**ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY POLICY**

**Policy Statement**

The Far West Academy of Sport (FWAS) will service the Far West Region (ie area bounded by Lake Cargelligo – Broken Hill – Lightning Ridge - Trangie. It covers the NSW local government areas of: Bogan, Bourke, Brewarrina, Broken Hill, Central Darling, Cobar, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Lachlan (Tottenham and Lake Cargelligo), Narromine (Trangie), Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle (Coonabarabran).

To be deemed eligible to access an Academy program an athlete must:

1. Reside in the Academy region; or
2. Attend a school located in the Academy region; or
3. Be registered and competing with an association / state affiliate which has its base within the Academy’s region; or

**Guidelines**

1. Athletes are required to be registered with a State Sporting Organisation, directly or through an affiliated club or association at the time of their selection for the following reasons:

1.1 Academy programs exist to assist athlete’s progress through the state system. If an athlete is not registered with the relevant SSO they are ineligible to progress through the system, and therefore should not be in the Academy program.

1.2 Athletes participating in Academy programs are covered by insurance via their sport registration. Therefore, athletes who are not registered with the SSO are not covered by the sport’s insurance if they should sustain an injury during their time with the Academy.

1. In the event that an athlete ceases to meet the eligibility criteria after being initially accepted into the program, the Academy will review the athlete’s eligibility with a view to determining if he/she should be permitted to continue in the program. In the event that there is a dispute regarding eligibility, the matter should be referred to the FWAS Executive Officer for consideration.