

2024

ACADEMY HANDBOOK

TERRITORY STINGERS



CONTENTS

This document provides an outline of the key information regarding the Stingers Academy Program and the connected pathway programs for 2024.

It contains information relevant to athletes, parents, clubs and associations. All dates and times are booked but will be subject to change if required. This is inclusive of working closely with each pathway cohort to ensure the program evolves to make the program accessible and appropriate for all Territory athletes.

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PROGRAM FOCUSES

Key objectives and strategy

- Deliver an annual development program that improves the depth, quality and group understanding in each state team age cohort
- Structure the program in a manner where touch points and support are appropriately spaced out across the year
- Provide and develop more opportunities for athletes to experience and play in higher level environments with their peers
- Align culture, playing philosophy and training/learning methodology across the program
- Improve the preparedness of groups for National Championship representation
- Incorporate personal excellence education into annual program delivery
- Incorporate parent support education into annual program delivery
- Provide 11 a side match play opportunities and more game sense learning experiences
- Brand and connect the Academy Program in-line with our High Performance heritage, future aspirations and the current Hockey One position of single name franchises. 'Stingers Academy'
- Create more accessible coach development opportunities and a clearer coach development pathway



DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY



HNT Development Program

Club Programs

School Programs

Toddlers Program



Senior Development Squad

U18 Academy

U16 Academy

U14 Academy



NT U21 M/W

NT U18 M/W

NT U16 M/W

NT U14 M/W



National Squad

National Development Squad

National Junior Squad

U18 Futures

PROGRAM ELEMENTS

Stingers Academy



Stingers Senior
Development Squad

U18 Stingers Academy

U16 Stingers Academy

U14 Stingers Academy

U8, U10, U12 & U14
HookIn2Hockey
Development Program



HookIn2Hockey Development Program

Skill development programs open to all athletes turning 6-14 years of age in the corresponding year. The Development program is the bridging program for players aspiring to be in the Stingers Academy and representative teams or who just want to improve their skill level to enjoy the game more.

Stingers Academy

The U18, U16 and U14 Stingers Academy programs are designed to provide an environment where our best young players in each age cohort work together to improve the standard and the depth of our state team programs.

Stingers Senior Development Squad

The Stingers Senior Development Squad is designed to support our U21 state team program development and National Championship preparation. And to develop, support, and promote senior athletes for higher level competitions, events and development opportunities.

HOOKIN2HOCKEY



DEVELOPMENT

Skill development programs open to all athletes turning 6-14 years of age in the corresponding year. The HNT Development program is the bridging program for players aspiring to be in the Stingers Academy and representative teams or who just want to improve their skill level to enjoy the game more. (Previously known as TDP)



CLUB

HookIn2Hockey Clubs is facilitated by clubs in Darwin and Alice Springs, linking new and potential members into introductory development opportunities and support.



SCHOOLS

HookIn2Hockey Schools provides introductory sessions to school students so they can experience hockey and be provided links to clubs and other opportunities to play and experience hockey. The aim of these sessions is to introduce Hockey in a safe, fun and engaging manner. All school programs are linked into school gala days so that students also have the opportunity to access an appropriate beginner hockey competition.

SELECTION CRITERIA



Athleticism

- Speed
- Agility
- Aerobic capacity
- Strength

Technical Skills (Field Players)

- Ball handling – technical framework on the ball; posture, mobility, vision, control
- Ball carrying – creating options through carry, elimination skills
- Receiving – basic stationary receiving, collecting on the move, receiving under pressure
- Passing – possession passing, ability to generate penetration
- One on one defence – tackling, intercepting, marking, ability to generate pressure on the ball and stay in one on one contests
- Off the ball work and engagement, leading to create space and leading to be an option

Technical Skills (Goalkeepers)

- Stance / movement mechanics
- Shot blocking / clearance saves
- Penalty corner technique
- Playing off the line

Tactical/ Game awareness

- Reading the game
- Involvement and engagement in the game
- On field decision making
- Versatility with positional play
- Communication and organisational skills

Teamwork

- Ability to fit in and influence the program in a positive manner

Attitude

- An individual's application in training and competition as well as attitude towards teammates and coaching staff

Coachability

- The ability to self-reflect, seek feedback and take on board feedback, whilst working towards continual self-improvement

SELECTIONS & NOMINATIONS



2024 Program:

U18 Academy (Ages 17-18 in 2024)

- Eligible athletes selected in previous U15 & U18 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Athletes identified from the 2023 U18 trials will receive automatic entry invitations
- Clubs and or individual athletes can also nominate by emailing technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au; club performances and club feedback will be used to determine selections

U16 Academy (Ages 14-16 in 2024)

