

## Northern Territory Institute of Sport

### Individual Athlete Scholarship Information

#### Aim

The Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) is the Northern Territory Government's centre of sporting excellence for the identification, development and support of the Territory's talented athletes and coaches. The primary purpose of the NTIS is to develop NT athletes into champions. This is achieved through:

- Strong leadership.
- High quality, integrated coaching and support services.
- An environment that optimises opportunities to achieve at the highest levels in sport, and life.

The NTIS has two Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):

1. NTIS athletes representing Australia.
2. NTIS athletes competing in national leagues or professional competitions.

#### General Information

The Individual Athlete Scholarship program is not to be perceived as a grants scheme. The NTIS believes in a holistic approach to athlete development and seeks to prepare skilled, self-reliant, motivated, committed, knowledgeable and well rounded people. The NT Government views the scholarship program as an investment in athletes who do, or have the potential to, provide recognition for the Territory through national and international sporting excellence.

Applications for NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarships will be called for once per year, in March. Current NTIS scholarship holders can be upgraded at any time providing relevant selection criteria are met. Athletes who apply throughout the year may be given a NTIS scholarship, with access to support services, but funding can not be guaranteed for the current financial year.

The Individual Athlete Scholarship period is from July 1 to June 30 the following year.

The NTIS will determine the level of Individual Athlete Scholarship offered to successful applicants; either "Elite" or "Carbine Club Development" level.

All Individual Athlete Scholarship recipients will be required to nominate a coach who will be responsible for managing their training and competition program.

## Philosophy of servicing athletes

As the agency responsible for managing the NT Government's investment in Territory athletes, the NTIS has an obligation to ensure its resources are being used to best effect. As such, the NTIS Director must be assured that the NTIS is value-adding to the improvement and maintenance of a scholarship athlete's performance. This requires that NTIS expertise and services be recognised and respected, by athletes and coaches, as an integral and significant component of an athlete's scholarship in order to justify the overall time and money invested in and by the NTIS.

In line with the above, in order to provide high quality services to NTIS scholarship athletes to assist them achieve their goals, the NTIS' service model has an emphasis on an integrated, in-house, multi-disciplinary team approach encompassing key areas such as strength and conditioning, biomechanics, physiotherapy, physiology and psychology.

Consequently, with identified key services, the NTIS requires that Darwin and Alice Springs-based scholarship athletes be serviced by respective NTIS staff using NTIS facilities and equipment where appropriate. This is to ensure that suitably qualified and experienced NTIS staff have direct input and supervision of agreed services, in accordance with the NTIS service model. As part of this approach, the NTIS supports and encourages coaches of NTIS athletes to attend, and if appropriate, assist with the delivery of NTIS-based training and education sessions.

While the communication of key objectives for NTIS athlete development remains firmly with the coach, it must be in consultation with NTIS service and program staff. This negotiation ensures the NTIS is best positioned to provide an informed athlete development plan that is supported by the coach, athlete and, where appropriate, the parents.

## Eligibility

### The applicant must be:

- Registered with a recognised Northern Territory Sporting Organisation (NTSO), unless no NTSO exists.
- Endorsed by a representative of the NTSO, or the national sport governing body/National Sport Organisation (NSO).
- Australian Citizens and be eligible and available for selection to Australian national teams competing at major international competitions.
- Representing the Northern Territory in competitions where possible.
- Resident in the Northern Territory. Residency is defined as attending a NT school/university or working and living in the Northern Territory. NTIS Scholarship holders who relocate interstate and become a resident interstate must be continuous NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarship holders (initially obtained whilst resident in the NT). Athletes who reside interstate may continue to receive a NTIS scholarship after relocating interstate from the NT (but this will be determined on an annual case-by-case basis).
- Engaged in a comprehensive program of training and competition.

Greatest consideration will be given to applicants competing in sports and events within the following categories:

- Events on the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games programs.
- World Cup/Championship sports recognised for high performance/AIS funding by the Australian Sports Commission.

Scholarships are not available for athletes in veterans, or master's age groups. Junior age groups are still considered.

In general, athletes must be at least 15 years of age to be considered for an NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarship although exceptions will be considered where athletes are selected in a national team, or achieve significant national ranking or performance, at a younger age.

