

# WOMEN OF SPORT EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM

## Empowering the Next Generation of Women Leaders in Sport.

The Women of Sport Emerging Leaders Program is an empowering initiative designed to equip women with the skills, knowledge, and networks necessary to thrive in senior leadership roles within the sports industry. Offering a range of mentoring, workshops, and career development tools, this program is for aspiring leaders who are ready to take the next step in their careers.

The State Government through the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport and Lotterywest are major supporters of SportWest and the Women of Sport Network in Western Australia. Sport and recreation create vibrant, inclusive, and connected WA communities.

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## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Women of Sport Emerging Leaders Program is designed to support your leadership growth through a range of practical and inspiring experiences. Each component works together to build your confidence, expand your networks, and equip you with the skills to take the next step in your career. Below is what you can expect as part of your journey.



### Mentor Program

The Women of Sport Emerging Leaders Program pairs you with an experienced mentor. Our diverse mentor network includes professionals from various sectors who bring valuable insights, leadership experience, and strategic guidance. Through tailored one-on-one sessions, you'll receive guidance, support, and insight, enabling you to overcome challenges, expand your leadership capacity, and gain valuable advice to navigate your career journey.



### Inspiring Women Series

Our Inspiring Women Series feature influential speakers from diverse backgrounds who will share their stories, challenges, and successes. These workshops will inspire and motivate you to break barriers and redefine what is possible in the sports industry. These sessions will include practical group discussions to apply learnings.



### Developing Women Workshops

These experiential workshops are designed to sharpen your leadership skills. You'll engage in hands-on activities, build confidence, and learn how to show up as an authentic and effective leader, especially in our fast paced work environments.



### Career Development Toolkits and Coaching

Access our comprehensive career development toolkits, which include self-reflection exercises, personal strength and workstyle preference assessment tools. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to engage in one-on-one coaching sessions to tailor your development plan and refine your professional goals.



### Networking Events

Throughout the program, you will attend several networking events to connect with fellow participants, mentors, and industry leaders. Events include:

- **Launch Event:** Kicking off the program, this event will introduce you to the program's objectives and provide an opportunity to meet fellow participants and mentors.
- **Midway Event:** A check-in point where participants can share their experiences, challenges, and growth while expanding their networks.
- **Final Celebration:** The culmination of your journey, where you will reflect on your development and celebrate the progress you've made.



## Powered by Metisphere

The Women of Sport Emerging Leaders Program is proudly supported by Metisphere, experts in mentoring and leadership development with a deep understanding of the unique challenges facing women in sport.

With over 16 years of delivering gender-specific leadership programs and supporting more than 3,000 women, Metisphere brings invaluable insights to help you build confidence, develop leadership skills, and navigate your career journey. Together, Metisphere and SportWest have created this program for women ready to take their next step as leaders.

## Program Schedule and Commitment

Participation in all program elements is compulsory to ensure you gain the full benefits of the experience. Where possible, online access will be provided for regional applicants to support accessibility and engagement.

Each participant and mentor will need to commit to at least six (6) meetings during the Program period (March– November 2026).

Dates are subject to change. Participants will be notified as soon as possible if dates or times are altered.

6 March	Mentee Training	2.5 hours
6 March	Program launch   International Women's Day Lunch	2 hours
24 March	Inspiring Women Series	2.5 hours
13 April	Career Toolkit #1	Self-paced
April	Online Coaching Session*	30 minutes
23 April	Developing Women Workshop	2.5 hours
27 May	Inspiring Women Series	2.5 hours
22 July	Midway Networking Event	2.5 hours
27 August	Developing Women Workshop	2.5 hours
7 September	Career Toolkit #2	Self-paced
September	Online Coaching Session*	30 minutes
14 October	Inspiring Women Series	2.5 hours
29 October	Final Celebration Event	2 hours

\* Dates/Times are to be arranged between the participants and the career consultant.



## Who Should Apply?

This program is ideal for women who are ready to step into leadership roles and make an impact working in the Western Australian sports industry. You should have:

- A desire to develop your leadership skills and expand your network
- A commitment to your personal and professional growth
- A passion for advancing gender equality and inclusion in sport

## Apply now to be part of this transformative journey.

To apply please complete and submit the following application form by 30 November 2025

### [Expression of Interest Form](#)

## Cost

Fully funded by SportWest and the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport.

## Application Timeline

- Application open date  
**29 October 2025**
- Application closing date  
**10pm 30 November 2025**
- Successful applicants advised via Email of Acceptance  
**10 December 2025**

## Eligibility

To be eligible to apply, an applicant must satisfy all the following criteria:

- Identify as a woman.
- Aged 18 years or over.
- Working or volunteering within sport and recreation:
  - State or National Sporting Organisations
  - Sporting club.
  - Community sport and active recreation organisations
- Provide written confirmation and a letter of support from one of the above organisations.
- You can prioritise the expected mentoring time commitment and timeframes outlined.

SportWest may at its sole discretion, offer an applicant special consideration if an eligibility requirement set out in these guidelines cannot be met due to extenuating circumstances.

## Application Process

Eligible applicants will be assessed on the content in the application form and against the criteria below. Please note eligibility is only one part of the application.

An assessment panel will be convened by SportWest to review and assess each application.

All decisions regarding applications are at the sole discretion of SportWest. SportWest reserves the right to amend this guideline at any time.

Criteria:

- Relevance of applicants' current or proposed role in sport.
- Alignment and ability of the Program to support the applicant's development and career or volunteer aspirations in sport.
- The applicant's participation in the Program would bring benefit to the applicant's organisation and the sport community.