- Eligible athletes selected in previous U13 & U15 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Athletes identified from the 2023 U15 trials will receive automatic entry invitations
- Clubs and or individual athletes can also nominate by emailing technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au; club performances and club feedback will be used to determine selections

U14 Academy (Ages 11-14 in 2024)

- Athletes selected in the 2023 U15 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Eligible athletes selected in previous U13 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Athletes identified from the 2023 U13/U15 trials will receive automatic entry invitations
- Clubs and or individual athletes can also nominate by emailing technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au; club performances and club feedback will be used to determine selections

HookIn2Hockey Development Program (open to all age eligible athletes)

- U14 athletes (ages 13-14 in 2024)
- U12 athletes (ages 11-12 in 2024)
- U10 athletes (ages 9-10 in 2024)
- U8 athletes (ages 6-8 in 2024)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Objectives:

- Develop stronger and deeper age cohorts for Territory representative team programs
- Conduct a prioritised approach to goalkeeping development
- Offer high quality development environments for aspiring athletes and coaches
- Support annual state team preparation and selection processes
- Enhance and supplement club season training and playing opportunities
- Provide education and development support in priority talent development areas for athletes, parents and aspiring coaches
- Support athlete development and preparation for state team programs and trials
- Provide opportunities for more athletes to belong to and access the Stingers culture and legacy

Program deliverables:

- High quality training sessions planned and delivered through the Hockey NT Technical Director
- Focus on technical development aligned with physical competency
- Small sided games with game knowledge development through constraints based learning methodology
- Full 11 a side game play opportunities
- Penalty Corner Attack and Defence skills, knowledge and experience
- Athlete education workshops and activities
- Video analysis education
- Territory Stingers culture and values - conduct and behaviour education and expectations
- State team trial and selection preparation and support
- National championship performance preparation

Note: Involvement in Stinger Academy activities are not a pre-requisite for state team selection nor is it a guarantee of future selection. All athletes wishing to nominate for state team selection will need to do so in a separate process. The selection process for state teams will be conducted via activities independent of underpinning programs.

U18 ACADEMY PROGRAM

Age eligibility: Aged 17-18 in 2024

Placements: Up to 24 Males and 24 Females

How do I get selected into the U18 Academy?

- Eligible athletes selected in previous U15 & U18 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Athletes identified from the 2023/24 U15/U18 trials will receive automatic entry invitations
- Clubs and or individual athletes can also nominate by emailing technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au; club performances and club feedback will be used to determine selections

2024 Program Cost:

- Term 1: \$105
- Term 3: \$75
- Term 4: \$135
- Total program \$299 (Discounted)

Uniforms:

Stingers training singlets available on order

Staffing: Technical Director, State U18 & U21 Coaches, Academy Development Coaches

Program Contact:

competitionsandevents@hockeynt.asn.au

Term 1 Sessions:

Monday 12th February 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 19th February 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 26th February 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 4th March 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 11th March 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 18th March 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 25th March 6.00-7.00pm

Term 3 Sessions:

Monday 29th July 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 12th August 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 19th August 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 26th August 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 2nd September 6.00-7.00pm

Term 4 Sessions:

Monday 14th October 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 21st October 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 28th October 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 4th November 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 11th November 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 18th November 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 25th November 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 2nd December 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 9th December 6.00-7.00pm

Integrated Education:

- Physical development & recovery
- HNT Principles of play
- Functional strength

Home Programs:

Functional strength and movement
Skill development

U18 Representative Program

Trial dates: 22nd & 29th April

Tournament: TBC



U16 ACADEMY PROGRAM

Age eligibility: Aged 15-16 in 2024

Placements: Up to 24 Males and 24 Females

How do I get selected into the U16 Academy?

- Eligible athletes selected in previous U13 & U15 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Athletes identified from the 2023 U13/U15 trials will receive automatic entry invitations
- Clubs and or individual athletes can also nominate by emailing technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au; club performances and club feedback will be used to determine selections

2024 Program Cost:

- Term 2: \$90
- Term 3: \$90
- Term 4: \$135
- Total program \$299 (Discounted)

Uniforms:

Stingers training singlets available on order

Staffing: Technical Director, State U16 & U18 Coaches, Academy Development Coaches

Program Contact: competitionsandevents@hockeynt.asn.au

Term 2 Sessions:

Monday 29th April 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 13th May 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 20th May 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 27th May 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 3rd June 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 17th June 5.00-6.00pm

Term 3 Sessions:

Monday 22nd July 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 29th July 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 12th August 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 19th August 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 26th August 6.00-7.00pm
Monday 2nd September 6.00-7.00pm

Term 4 Sessions:

Monday 14th October 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 21st October 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 28th October 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 4th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 11th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 18th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 25th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 2nd December 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 9th December 5.00-6.00pm

Integrated Education:

- Physical development & recovery
- HNT Principles of play
- Functional strength

Home Programs:

Functional strength and movement
Skill development

U16 Representative Program

Trial dates:

29th & 31st January

Men 5-6.30pm

Women 6.30pm-8pm

MWT Hockey Centre Marrara

Tournament: 4-11 April in Hobart, TAS



U14 ACADEMY PROGRAM

Age eligibility: Aged 11-14 in 2024

Placements: Up to 24 Males and 24 Females

How do I get selected into the U13 Academy?

