

### **Local Sporting Champions 2014-15 update - March 2014**

March 1 sees the new allocation for the Local Sporting Champions (LSC) program for 2014-15 financial year. It is at this time that the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) takes the opportunity to advise you of any changes to the program to ensure that it continues to function as efficiently as possible, and further, ensure that the funding is being provided to young people as per the objective of the program. As such, please note the following changes:

- **Changes to the age criteria**  
Currently the age criteria is that applicants must be between the ages of 12 and 18 (inclusive) at the start of the competition. The ASC receives many queries and complaints from parents of 11 year olds who turn 12 just after the competition has commenced. As such, the age criteria will now be that the applicant must be turning 12-18 in the year of the competition. This slight change now means that 11 year olds who will only turn 12 at the end of the year can now apply for events they are attending. It will however mean that there will be some older athletes who are no longer able to apply as they will be turning 19 this year.
- **Changes to team grants**  
The major change that will be made to the LSC program will be the removal of Team grants with funding instead being available for more individual grants. Currently the team grants component of the program is very inefficient and confusing. Many applicants do not know whether to apply as a team or individuals, the team applications are difficult to administer with the ASC aware that in the majority of team grants provided they do not reach the families of those that it was intended for. As a result of these changes the funding usually allocated to team grants will be used to offer additional individual grants in each electorate noting that athletes in teams are eligible to apply for individual grants. Metropolitan electorates will have 36 individual and non-Metropolitan electorates will have 50 individual grants of \$500 to award each year.

Thank you for your continued support of the Local Sporting Champions program.