

NSCG

NEWCASTLE
AND STAFFORD
COLLEGES GROUP



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Provider
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NSCG
ACADEMY OF
SPORT

NSCG Academy of Sport

It begins at
NSCG

One team One dream.



Welcome to the NSCG Academy of Sport.

Your journey is up to you, whether you want to compete, coach, volunteer or just keep fit and have fun, the choice is yours. You decide what you want to study and where sport fits in.

It's not about choosing between studies and sport. Being a part of the NSCG Academy of Sport means you can have it all.



No.1

**college in
the West
Midlands for
sports
participation.**

*AoC Sport Points
Table 2025*

Take playing seriously, assemble your squad and flex more than your mental muscles during your time at NSCG. If you enjoy sport you can join one of our sports academies alongside your studies. The NSCG Academy of Sport is made up of eight Performance Academies, they're nationally recognised and give you the opportunity to compete all over the UK.

Our Performance Academies

- Badminton
- Basketball
- Cricket
- Esports
- Football
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby
- Volleyball

The world at your feet.

Being part of TEAM:NSCG means you're ready to share the same collective dream, which quite simply is to be the best we can be, and have fun doing it.

So, if you're good at sport and you've got that fire inside you, it sounds like you're ready to join the team.

This is the competitive element of the NSCG Academy of Sport. There might be sweat, there might be a few tears along the way, but you'll make friends for life, have a blast and share a passion for sport. Who knows you might even add a few more trophies to the collection.

So, if you're ambitious and up for the challenge, join one of our successful Academy of Sport

programmes that play within the Association of Colleges (AoC) Sport competitive leagues and cups at both a national and regional level.

As part of TEAM:NSCG, you'll train hard with our expert coaches and play at a competitive level in a specific sport, as well as receiving support to reach your goals.



Unique Experiences

The Academy also gives you unique one-off experiences. Learn what it feels like to walk out on the pitch of the BET365 stadium, meet your sporting heroes or be recognised for your sporting talents.

National Championships

This is the big one, all sports teams and individuals representing NSCG have the opportunity to compete at the West Midlands regional finals. If successful you'll compete as part of the West Midlands team against the rest of the country at the national finals, held at The University of Nottingham.

Sport Awards

Our end of year awards are the perfect opportunity to get together, celebrate individual and team successes and reflect on what's sure to have been an incredible season.





Best of the best.

Let's face it. If you're serious about your sport, you want the best facilities to train and compete. And here at NSCG, that's exactly what we give you.

We've invested over £3M to make sure our campuses have the best sporting facilities in Staffordshire.

We're talking about two new, state-of-the-art 4-court Sports Halls with viewing galleries, a brand new gym at Stafford and upgraded gym facilities at Newcastle.

Plus, our Sport England-approved 3G pitch is ready for action day or night, with a spectator space for supporters to cheer you on.

We give you the best so you can be the best.



Alongside our own facilities, we're proud to partner with local rugby and cricket clubs located less than 10 minutes from our main campus, where students have access to a full size 3G Astro pitches, grass pitches and cricket pitches for Academy football matches.

Badminton

Make a racket.

Our Badminton Academy is all about developing your racket skills, matchplay ability and fitness, as well as having fun alongside people who are as passionate about this energetic sport as you are.

The Academy is open from beginners through to those playing at national and international levels.

You'll be in great company too as NSCG has an excellent track record in competing on the big stage, with students scooping individual regional accolades, as well as gold medals at the National Championships, competing against some of the best talent from across the country.

No matter what your standard is you will be welcome to join and enjoy playing this fantastic sport at NSCG.

What's available?

Mixed Squads (Newcastle Campus)



**Discover more about our
Badminton Academy.**



Leo Parkinson

Let's face it. Some people are just wired for sport. Take Leo, a badminton powerhouse who dominated the West Midlands two years straight, captaining the regional team to victory at the AoC National Championships. But that's not all. Upon starting at NSCG he decided to try volleyball for the first time, helping the team win a historic national double.

Course: BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Applied Science

Destination: Keele University to study Physiotherapy

Basketball

Wow the crowd.

Our Basketball Academy has a long history of producing teams of champions. If you're dedicated, focused and ready to put in 100% then this is the academy for you!

You will get the chance to play in the AoC Sport regional and national leagues, with fixtures taking place throughout the academic year.