- Athletes selected in the 2023 U15 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Eligible athletes selected in previous U13 State teams will receive automatic entry invitations
- Athletes identified from the 2023 U13/U15 trials will receive automatic entry invitations
- Clubs and or individual athletes can also nominate by emailing Technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au; club performances and club feedback will be used to determine selections

2024 Program Cost:

- Term 1: \$105
- Term 2: \$90
- Term 4: \$135
- Total program \$299 (Discounted)

Uniforms:

Stingers training singlets available on order

Staffing: Technical Director, State U14 & U16 Coaches, Academy Development Coaches

Program Contact: competitionsandevents@hockeynt.asn.au

Term 1 Sessions:

Monday 12th February 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 19th February 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 26th February 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 4th March 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 11th March 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 18th March 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 25th March 5.00-6.00pm

Term 2 Sessions:

Monday 29th April 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 13th May 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 20th May 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 27th May 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 3rd June 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 17th June 5.00-6.00pm

Term 4 Sessions:

Monday 14th October 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 21st October 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 28th October 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 4th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 11th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 18th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 25th November 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 2nd December 5.00-6.00pm
Monday 9th December 5.00-6.00pm

Integrated Education:

- Physical Development & Recovery
- HNT Principles of play
- Functional strength

Home Programs:

Functional strength and movement
Skill development

U14 Representative Program

Trials: 22nd & 29th July
MWT Hockey Centre Marrara

Tournament:

29th September - 5th October
Perth, WA



HOOKIN2HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Age eligibility: Aged 6-14 in 2024

U14 Program: Players aged 13 & 14 in 2024

U12 Program: Players aged 11 & 12 in 2024

U10 Program: Players aged 9 & 10 in 2024

U8 Program: Players aged 6, 7 & 8 in 2024

Placements: The program caters for numbers as required, athletes will work with coaches on a maximum 1:10 ratio

How do I get selected into the Development Program?

All Territory athletes are eligible to participate in the program you just need to register. All abilities and experience levels will be catered for

Can goalkeepers join the program?

Goalkeepers will be provided goalkeeper specific coaching and development activities

Program Cost:

\$90 per term

Athletes can register term by term or for the full year

\$299 annual cost (Discounted)

Uniforms:

Development Program uniforms can be ordered through Hockey NT when you register

Term 1 Training Sessions:

Monday 19th February 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 26th February 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 4th March 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 11th March 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 18th March 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 25th March 5.00-6.00pm

Term 2 Training Sessions:

Monday 29th April 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 13th May 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 20th May 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 27th May 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 3rd June 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 17th June 5.00-6.00pm

Term 3 Training Sessions:

Monday 22nd July 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 29th July 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 12th August 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 19th August 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 26th August 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 2nd September 5.00-6.00pm

Term 4 Training Sessions:

Monday 14th October 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 21st October 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 28th October 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 4th November 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 11th November 5.00-6.00pm

Monday 18th November 5.00-6.00pm

Venue: MWT Hockey Stadium

Staffing: Development Program Lead Coaches, Academy Development Coaches

Program Contact: competitionsandevents@hockeynt.asn.au



FUTURES PROGRAM



Eligibility:

- National categorised athletes
- HNT U18 identified athletes

Placements: Athletes on existing agreements will be rolled over upon review in the new year. Athletes will also be identified upon the conclusion of each National Championship event year and offered agreements based on performances.

Program overview:

Athletes are individually case managed in a supplementary and supportive manner across their existing club, state team, Academy program and other life commitments.

How do I get selected into the Futures Program?

- Athletes are identified by Hockey Australia and Hockey NT through National Championship performances

Selectors:

Technical Director, Performance Advisory Panel, National Pathways Managers

Purpose: The primary purpose of the Futures program is to provide elite Territory Hockey talent with the support and opportunity to take their hockey to another level and to prepare for and perform at the elite level Nationally

STINGERS LEGACY

The present and the future are inextricably connected to our past, a past that not only serves to remind us of who we are but also of what is possible.

The Stingers branding is coupled with having **one identity** as part of our aspiration to rejoin the Hockey One League and encompasses the proud history of our Darwin Blazes, Territory Pearls, Territory Stingers and our State Senior teams.

