

## **2021 – 2023 Isle of Man Sport Aid Academy FAQ Sheet**

### **Introduction:**

The Sport Aid Academy (SAA) was launched in September 2015. We are looking for sports and secondary schools to nominate young people to be part of the Academy from September 2021 to April 2023.

### **What is the Sport Aid Academy?**

The SAA is a place for young people, their parents and coaches to discover, discuss, consider and create the foundational skills and behaviours required to become an sportsman or women capable of excelling on the World Stage in open-age competition.

### **Why does the Sport Aid Academy exist?**

The Isle of Man has a history of punching well above its weight in the world of sport. The SAA is one of the ways IOM Sport is attempting to ensure this continues to happen for many years to come.

### **Who can be nominated onto the SAA?**

Research tells us that many of the people who are at the top of their rankings as junior age-grade sportsmen and women are rarely the ones at the top of the rankings when it comes to open-age competition. For that reason, and others we discuss at the Academy, current performance levels are not key criteria. We welcome nominations for young people in Yr 9 and 10 at school. Those who are the top performers are welcome, as are those who love the sport and are committed and hardworking to one or multiple sports regardless of their performance level.

### **I would like to nominate people from Yr 8 or Yr 11. Can I?**

We understand some sports or young people may require an early or later entry into the SAA for a variety of reasons. Please contact Paul Fletcher ([manxchasers@hotmail.com](mailto:manxchasers@hotmail.com)) or Raymond Cox ([racox1961@yahoo.com](mailto:racox1961@yahoo.com)) at the Manx Horse Council to discuss any exceptional circumstances.

### **What is the difference between the SAA and Sport Aid?**

The SAA is the first part of the Sport Aid pathway. Being on the Academy equals being on Sport Aid. There are 6 tiers within the Sport Aid Pathway – Academy, Potential, Emerging, Breakthrough, Performance and Mastery. The type of support IOM Sport Aid provides differs as a person moves through the pathway. We believe the Academy is an essential part to ensure those who can are able to move to the Performance and Mastery tiers in years to come.

### **What support does the SAA provide?**

The SAA provides a minimum of 18 events over a 2-year period which cover relevant topics for young people, their coaches and parents wishing to have a career in sport. The events will include access to some of the very best sports men and women the IOM has produced alongside others who tried but didn't quite make it and others who have extensive experience working alongside both of those groups.

## **I would like to nominate a young person Under the age of 16 for Sport Aid instead of the Academy.**

This is not possible unless an individual is currently competing at National/international level in senior competition. Sport Aid is for people over the age of 16. If under 16 we would direct you to the Academy or to wait until the young person meets the Sport Aid criteria.

## **How do I nominate someone for the Academy?**

Please give names to Paul Fletcher (manxchasers@hotmail.com) by April 30th. There will be a formal application form from IOM Sport to fill in after that date.

## **What happens once I have nominated someone?**

IOM Sport Aid will be in touch with each young person via their parents. That correspondence will include the Academy dates for the next 12 months, including the main topic for each event, a form the young person will need to fill-in either online or in paper form and a brief overview of the Academy.

## **How many people can I nominate for my sport?**

We suggest you nominate as many as you feel will benefit from the experience and IOM Sport will be in touch if we get into a position where we have too many people nominated.

## **Who else can nominate young people?**

All sports governing bodies will have the opportunity to nominate people. Once all the nominations have been received from them IOM Sport will contact the Island's schools to see if anyone has been missed. The young people nominated by the school are likely to be part of a sports governing body programme but they will be recorded as a school or multisport participant rather than linked to one specific sport.