Servicing is generally tailored for each athlete and their level of scholarship, with highest priority provided to Elite athlete scholarship holders. Aside from high performance program development and management assistance, the athlete and coach can access a range of NTIS services including:

- World class training facilities.
- Scientific, medical, educational and career advice.
- Professional development opportunities.

Financial assistance, determined by the NTIS, may also be offered to offset costs associated with equipment, training and competition commitments. The degree of financial support and servicing is determined on an annual basis, in accordance with the athlete's: performance goals; achievements identified in their individual annual plan (that is agreed by coach and athlete and approved by NTIS management); and, adherence to conditions outlined in their Athlete Agreement and NTIS policies.

If a current scholarship holder does not have a ranking sufficient to satisfy the selection criteria, he or she must demonstrate adequate performance against their individual plan and be judged by the NTIS as having the potential to achieve such a ranking within a 12 month period. For example, an athlete who was injured during the last national season and could not obtain a national ranking would need to demonstrate they have been fully compliant to their adjusted program and continued to use the services of the NTIS to rehabilitate from the injury.

## Elite Scholarships

Elite Scholarships are offered to the Northern Territory's most outstanding athletes to enable them to realise their talent and to support continued achievement at the highest levels within the sport.

### *Selection criteria*

To be eligible for an Elite Scholarship athlete's must be:

- current open-age Australian representatives competing at the highest level within their sport; or,
- in an Australian Open Development Squad; or,
- in a Paralympic Preparation Development Squad; or,
- competing in professional competitions; or,
- late age Junior Australian team/squad representatives (e.g. U21/U23), progressing to the highest level.

## Development Scholarships

The Carbine Club Development Scholarships are offered to athletes with outstanding ability and potential to progress to the highest level in their chosen sport, demonstrated through selection for Australia at under-age (e.g. under 15-19 years) level and/or in consultation with the National Sporting Organisation (NSO).

### *Selection Criteria*

To be eligible for a Development Scholarship athlete's must:

- be a current Australian representative competing at an under-age level (e.g. U15-19); or,
- have achieved outstanding National competition achievement or ranking (e.g. national champion; ranked number 1 in Australia; nationally identified); or,
- have identified potential to make Paralympic level competition.

## Other Assessment

Each application is assessed on its merits. Other important criteria upon which an application may be assessed include:

- The athlete's performance and results in previous years.
- An untroubled history of meeting the responsibilities and expectations of the NTIS (as a previous NTIS scholarship holder).
- NSO assessment as to the performance level, national ranking, international ranking of the athlete, and/or part of the sports' High Performance Program and/or the prospect of selection to a national team within the next 12 month period.

Note, the performance criteria outlined above should not be viewed in isolation as all selection guidelines will be taken into account.

## Process for Application

Applicants must have their application endorsed by their:

- parent or guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18 years;
- coach; and,
- NTSO or NSO representative.

Applications must be forwarded to the NTIS by the closing date of Friday 3 April 2009. New applicants are encouraged to meet with NTIS Sport Program staff in order to satisfactorily complete the application with all necessary details.

The NTIS selection panel will convene after the closing date to discuss applications and make recommendations to the NTIS Director regarding Individual Athlete Scholarship offers.

Athlete (including parents if applicable) and coach interviews will take place with short listed athletes to assess the capacity of the athlete and coach to fulfil the responsibilities of a high performance training program.

An athlete who accepts a NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarship offer is then required to be medically cleared. Further assessments will be required to establish an individual athlete development and service plan prior to commencement of scholarship. Assessments are likely to cover areas such as physical competencies, gait analysis, nutrition, and education and career intentions.

Those athletes selected for a NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarship will be required to sign a NTIS scholarship agreement consenting to various conditions and committing themselves to a variety of terms and responsibilities.

The successful applicant's coach will be required to: complete, and keep up-to-date, an annual plan approved by NTIS management; report on performance/achievements (e.g. in technical and tactical areas of training); and, meet with NTIS service providers regularly. Compliance processes relating to NTIS policies and procedures, such as Criminal History Check, Member Protection and Anti –Doping, will also need to be completed prior to commencement of the athlete's scholarship.