Our history is full of stories of exceptional individual performances whilst representing the Territory on the National stage; at Senior National Championships, in the National Hockey League (NHL) and the Australian Hockey League (AHL). All of our senior teams have provided launching pads for exceptional careers; think Olympic Gold medallists Mark Hickman and Nova Peris, Olympic Silver Medallist Jeremy Hayward, World Cup winners Desmond Abbott and Joel Carroll, our current Hockeyroos star Brooke Peris and perhaps our greatest player of all - Olympic Bronze medallist and Commonwealth Game Gold Medallist Stephen 'Shaggy' Holt - to name but a decorated few.

Whilst we have an impressive list of international players spread across our history, the hockey world is also littered with icons at the domestic level as well - players like Darryl McCormack who has played over 400 games in the Perth Premier League, the 6 times DHL fairest and best David Skippings, Blacksticks Goalkeeper and Auckland Premier League star Leon Hayward and ex Hockeyroo and Wesley and South Perth premiership player Lizzie Duguid all quickly spring to mind.

This history is also full of amazing feats from our teams who have always refused to accept our population size and the enormity of the task as insurmountable.

Always the under dog, always up for the fight and always punching above our weight. We continue our journey to take our rightful place on the National stage, so that our next generation of talent can aspire and work hard to write their own stories.

This is who we are.....



Blazes



SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

Is the Stingers Academy only for athletes that have represented the NT?

No. There are automatic entry spots reserved for athletes that have represented NT in previous years or performed in trials and development activities, with the remaining spots open to anyone who wishes to nominate for the 2024 Academy program.

Can I play state hockey if I'm not in the Stingers Academy?

Yes. Being in the Stingers Academy is not a pre-requisite to play state hockey, the selection process for all state teams will be conducted separately from all underpinning programs.

If an athlete sustains an injury and has to miss a number of sessions, will there be a refund?

Hockey NT will consider requests for a refund on an individual basis. The nature and seriousness of the illness/injury will be considered along with the estimated recovery period. Please email Michelle Caden at Hockey NT, technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au for further information.

If the Development Program or the Academy sessions have already commenced, and I wish to sign up, am I too late?

The 2024 Stingers Academy program is designed to fit into and support our state team programs and is also set out in blocks inside the school terms. If you miss the first sessions or one of the training blocks, then you can still apply for the 2024 Academy program as it runs through until December 2024. In this situation we ask that you please contact email Michelle Caden at Hockey NT, technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au to discuss the available options.

Registrations have closed, can I still sign-up?

Each Academy age group has the number of available spots capped. Once the spots are filled then you will not be able to register. Please email Michelle Caden at Hockey NT, technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au to check availability.

Will Goalkeepers be tailored for in the Development Program and Stingers Academy?

Yes. Goalkeepers who register for the Development Program will be provided with specific goalkeeping coaching and training exercises. Goalkeepers who are selected into the Stingers Academy will be prioritised within the program and will be provided with goalkeeper specific training and specialist coach support.

Will there be opportunities for coaches and clubs to be involved in the Stingers Academy?

Yes. The Stingers Academy is the key vehicle for the development of all aspirational members of our community; coaches and umpires who wish to be involved should contact Michelle Caden at Hockey NT, technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au all clubs are encouraged to have an active connection to the program.

SUPPORTING QUESTIONS

What if I can't make all the sessions planned; can I receive a refund?

Unfortunately, the cost of running the Academy program is a set sum. To keep the program viable, we are unable to treat sessions and activities as individual events.

If I'm not based in Darwin can I access the HookIn2Hockey Development Program or Stingers Academy Programs?

Alice Springs athletes are intended to have access to a modified version of the Darwin based program in Alice Springs, and will be able to attend appropriate Darwin sessions when and if viable.

All Decentralised athletes will be contacted directly by their regional coordinator with program details:

Alice Springs: alicesprings@hockeynt.asn.au

What support is available for athletes over 18?

Hockey NT supports a Senior Stingers Development program. Without a current position in the Hockey One League we are currently working towards the following objectives;

- Select a centralised senior development squad
- Identify and support our decentralised athlete cohort
- Develop, support, and promote athletes for higher level competitions, events and development opportunities
- Develop a versatile program structure and approach to support general list development, opportunity preparation and opportunity selection processes
- Support U21 state team program development and National Championship preparation

What has happened to the old Futures program?

Hockey NT has updated its Futures program to individually case manage priority Hockey Australia and Hockey NT identified athletes. Individual athlete programs will be integrated into the relevant Stingers Academy program and also include personalised training support for selected athletes.

What has happened to the old TDP program?

Hockey NT has updated the TDP program to align with the National branding of HookIn2Hockey, the program is exactly the same but with a new name.

For further Information please email Michelle Caden at Hockey NT, technicaldirector@hockeynt.asn.au