Open to players of all levels and abilities, the Basketball Academy will identify your development needs, working on drills, shooting, strength and conditioning as well as general fitness to ensure you're ready to face the competition.

As part of the Basketball Academy, you also can take the opportunity to enhance your development off the court, by taking on Basketball Coaching qualifications.

What's available?

Men's Basketball (Newcastle Campus)
Ladies Basketball (Newcastle Campus)



Discover more about our
Basketball Academy.



Jaden Wilson

Jaden is the heartbeat of the team, leading NSCG to the AOC Sport West Midlands League 2 title last season as captain. His ability on the court is undeniable, but it's his attitude, determination, and relentless work rate that truly set him apart.

Always leading by example, he is a role model for younger players, inspiring them to reach the high standards he sets. Away from college, Jaden continues to showcase his talent with Hanley Hustlers Basketball Club.

Course: Level 3 Diploma in Gym Instructing and Personal Training

Cricket

Make an impact.

If you've got a winning mindset, quick-fire reactions and pace to out run the competition, our Cricket Academy can shape and guide you to success.

Established in 2020, as one of our newer academies, our Cricket team have already added silverware to the collection. Winning the West Midlands Cricket League three years in a row, as well as reaching the finals of the AoC National T20 Knockout Cup in 2021 and 2022.

We've a strong partnership with Porthill Park Cricket Club, which allows students use of their professional facilities and pitches on match day, alongside NSCGs investment in indoor cricket equipment.

Our Cricket Academy is open to players of all abilities, with several of our players going on to represent Staffordshire County Cricket U18s.

What's available?

Men's Cricket (Newcastle Campus)



**Discover more about our
Cricket Academy.**



Sophie Warrilow

Sophie Warrilow is the complete all-rounder. A powerful batter, sharp wicket keeper, and dynamic pace bowler. She has already made her mark with an unbeaten 127 high score, a national title in the ECB Club T20 U15s and her Staffordshire County Women's debut in 2025.

On the international stage, Sophie represented England at the 2023 U17 World Series in Dubai and will once again wear the shirt at the Emerging Stars Tournament in India.

Course: Level 3 BTEC National Foundation Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science

Esports

Ready Player One.

Our Esports academy is taking the competition by storm.

You'll be taking part in the British Esports Leagues, where we have multiple teams competing in PC-based games such as Rocket League, Overwatch, Valorant and League of Legends.

This is a fast paced sport, requiring excellent levels of focus and sharp reflexes. You'll be coached by the very best Esports coaches and given the vital skills necessary to take on the competition. Training sessions will take place on industry standard gaming rigs in one of our state-of-the-art Esports Hubs.

If you've got the drive to be the best, can hold your nerve and are a team player, this academy is for you.

What's available?

Mixed Squad (Newcastle Campus)

Mixed Squad (Stafford Campus)



Discover more about our Esports Academy.



A Taste of Success.

Despite being founded just four years ago, our NSCG teams have established themselves as a dominant force in British Esports by winning two major British Esports Championship trophies in quick succession as 2023 Rocket League Champions and 2022 Valorant Grand Champions - beating more established teams from across the UK.



Football

A game of two halves.

Our Football Academy is open to both male and females. We're looking for players who are good team players, hardworking and committed. So, if you're ready to conquer the league - then it's game on!

As a member of the Football Academy you will be a part of a Football Development Centre that is recognised as a Football Association Focus College.

You could be the next Erling Haaland or Beth Mead or just enjoy a kick around with your mates. With teams playing across multiple leagues and categories there's something for everyone.

Your training sessions will usually take place on 3G pitches, grass pitches or at local football clubs, where you'll get help developing your individual skills as well as working on team tactics and set pieces, with our professional, experienced and licensed coaches.

What's available?

**Men's Football
(Newcastle & Stafford Campuses)**

**Ladies Football
(Newcastle & Stafford Campuses)**



Ruby Millington

When it comes to sporting talent, look no further than Ruby. A talented footballer for the Andy Griffin Football Academy and Stoke City FC, she scored an incredible 35 goals in the 2024/5 season, helping her club win the league.

Her skills earned her a spot on the England Colleges Football squad, where she was named both Player of the Tournament and Top Goal Scorer.

Course: BTEC Level 3
Extended Diploma in Sport



Discover more
about our Football
Academy.

