

UniSport Australia Position Description

University Captain

Outline

The position of University Captain will belong to up to two students and is intended to be a representative figurehead role selected according to the university's own selection criteria.

UniSport suggests that these individuals should have demonstrated strong leadership qualities and a commitment to sport at their university and have represented the university at sporting events over a number of years.

The main role of the University Captain is to provide peer guidance, support, and leadership to the athletes of the university's Nationals teams and act as a student figurehead for their respective university. It is envisaged that the University Captain will assist university management to encourage integrity, honesty, fairness and respect both on and off the field of play, portraying the true spirit of the UniSport Nationals.

The position is intended to be one of prestige within the university team and it is anticipated that they will represent their university at official UniSport functions (such as the welcoming and/or closing ceremonies), where they will fulfill the role of awards acceptance on behalf of their university.

Selection and nomination

Universities are encouraged to follow an application and selection process in order to select the captains. UniSport suggest that the following information can be utilised to help the creation of bespoke position descriptions for your university and the captain selection process.

Values and culture of a University Captain

The university is looking for individuals who assist them in developing the following values:

- Be proud to represent their university and wear team uniforms
- Will represent their university to the best of their abilities
- Ensure the number one priority for the week will be sport
- Will support both their own teammates and athletes within other sports
- Will set team goals and work together to achieve them
- Will not accept individuals who choose to not be a part of the team
- Will not accept team members who drink excessive amounts of alcohol

University captain qualities

As a University Captain, you will be required to lead your team. This includes providing direction and support. While there is no best leadership style, you must be prepared to alter your style according to the situation and the people involved. University team management will be there for support.

For you to be an effective University Captain you must:

- Apply the appropriate type of leadership discipline
- Build effective relationships
- Communicate with rapport
- Communicate clearly and regularly
- Find, offer and implement positive solutions
- Lead by example (in line with university expectations)
- Liaise with sport development staff

- Have a broad knowledge of information relating to your sport
- Establish clear goals and steps to achieve them

Recognition

University Captains will be recognised for their contribution to their universities culture by UniSport through the following. Additional rewards may be offered by your relevant university.

- Complimentary (FOC) invites to the Nationals Closing Ceremony/Event (where held)
- Invite to the University Captain VIP Function
- A University Captain gift
- Recognition and promotion in UniSport mediums such as e-news and social media

Roles and responsibilities

All University Captains are encouraged to undertake the **Be the Influence** team leader program managed by UniSport, prior to the Nationals. This leadership program is a self-paced online program. Further explanation of the **Be the Influence** team leader program is outlined below.

Other duties of a University Captain may also include assisting university team managers with general team management duties such as the following:

Pre-event

- Assisting clubs to host trials
- Promote trial dates amongst members, notice boards, website
- Disseminating information to individual team captains
- Circulate regular information and updates to all team members
- Attend all meetings as requested

During event

- Ensure all team captains are fully aware of team requirements including travel itinerary, accommodation, match times and team duties
- Set a positive example for behavioural standards and adhere to the [UniSport/university code of behaviour](#)
- Ensure all team captains collect accreditation from the University Team Manager
- Ensure team is in uniform for official functions, ceremonies and matches
- Act as a spokesperson for the team if approached by media and as per university media policy
- Notify relevant university staff on any incident that may reflect poorly on any team member, sport or the university

Be the Influence (BTI) – Team Leader Program

In 2023, University Captains will have the opportunity to participate in the UniSport BTI Team Leader Program. This program is a self-paced online program that can be completed in about 40 minutes via a computer, phone or tablet. Your university team manager can provide you with the relevant access details. Objectives of the BTI Team Leader Program include:

- Knowledge and understanding of your personal brand and why it is important
- Leadership and interpersonal communication skills so you can be a leader and communicate effectively to your peers, especially in high pressure environments.
- Positive role models and behaviours that set the foundation for great leadership
- Confidence to be the influence amongst your peers.