



*Team NAB AFL Auskick's first recruit of 2025, Charlie Smart, after his interview with Joel Selwood on Friday night at GMHBA Stadium during the Geelong v Melbourne game.
Photo: Michael Willson/AFL Photos.*

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Team NAB AFL Auskick names its first recruit of 2025

Team NAB AFL Auskick has named its first recruit of the year, with six-year-old Charlie Smart from Barwon Heads Auskick Centre in south-west Victoria joining the team.

The 2025 Team NAB AFL Auskick coaches Nick Daicos and Katie Brennan encourage all registered Auskickers to enter via submitting a video online for a chance to join the team. They are on the lookout for NAB Auskickers who show teamwork, dedication, and passion!

Selected Auskickers will have the opportunity to invite an Auskick teammate of their choice to join them for a remarkable experience, attending an AFL Grand Final.

Eleven lucky winners will be announced during the Seven Network's AFL match broadcast, with Charlie being the first lucky Auskicker to join the team accompanied by his chosen nominee – his best friend, Ethan Jennings.

Charlie and Ethan will join their fellow Team NAB AFL Auskick recruits at the MCG in Melbourne for a once-in-a-lifetime Grand Final experience, where they take centre stage and present the winning grand final team with their premiership medallions.

Charlie is from Barwon Heads and is a huge Geelong Cats supporter, with Tom Stewart being his favourite player. When he's not kicking the footy with his friends at Auskick, Charlie can be found playing with his soft stuffed footy inside or sleeping with his footy cards close to his chest!

When Charlie watches the footy, he loves pretending he's out there playing alongside his idols, and often has to be told to keep the noise down when his siblings are sleeping!

He has been friends with Ethan since three-year-old kindergarten, where they bonded over an equal love of watching and playing footy. After checking the footy ladder on the fridge is up to date, Ethan falls asleep each night cuddling his mini Sherrin. He squeezes in some sneaky shots at goal on the way to school, before organising his footy cards to trade at lunch. He can't wait to join his best mate, Charlie on the MCG on Grand Final Day.

As part of being selected as a Team NAB AFL Auskick recruit, Charlie has the chance to be crowned the 2025 NAB AFL Auskicker of the Year which will be announced during Toyota AFL Grand Final Week.

The lucky NAB AFL Auskicker of the Year will receive a remarkable \$5,000 prizemoney thanks to NAB and will have a year full of unique experiences, including meeting their favourite players and attending AFL games and special events.

If your Auskicker would like a chance to join Team NAB AFL Auskick and have a Grand Final experience of a lifetime, visit nab.com.au/auskick.

About NAB AFL Auskick

- NAB AFL Auskick is an introductory program for kids to connect with Australian Football while having lots of fun and being active – smiles and grass stains are guaranteed!
- In weekly sessions, kids focus on building football skills and playing in a safe and super fun setting. Expect small groups, heaps of games and parent/guardian involvement.
- NAB AFL Auskick invites all children aged 5-12 no matter their knowledge, skill or ability, to participate in the tackle-free program.
- NAB AFL Auskick offers an inclusive environment for everyone to get involved, with optional 'All Girls' Auskick programs and All-Abilities Auskick centres available.
- More than 141,000 boys and girls participated in NAB AFL Auskick programs at more than 3,500 centres across the country in 2024 – setting a new record!
- Auskick participants have the chance to feature in mini games during halftime at elite AFL and AFLW matches throughout the season. A once-in-a-lifetime experience for many kids!

- Upon signing up, all Auskickers get an awesome pack filled with cool footy goodies not available anywhere else.
- Visit play.afl/auskick for more details.



*Charlie having a kick on GMHBA Stadium at half-time during the Geelong v Melbourne game on Friday night.
Photo: Michael Willson/AFL Photos*