Hockey



Winning starts here.

We've just launched our brand new Hockey Academy - and it's already collecting Silverware.

You could be aiming for national recognition or simply looking to enjoy the sport. With both ladies and mixed teams, there truly is a place for everyone, regardless of your current level.

Your training takes place on dedicated astro pitches and local facilities, where professional, and experienced coaches will advance your individual stick skills, strategic positioning and set-piece execution.

What's available?

Ladies Hockey
(Newcastle & Stafford Campuses)

Men's Hockey
(Newcastle & Stafford Campuses)

Mixed Hockey
(Newcastle & Stafford Campuses)



Discover more about our Hockey Academy.



Amber Smit

Some players just bring it every game. Amber has been a key figure in the newly formed NSCG Hockey team's success, dominating the midfield and scoring excellent goals. Her hard work paid off in a big way when she was selected for the England Colleges Hockey Team. She even balances her studies while playing at a Premier League level for Sutton Coldfield.

Course: BTEC Level 3
Extended Diploma in Sport



**Our Girl's Hockey Team
are Staffordshire County
Champions!**

Netball

Shoot for the stars.

Netball at NSCG is an adrenaline fuelled, fast-paced sport where you'll get the chance to play all over the UK as part of a close-knit squad. Sound good? What are you waiting for?

Games can be tough and you'll be playing against some of the best colleges in the UK. Led by a supportive team of coaches, you'll be encouraged to develop your tactics on the court, working on shooting, strength and conditioning, defence and footwork.

The Academy gives you the chance to play in the AoC Sport regional and national leagues, with fixtures taking place throughout the academic year.

Not only will you make great friends and gain an amazing social life, previous squad members have also been selected to represent England and go onto compete professionally - so you could be looking at your future career.

What's available?

Ladies Netball (Newcastle Campus)

Ladies Netball (Stafford Campus)



Liv Brown

Liv is the complete package. Not only does she possess the height and skill to dominate the court, but she brings crucial leadership qualities as the captain of the A team. Her position at Goal Defence (GD) is defined by her incredible long reach and the talent to anticipate and intercept the ball during crucial match moments. It's no surprise that her talent and dedication have earned her a spot with the Super League Academy, Leeds Rhinos.

Course: A Levels in Graphic Design, Media Studies & Physical Education



Discover more about
our Netball Academy.

Rugby

Fast and furious.

If you've got a tenacious attitude, quick-fire pace and don't mind getting a few bruises, our Rugby Academy can help nurture your talents to ensure you're part of a fearsome squad of players, ready to take on the competition.

Competing in the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and AoC Sport Leagues, you'll need your wits about you and the ability to make split second decisions, but with our RFU qualified coaches we'll ensure your passing is on-point, your reactions are quick and your defence is tight.

Training takes place on the College's grass pitches and at local Newcastle and Stafford Rugby Clubs.

What's available?

Men's Rugby (Newcastle Campus)

Men's Rugby (Stafford Campus)



**Discover more about our
Rugby Academy.**



Joe Hobby

Joe has been a standout performer this season in the flanker position. His fearless tackling, relentless work rate and breakdown presence have made him a constant threat to the opposition. What truly sets Joe apart is his rugby intelligence. He reads the game exceptionally well, always seeming to be in the right place at the right time, a testament to his sharp instincts and understanding of the game.

Course: Level 3 T Level in Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction

volleyball

A league of their own.

In partnership with Volleyball England our energetic Volleyball Academy works with players to shape them into a team of motivated like-minded individuals with the drive to win.

Playing as part of a men's, ladies and mixed squad, our Volleyball Academy launched to ensure continued competition with our European neighbours and increase success at Junior International Level.

Providing you with an enhanced level of support, working closely with Volleyball England and in partnership with Newcastle Volleyball Club, you will work with a professional coach to establish daily training, appropriate support and ancillary services.

Alongside this, Volleyball England will deliver divisional and national team competitive programmes for a select group of academy players; providing an extended exposure to international representative volleyball.

What's available?

Men's Volleyball (Newcastle Campus)

Ladies Volleyball (Newcastle Campus)

Mixed Volleyball (Newcastle Campus)



Alex Viggars

A sporting powerhouse, Alex is an exceptional volleyball player, representing England U19s, captaining her local club to a second National Gold Cup, and being a major part of helping NSCG win the AoC National Knockout Cup. She was also the goalkeeper for the Andy Griffin Football Academy, helping them win the West Midlands title.

