgement of the TAA application process will be via email. If you have any further questions, please contact via email to Asish Chandra – asish.chandra@ed.act.edu.au or Molly Heald – molly.heald@ed.act.edu.au

2026 MCSS Athletes Contract:

By signing this contract,

- I am making a commitment to fully engage with this program and the events associated with it. I understand I am expected to participate in all TAA excursions and workshops.
- I agree that my continued inclusion in the MCSS Talented Athlete Academy is based on my constant commitment to my sport **and** my academic studies at MCSS.
(For students in Years 7 – 10, this includes maintaining a B grade average in HPE. The same criteria apply for students in the college undertaking HPE and specialised sports related courses).
- I agree to be responsible for remaining up to date with class learning and assessment that may have been missed due to TAA and/or sporting representation.
- I acknowledge that I am a member of the MCSS community and as such I will wear full school uniform.
- I agree my place in the Talented Athlete Academy can be revoked at any time if my behavior at school **and/or** on the sporting field is not deemed to be satisfactory in accordance with the MCSS code of conduct.
- I agree that I will wear the TAA uniform when attending TAA trainings / events, excursions and representing the school at sporting competitions.
- I agree that, if necessary, I will seek assistance from the TAA coordinators should my sporting commitments begin to impact my academic achievements. I understand that the TAA Coordinators will act in my best academic and sporting interest when liaising with my teachers and parents/guardians.
- I agree that If I decide to withdraw from the Talented Athlete Academy, I will notify the coordinators in writing.

Athlete Name:

Athlete signature:

Parent / Guardian Name:

Parent / Guardian Signature:

Date: