



FAQ: WEST COAST EAGLES NAITANUI ACADEMY (NEXT GENERATION ACADEMY)



IS THE NAITANUI ACADEMY THE SAME THING AS NEXT GENERATION

ACADEMIES (NGA)?

Yes. Every club has a Next Generation Academy. At the West Coast Eagles, we have chosen to name our NGA the Naitanui Academy.

WHAT ARE NGA's?

Next Generation Academies (NGA's) are a joint initiative between the AFL and AFL Clubs aimed at the attraction, retention, and development of talented Multicultural and Indigenous male players. NGA's are designed to grow participation in these under-represented segments of our community.

WHAT ARE THE INCENTIVES OFFERED TO AFL CLUBS TO RUN NGA's?

AFL clubs can receive Draft concessions for graduates from their NGA programs.

HOW DO YOU QUALIFY FOR NGA's (the Naitanui Academy)

To qualify for the Naitanui Academy, players should meet the following criteria:

1. Have a residential address within one of our aligned WAFL Districts. Those Districts are the metro and regional areas aligned with East Perth, Perth, Subiaco, Swan Districts and Claremont's Great Southern zone (but not their metro or Kimberley zones).
2. **New participants must be aged 11 – 15 years (based on birth year) to join.**
3. Have an indigenous heritage.
4. Have multicultural heritage where one parent is born in an African, Asian, South & Central American or Pacific Island Country (excluding New Zealand and Hawaii)

We can only receive draft concessions for players who meet the criteria outlined above. These qualification rules are set by the AFL and not the West Coast Eagles. Rules focus on developing opportunities for players that are currently under-represented in traditional AFL pathways.

WHAT IS THE COST OF BELONGING TO THE NAITANUI ACADEMY?

There is currently no cost to participate in any Naitanui Academy programs.



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DO I NEED TO PLAY FOOTBALL ALREADY TO BE INVOLVED?

No. Players of all ability and experience levels are welcome to participate.

CAN I JOIN THE NAITANUI ACADEMY IF I LIVE OUTSIDE THE EAGLES REGIONS?

In WA, Next Gen Academy zones are divided between West Coast and Fremantle. If you live outside an Eagles zone, you will be in a Fremantle zone and should join their Academy. If you are unsure on your alignment, please contact Academy staff to cross check your eligibility.

DOES THE NAITANUI ACADEMY GUARANTEE ME SELECTION IN OTHER AFL PATHWAYS AND, EVENTUALLY, THE WEST COAST EAGLES?

No. Belonging to the Academy doesn't give you guaranteed entry to any level of the Talent Pathway. However, you will have greater exposure to West Coast Eagles staff who are familiar with Talent Pathways and can advise you of opportunities. That staff will also give you exposure to first class training programs to help your progress.

WHAT CAN NEXT GENERATION ACADEMIES LEAD TO?

Multicultural and indigenous players gain connection to the West Coast Eagles. If a player, in their 15th year is progressing at a high level, Academy staff will nominate said player with the AFL. This activates NGA concessions in their 18th year (draft year). Concessions can be gained to enable players to enter the AFL system through the West Coast Eagles (from Pick 1 onwards). In the meantime, participants receive high quality coaching, can be connected to local competitions, and receive preparation for programs such as the Flying Boomerangs and World Academies. We also offer education in relation to football and life in general. We want players to be the best that they can in all walks of life.

WHEN ARE NAITANUI ACADEMY SESSIONS HELD?

When you join the Naitanui Academy you will receive a schedule of events (training, education, etc.). Planning is done in School Term blocks. Sessions are always held on Mondays at Mineral Resources Park Oval 2. 4pm-5.15pm



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ARE THERE SQUADS?

Yes. We currently have 3 training squads:

Rookie – boys born in 2013, 2014 and 2015

Junior – boys born in 2011 and 2012

Senior – boys born in 2008, 2009 and 2010

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE IF I LIVE IN THE COUNTRY?

The Eagles now employ representatives in many regional areas. They will conduct programs on our behalf. This will be supplemented by visits from our metro staff to our country zones across the year. Players will be notified directly when these sessions are being held in your area. If regional participants are in Perth, we welcome them to our metro sessions. If we have events such as NGA matches, a certain number of spots are always made available for country participants. If you are unsure who runs Academy programs in your region, please contact naitanuiacademy@wce.com.au for more information.

HOW DO I JOIN?

If you are interested in the Naitanui Academy and meet qualification criteria, **IT IS ESSENTIAL that you register**. This will ensure that you are covered by insurance and receive weekly email updates. It will also qualify you for draft concessions should you ever achieve that standard. The Naitanui Academy inducts players into its programs through 2 main streams and an additional open invite phase.

1 – Player Identification (WAFL/PSA). The Naitanui Academy works closely with aligned WAFL Club Talent Managers to identify players in WAFL Development systems who qualify to join the Naitanui Academy. Those players will be invited directly from the West Coast Eagles Player Identification Officer to become a member of the Academy.

2 - Player Identification (Community Football). The Naitanui Academy Player Identification officer attends Junior Community Football across our recruiting zones weekly. Identifying eligible players to join the Naitanui Academy. Those players will be invited to join through one of our Targeted New Player Induction sessions held between Term 2-3 each year.

What happens if I'm not Identified by the Naitanui Academy Player Identification Officer or via WAFL/PSA Programs?

Players not identified by the Academy but qualify for NGA and live in our recruiting zones are eligible to join through our Open Registration Windows. **Players must be aged between 11-15 for this opportunity**. Potential players will enter an expression of interest to join the Academy and then notified when open registration windows held. 2 open Registration windows will be held each season in the following phases. Start of Community Football (Early Term 2) & Mid-Season Break (July Holidays). Open registrations are limited, and it may not be possible for



all players to be accepted during each registration window. We will Endeavor to offer as many open registration positions as possible, but this will depend on current yearly numbers of each squad.

It's also important to note that players will develop at different rates and ages. Not every player will enter the NGA pathway at 11, so it's not uncommon for players to be invited in the 12–15-year-old range. We are actively inviting new players to enter our academy each year. Please don't be disheartened if you haven't been invited to join in your first year of eligibility. There is always capacity and discretion for Staff to add players outside of the means above, especially in the case of players who are multi-sport athletes or are relocating from other areas.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I JOIN?

You will be added to the database and mailing list. WCE Academy staff will invite you to the next scheduled "Player Induction Day" at Mineral Resources Park. You will receive your uniform, a program overview, player handbook and meet and greet with staff and players. Once your induction is complete, you are free to attend your allocated squad's next training session and begin your journey with our Academy. **Please don't attend training until you have completed your induction.**

Please join our closed NGA Academy Facebook group (Parents and Players of male and female academies only) <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2423398067984573/> and follow us on Instagram @eaglesacademies (public profile)

CONTACT US Please check out information above. If you still have questions, email: naitanuiacademy@wce.com.au