Course: BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Uniformed Protective Services

Destination: Paramedic Science at the University of Staffordshire with Volleyball Scholarship



Discover more
about our Volleyball
Academy.

Going for gold.

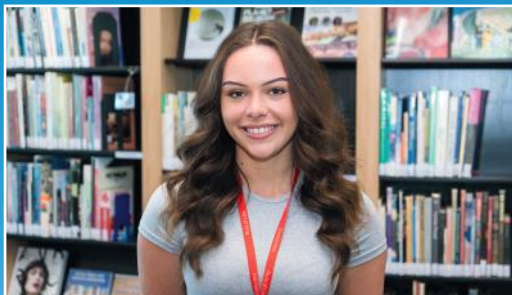
Our Elite Sports Performance Programme (ESPP) was created to allow super talented athletes to continue studying whilst training and competing to the highest level.

As you might of guessed by the title, you've got to be the best of the best to be selected. You can be competing in any sport, but need to showcase that you are performing at a high county, national or international level.

The Benefits

There is a rigorous application process you have to complete. But, if you're accepted on to the programme, you'll be loving life with the following benefits:

- Free use of sports facilities and gym*
- Free fitness programme
- Free ESPP kit
- University workshops at top sports institutions
- Dedicated Sport Science Support Officer
- Physiotherapy, sports massage and rehabilitation services



Taylor Pullin: Competed in United Aerial Arts Championships (1st), International Performance Aerial Arts Tournament (2nd).



James Cox: Setter on the England U22 Men's National Volleyball Team, competed in CEV European Championship Qualifiers.



Ava Doherty: Champion of Nationals and Manchester Box Cup, 2nd place Women's Winter Box Cup.



Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS)

If you're competing at county level or above, you can join the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) – Dual Career Accreditation.

The programme aims to allow talented athletes to successfully achieve in both their chosen course and sport.

You'll receive FREE strength and conditioning sessions, support with maintaining a healthy lifestyle, nutrition advice & sport psychology and lots more.

More than just a game



At NSCG, whatever sport you choose to play you'll also be given access to get involved in various sports volunteering programmes to help you give back, add something to your CV or to develop personally.

Volunteering can open up a new world of possibilities from supporting large scale sporting events to becoming an ambassador for your sport, helping to inspire others to follow in your footsteps.

Sports Volunteering & Leadership Programme

This programme provides you with the opportunity and incentive to become more involved in sport in the local area, through coaching and volunteering.

As part of the programme, you could be signed up to the AoC Sport Leadership Academy, a national volunteering programme, which sees you logging your volunteering hours to work towards a nationally recognised certificate.

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ECFA Activators

If you've got a passion for football, you could be helping to support the development of football within colleges and in the community as part of the ECFA Accredited College programme.

In return, the ECFA, the football development arm of AoC Sport, will provide training and networking opportunities to support your development as a young leader.



