

【NEWS RELEASE】

June 18, 2025

Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

Establishment of an Academy Program with Avispa Fukuoka to Contribute to Community Revitalization

TOKYO, June 18, 2025 - Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Ltd. (President & CEO: Akihiro Fukutome, hereinafter "SMBC"), a subsidiary of Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group, Ltd. (President & Group CEO: Toru Nakashima, hereinafter "SMBC Group"), announces the launch of the "Avispa DAO Academy Co-Education Program supported by SMBC" (hereinafter "The Program") with Avispa Fukuoka, Ltd. (President & CEO: Kozo Yuki, hereinafter "Avispa Fukuoka")

The Program is the first initiative following the "Web3 Community Co-Creation Partner" agreement concluded in March 2025 (*1), with the aim of contributing to community revitalization through sports by building new relationships between the sports team and its fans, the local communities, etc.

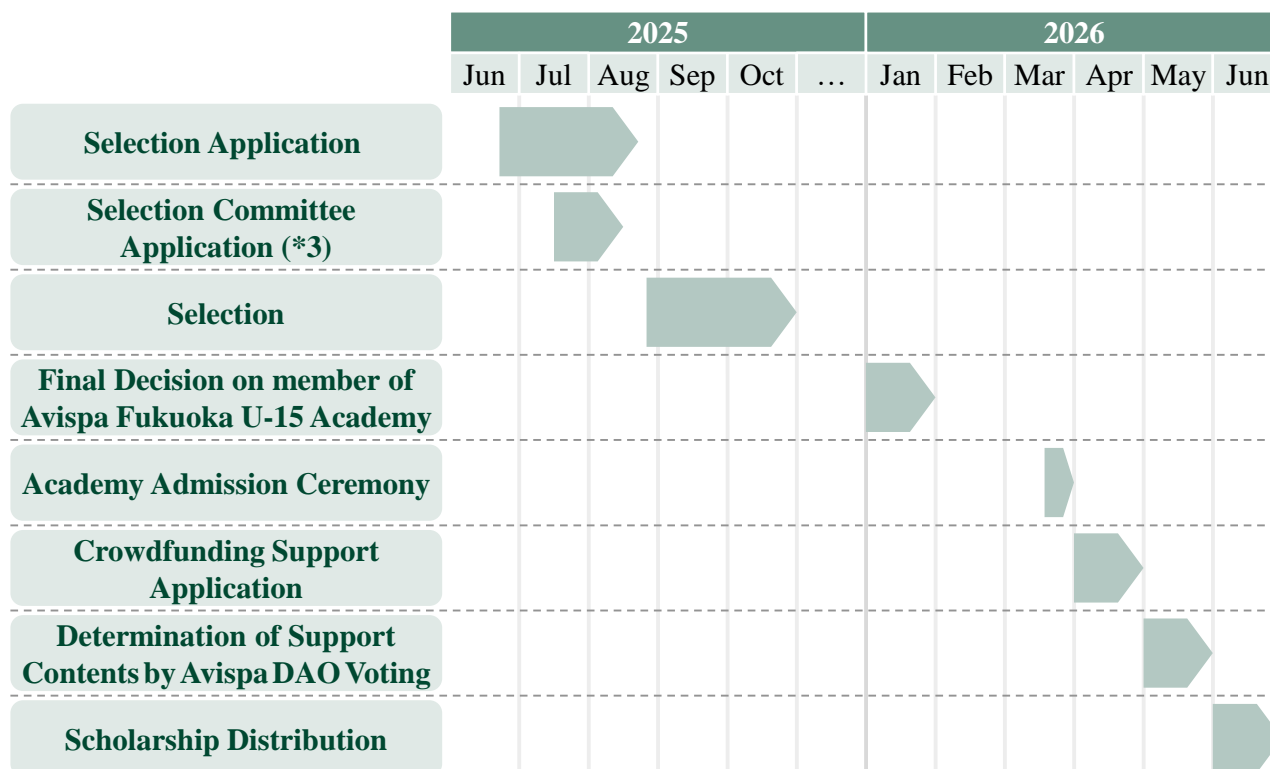
The Program creates opportunities for engagement between academy candidates and members of Avispa DAO (*2), who are part of the Avispa Fukuoka community, through the selection process and related activities of the Avispa Fukuoka U-15 Academy. After the successful candidates join the academy, SMBC and DAO members will also be able to support the academy players through provision of scholarships and other means. In addition, in the future, when supported players are promoted to the top team and generate profits for the club through overseas transfers, a portion of those profits will be returned to the supporters. Through these initiatives, SMBC aims to foster an environment where Avispa Fukuoka, its academy players, and DAO members are more deeper involved with one another.

Furthermore, by establishing a system which allows children who have previously faced financial barriers to participate in the academy with support from the community, The Program will ensure that all children have the opportunity to take on the challenge of sports, regardless of their circumstances.

The Program will be implemented for players joining the Avispa Fukuoka U-15 Academy from the 2026 season onward. Further details will be announced on the official Avispa Fukuoka website and other channels.

SMBC aims to foster an environment for support and returns that enables a diverse range of fans and local people to become more deeply involved in sports, and to contribute to the creation of communities that are filled with enthusiasm and full of people who share the same vision than ever before in various places.

■Schedule



*1 Partnership Agreement with Avispa Fukuoka to Contribute to Community Revitalization

Please kindly refer to the news release: (https://www.smbc.co.jp/news_e/pdf/e20250324_02.pdf)

*2 Avispa Fukuoka Sports Innovation DAO

Please kindly refer to the white paper: (<https://nine-eel-b88.notion.site/avispadao-wp>)

*3 Selection Committee Application

Only Avispa DAO members who hold JFA Official Coaching License can apply for the selection committee.

END