2025 UniSport Australia National Conference

"Member EAPs and Current and Future Elite Student-Athlete Needs"
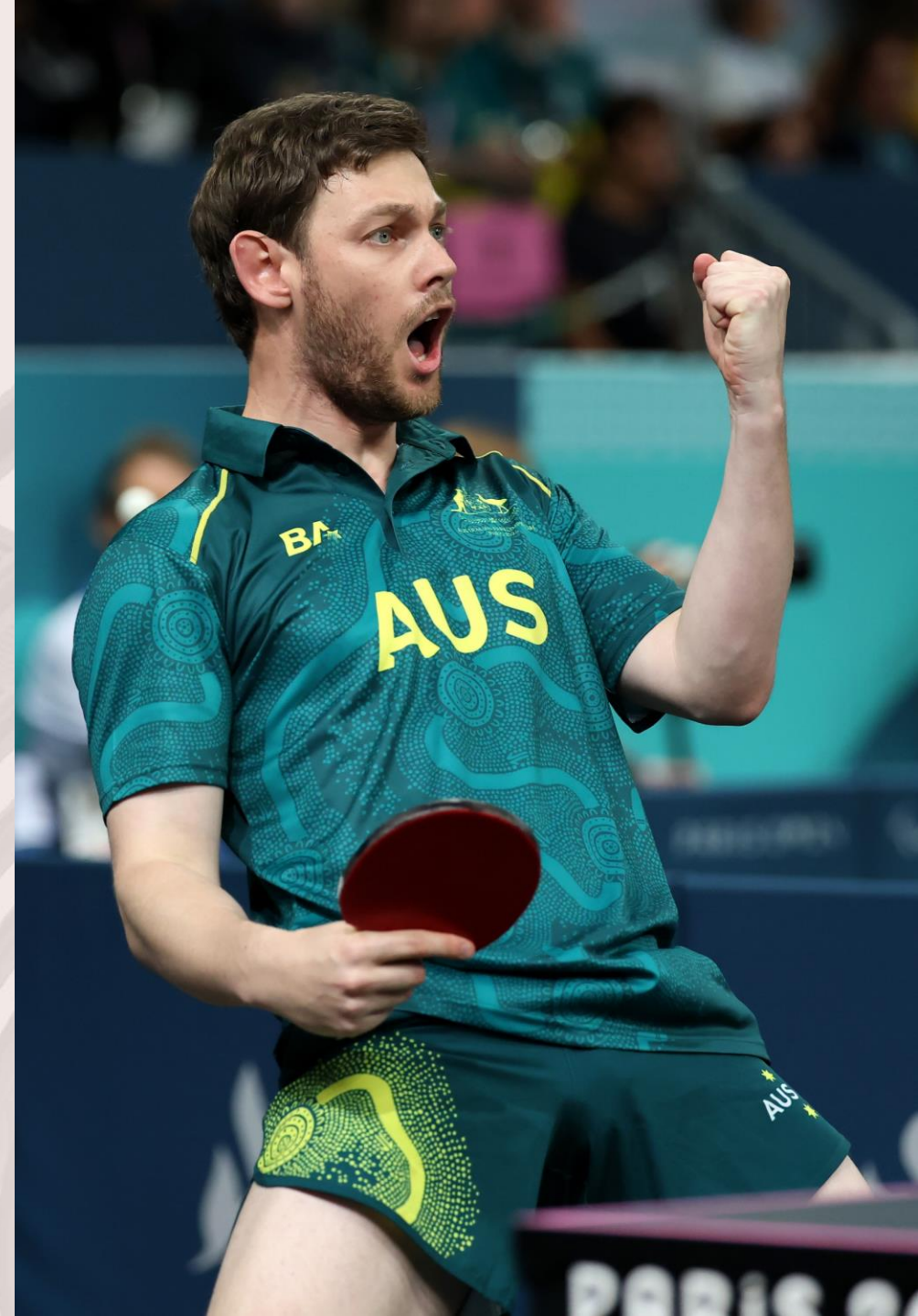
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Overview:

- Elite athlete barriers and success in accessing Tertiary Education.

- Key considerations for best practice Elite Athlete Programs for student athletes of the future.

- Overview of the Elite Sport Education Network with a focus on its foundational pillars.

Barriers and Success in Engaging with Tertiary Education.

- 31% of able and para-athletes that attended the 2024 Paris Olympics were engaged in Tertiary Study.

- 50% of athletes experience unemployment after retiring from sport.

- 30% of athletes experience de-categorisaton in an Olympic cycle.

- Australian Sports Foundation survey finds 46 per cent of athletes earn less than $23,000 per year.

- 6 out 10 athletes experience depression or anxiety after retirement.

- "A degree or diploma can open doors to a wider range of job opportunities beyond those related to sport". Studying allows them to transition smoothly into various career paths after their athletic careers.

- Tertiary Education presents an opportunity to gain valuable life skills that can enhance athletic performance.

- Exploring identity outside of sport-Tertiary education provides opportunities to nurture academic interests and build social connections.

Key Considerations for Best Practice Elite Athlete Programs

Leadership and Collaboration
- Research Collaboration
- ESEN Strategic policy development
- Scholarship partnerships

Connection
- State and Territory Hubs
- Networking Opportunities
- Athlete Alumni opportunities
- Attendance at conferences and forums

Promotion and Support
- Categorisation badge in promotional campaigns
- Dedicated point of contact at AIS and Tertiary Institution
- Access to Categorisation Portal
- Collaborative content and marketing initiatives

Elite Sport Education Network

Fundamental Requirements
- Point of contact
- Verification
- Flexibility

Academic Engagement
- Academic staff member with influence across the institution
- Flexibility advocacy
- Flexibility policy

Sourcing Support
- Transition Support
- Scholarship initiatives
- Bursaries

Connection
- Social engagement opportunities relevant to study/career
- Work and career experience
- Career Support Service

Analysis and Data
- Applied Research
- Analytics

THANK YOU