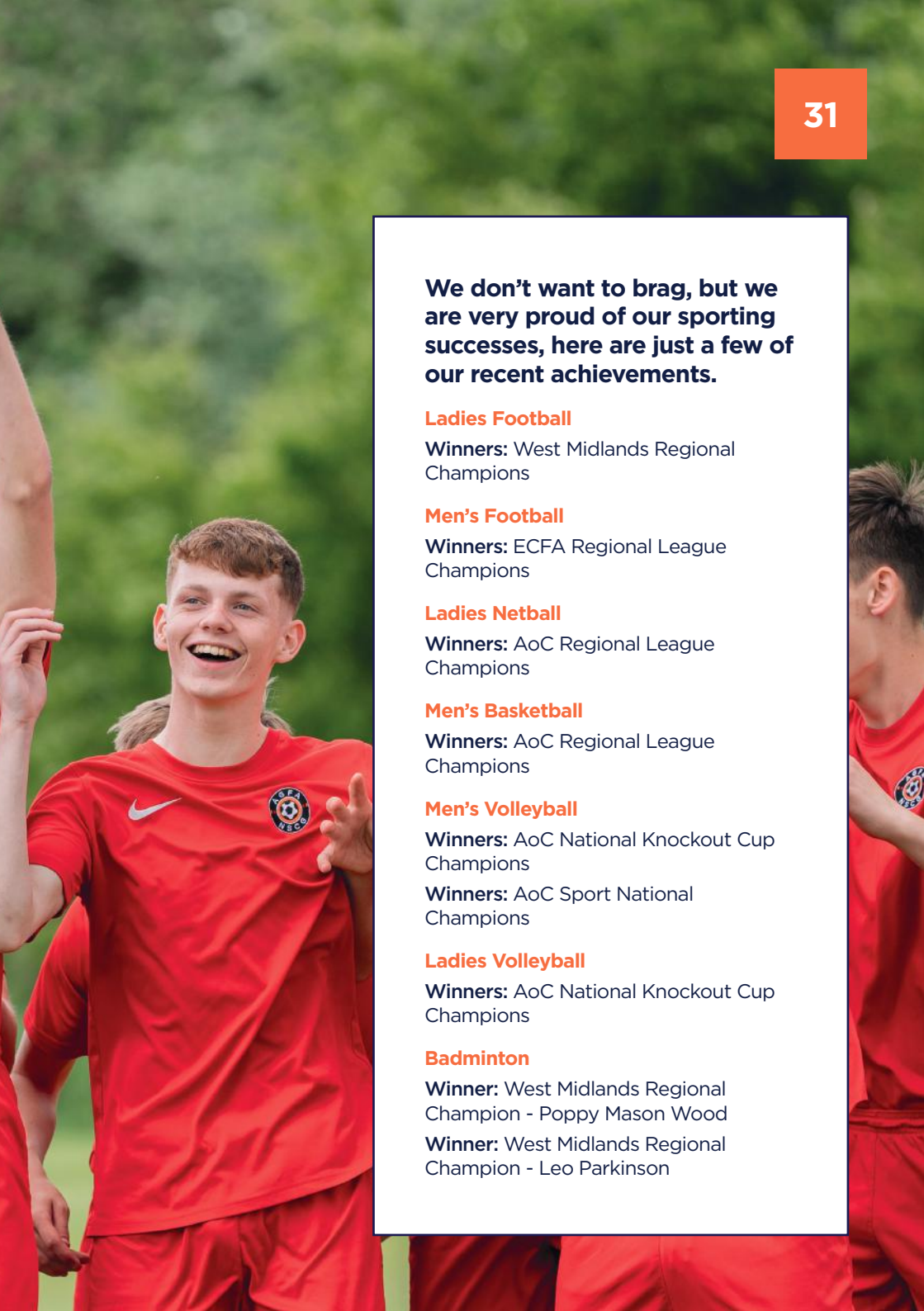
A jam packed trophy cabinet.

We've got a history of national success.

In 2025, our men's and ladies volleyball team were crowned Knockout Cup Champions. In only their second competitive season our Esports team the NSCG Tigers were Rocket League champions. And, our Cricket team, were AoC Sport T20 West Midlands champions.

Oh, and we've won several regional titles too.





We don't want to brag, but we are very proud of our sporting successes, here are just a few of our recent achievements.

Ladies Football

Winners: West Midlands Regional Champions

Men's Football

Winners: ECFA Regional League Champions

Ladies Netball

Winners: AoC Regional League Champions

Men's Basketball

Winners: AoC Regional League Champions

Men's Volleyball

Winners: AoC National Knockout Cup Champions

Winners: AoC Sport National Champions

Ladies Volleyball

Winners: AoC National Knockout Cup Champions

Badminton

Winner: West Midlands Regional Champion - Poppy Mason Wood

Winner: West Midlands Regional Champion - Leo Parkinson

Let's make history.



The key thing about the Academy of Sport is you don't have to study sport in order to join.

Coaching takes place around your curriculum to suit you. So, don't worry, you won't be missing any classes. Every academy offers structured professional coaching sessions, ran each week by highly qualified coaches.

You don't have to pay to join, but once you're a member of the Academy of Sport you will have to pay for your training kit.

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Any questions?

If you've still got some questions that need answering get in touch with our Academy of Sport Manager, David Sutton on **01782 254269** or david.sutton@nscg.ac.uk.

To get a taste of what it's like to be part of **TEAM:NSCG**, check out our **Academy of Sport** social channels:



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The small print: The information contained within our guide is correct at the time of going to print. For all the latest information it is best to check our website.