

Volleyball Australia Emerging Talent Program FAQ 2022-2023

Q: Do I need to attend ALL THREE VA Emerging Talent trial dates?

A: No, you only need to attend a minimum of one trial session, but if you can make all three sessions at your preferred training centre then please do so. There is no advantage, or disadvantage, to an athlete's selection outcome if they do, or do not, attend all three trial sessions.

Q: What do I do if I cannot make ANY trial sessions?

A: Please still register to trial as normal, and contact us with your first available date in which you are available to attend a session. We will have you attend that session (and any further thereafter if requested by the Head Coach) and use that session as your trial session.

Q: If I have participated in the VA/QAS Emerging Talent program previously, do I need to re-register to trial?

A: Yes! All Emerging Talent athletes MUST re-register to trial for the new scholarship period, and must attend trial sessions to be considered for the new scholarship period. The registration form can be found at <https://www.revolutionise.com.au/qasvolleyball/events/>

Q: What is the Yearly Training Program Fee for Emerging Talent?

A: The current yearly fee for the 2022-2023 (March 2022- end of February 2023) scholarship period is \$660 inc GST. This fee will be charged if you accept an offer to participate in the program after completing your trial sessions. Program fees are invoiced to athletes/parents/guardians following completion of the trial process and once you accept your offer.

Q: Are Payment Plans Available?

A: Yes, we can offer a payment plan to financially challenged athletes or families. Please contact our administration and finance officer if you would prefer to go on a payment plan. Email: qasvolleyball.admin@volleyball.org.au to request a payment plan for your yearly fee.

Q: Do I need to pay the FULL Emerging Talent Fee if I leave the program early, or if I start late in the current training cycle?

A: Yes, if you accept an offer to participate in the program beyond your trial, you will need to pay the full program fee as outlined in your offer (currently \$660 inc GST for Emerging Talent), regardless of how many training sessions you have attended or are able to attend during the scholarship period.

Your yearly fee includes uniform, access to training equipment, access to high-level coaching and information afforded only to Emerging Talent athletes. We encourage you to carefully consider your offer and ensure you get along to as many training sessions as possible.

There is NO pro-rata reduction in the yearly program fee if you enter the program late, or leave the program early. Please consider this if you have been offered a position prior to accepting and returning your signed offer documentation. For athletes starting later, we will offer an option for you to attend additional trainings each week at different centres to make up for any lost or missed sessions so value for money in our program is retained.

Q: Am I too old/young to participate in the Emerging Talent Program?

A: The Volleyball Australia Emerging Talent program trains both male and female athletes of ages 10 – 16 years of age, in general. In some instances, we have older athletes in our program, but the focus remains on the 10-16 years age groups in general. Our training groups are split across courts, so you are training with others of similar skill, experience or potential.

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Q: Do you need to be skilled/experienced in volleyball to join the Emerging Talent squads?

A: No, you do not require any prior experience in volleyball to trial for our program. All that is required is a strong desire to learn and get better, and a willingness to try new things and challenge yourself in the process.

Q: Can I trial for a different centre if I am not successful in trialing for my preferred centre?

A: If you are not successful in gaining a position at your preferred centre, but we have an option for you at a different centre, we may offer you a place at that centre (without the need to re-trial at that different centre). Bear in mind that other centres train on different days and times and you will be expected to attend the centre for training in which you were offered (not the centre where you originally trialed).

Q: How many training sessions can I attend per week in the Emerging Talent Program if I am offered a position in a squad?

A: You can only attend one training session per week in Emerging Talent – preferably at your chosen training centre. In case of a clash on any given week, you may request to train at a different centre for that week with the prior approval of the Emerging Talent Head Coach.

Q: Do I have to attend every training session throughout the year?

A: No. We understand there will be times you will have other volleyball or sports events on (school/club/representative games), will have family events or a need to focus on your school work or assessments etc. While we encourage you to attend as many training sessions as possible over the scholarship period, you will not be expected to attend them all.

Q: Does the Emerging Talent Program train over school holidays or on public holidays?

A: Generally no. Usually we train during school term weeks only, and generally not on any public holidays. There may be times (usually over Xmas/New Year break) where we offer optional training sessions for Emerging Talent athletes (usually in January each year) at each centre, subject to venue and coaching staff availability.

Q: Can I train at a different centre if there is a clash with my preferred centre training time on any given week?

A: Yes, this is possible but must be approved by the Emerging Talent Head Coach prior to attending the training session at the different centre.

Q: How can I get into the QAS Development Squad or Elite Squads?

A: The Volleyball Australia Emerging Talent program is the entry-level program into the Volleyball Australia and Queensland Academy of Sport high-performance pathway in Queensland. All athletes must enter through and participate in the Emerging Talent program before they may be considered for the higher QAS Development and Elite squads. Entry into these squads is via invitation only.

Periodically throughout the 12-month training period, the Emerging Talent Head Coach will discuss individual athletes' progress with the QAS Head Coach and Assistant Coach and recommend athletes to trial for these higher level programs. QAS Development and Elite squads are based in Brisbane only.

There is no set time frame or age where athletes may be invited to these higher-level squads. It is assessed on an individual basis and rarely is it based on athlete's previous results. It is based more on athlete characteristics (height, speed, agility, explosiveness – or a combination of these).



Q: What is the main method of communication in the Emerging Talent program?

A: We use email as our primary mode of communication. Please ensure you are receiving our emails regularly and contact us if you are not receiving regular emails or training reminders from us. We are exploring other options of communication.

Our Facebook page will also have some useful information for athletes/parents and guardians and we encourage everyone to Like and Follow the page at <https://www.facebook.com/VAETPQLD> or search "Volleyball Australia Emerging Talent Program – Queensland" to find us on Facebook. Please note this is a publicly accessible page and no personal information should be posted to this page.

Q: What are your COVID-Safe Protocols?

A: The Volleyball Australia Emerging Talent program places a high priority on the safety and wellbeing of our athletes, their families and our staff. As such, we strictly adhere to an approved industry COVIDSafe plan. Copies of our plans and COVIDSafe protocols are available on request.

Athletes and families are reminded weekly of COVID protocols and are updated on any changes to these rules and protocols for attending Emerging Talent training sessions. Athletes should not attend training if they are not 100% well, or have any signs or symptoms of illness, even if mild.

Q: What happens if trainings are affected/cancelled due to COVID-19 related matters?

A: Our program abides by all Queensland Health and Queensland Government mandates in regard to running of training sessions. In the event where trainings are not able to be run for multiple weeks due to COVID-related issues, availability of coaching staff or venue access issues, we will extend the scholarship period by the same amount of time as the number of weeks training sessions have been lost, if another suitable training option is not able to be arranged. I.e. in the event of a 2-week stop to training, the end of the training period will be extended out another two weeks. If there was a 4-week lockdown or 4 weeks of missed sessions, then the program extends another 4 weeks beyond the originally planned end date. For shorter training cessation timeframes, there will be no extension to the end date, but athletes will be offered an additional training session(s) within the yearly cycle to make up for these missed trainings.

Q: I have a question that is not answered here. Who do I contact?

A: Please contact the VA Emerging Talent Full Time Coaching staff:

- Dean Bielanowski: dean.bielanowski@volleyball.org.au
- Brianna Mears: brianna.mears@volleyball.org.au