

SURFING AUSTRALIA STATE JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Surfing Australia, in partnership with the State Bodies, have put together the Surfing Australia State Junior Development Program.

OBJECTIVES

‘Bridging the gap between State Academies and the National High Performance Program’

- Provide additional High Performance coaching to State level athletes 18 years and under in Australia to give more athletes an opportunity to reach the National Program and / or reach their potential.
- To see more athletes each year continue on their path to competitive success.
- Create additional opportunities for the State High Performance Coaches.

ATHLETE SELECTION CRITERIA

To be eligible for assessment, athletes must be:

- 18 & under in 2025
- Must be an Australian Citizen
- Not be a current nationally identified SA athlete (2025 categorisation)

Selections are made by a Selection Panel consisting of High Performance Program and State Program representatives.

Athletes are selected against a criteria consisting of:

- Their technical ability assessed against the State Program Athlete Skill Matrix (below) which incorporates the fundamentals necessary to be a well rounded high performance surfer.
- Their competition performances on the SA Junior Series in 2024 Junior Events
- Future performance potential

PROGRAM SKILL MATRIX

SKILL	DESCRIPTION
TURNS	
	Speed, power and flow.
	Angles- different and unique angles and approaches to different sections
	Variety- having an array of turns on both forehand and backhand
	Commitment - willingness to attack the steepest and most critical sections
	Combinations of major manoeuvres - ability to commit to multiple major turns in a row
AIRS	
	Progressive and innovative airs
	Speed, height, style, landings
	Variety - grabs, rotations, inverted, flips, forehand, backhand
	Critical sections - airs on critical sections / larger waves
	Consistency
BARRELS	
	Slabs and heavy barrels
	Point break, beach breaks
	Barrel riding technique forehand and backhand
	Style, approach, comfortability and adaptability with riding different types of barrels
SOLID WAVES	
	Commitment to approach bigger waves and sections with technique and skill
	Comfortability in bigger and more challenging waves

HIGH PERFORMANCE COACHING PHILOSOPHY

At Surfing Australia, we believe in pushing boundaries, embracing creativity, and fostering individuality.

Our goal is to develop world-class surfers by creating an environment where calculated risk-taking is encouraged, failing in service of progress is embraced, and there are no limits to what's possible.

Go big. Be experimental. Keep learning.

We want young surfers to attack sections, launch high, take off late, and try things no one has done before. The best surfers in the world aren't afraid to fall—they know that failing is part of the process.

State Coaches were selected by SA and the State bodies. They were selected based on their work with Nationally Categorised Athletes and geographic location.

STATES

QLD

Sunshine Coast
Gold Coast

NSW

North Coast
Central Coast / Newcastle
Sydney Eastern and Northern Beaches
South Coast

VIC

Surf Coast
Mornington Peninsula

TAS

Hobart

SA

Fleurieu Peninsula

WA

South West

2025 Athletes have already been selected. For consideration for the 2026 Program, please email luke@surfingaustralia.com