

UniSport Australia Position Description

University Team Captain

Overview

The University Team Captain role is a prestigious leadership position held by up to two students who serve as representative figureheads for their university's sporting community.

The selection is based on the university's criteria, with a preference for students who have demonstrated strong leadership, commitment to sport, and representation of their university at sporting events over multiple years.

The University Team Captain plays a vital role in providing peer guidance, support, and leadership to athletes competing in UniSport Nationals events and assist university management. They are expected to uphold the values of integrity, honesty, fairness, and respect, both on and off the field, and to act as ambassadors for their university.

University Team Captains will represent their university at official UniSport functions, including the welcome ceremony.

Selection and Nomination

Universities are encouraged to implement an application and selection process to appoint University Team Captains. The following criteria should guide the selection process:

Values and Qualities of a University Team Captain

University Team Captains are expected to exemplify the following attributes:

- **Leadership:** Inspire, guide, and support fellow athletes.
- **Communication:** Maintain clear, regular, and effective communication with athletes, team managers, and university staff.
- **Integrity:** Uphold ethical standards and sportsmanship at all times.
- **Responsibility:** Take initiative and represent the university positively.
- **Teamwork:** Foster collaboration, inclusion, and unity among athletes.
- **Resilience:** Adapt to different situations and remain composed under pressure.

As a University Team Captain, individuals must:

- Apply appropriate leadership discipline based on the situation.
- Build and maintain effective relationships within the team and university.
- Act as a role model, demonstrating professionalism and accountability.
- Offer and implement positive solutions to challenges faced by the team.
- Liaise with sport development staff and university management.
- Possess a broad knowledge of university sports programs.
- Set clear goals and work toward achieving them.
- Advocate for athlete well-being and ensure a supportive team environment.

Roles and Responsibilities

Duties of a University Team Captain may also include assisting University Team Managers with general team management duties such as the following:

Pre-Event Responsibilities

- Assist clubs in organising and hosting trials.
- Promote trial dates through communication channels (e.g., website, notice boards, social media).
- Disseminate relevant information to individual team captains and athletes.
- Provide regular updates and communicate key event details to team members.
- Attend all relevant meetings as required.
- Support and mentor team members to ensure a strong sense of camaraderie and team spirit.
- Engage in pre-event programs to drive student recruitment and engagement for UniSport Nationals events.

During Event Responsibilities

- Ensure team captains are informed about travel, accommodation, match schedules, and team duties.
- Uphold and promote behavioural standards in line with UniSport and university codes of conduct.
- Ensure all athletes wear the correct team uniform for official functions, ceremonies, and matches.
- Serve as a spokesperson for the team in accordance with university media policies.
- Notify relevant university staff of any incidents that may negatively reflect on the team, sport, or university.
- Encourage and maintain high levels of motivation and morale within the team.
- Provide guidance and emotional support to team members facing challenges during competition.
- Play an active leadership role during the Welcome Ceremony for UniSport Nationals events.

Post-Event Responsibilities

- Participate in post-event evaluations and debriefs.
- Assist in the recognition and celebration of team achievements.
- Provide feedback to university management regarding the team's experience and areas for improvement.
- Continue fostering team engagement and legacy within the university sporting community.

UniSport University Student Leadership Group

University Team Captains will be engaged as members of a broader UniSport university student leadership group aimed at enhancing university sport culture and strengthening communication between UniSport, universities and university students.

Goals:

- University Team Captains from each member university will participate in the UniSport University Student Leadership Group.
- University Team Captains will take part in an online induction and at least one online education opportunity with the UniSport University Student Leadership Group.
- All University Team Captains will have a leadership role during the Welcome Ceremony for UniSport Nationals Perth.

Objectives:

- The UniSport University Student Leadership Group will drive student engagement and recruitment for University Nationals events.
- The UniSport University Student Leadership Group will receive education and mentoring opportunities for personal development, organised by UniSport.
- UniSport will establish a partnership between RUOK? and UniSport to support student-athlete well-being.
- UniSport will recognise and involve University Team Captains in opening ceremony events.

Recognition and Benefits

University Team Captains will receive recognition for their contributions through:

- Invitation to the University Team Captain VIP Function.
- A University Team Captain pack.
- Acknowledgment and promotion in UniSport publications, such as e-newsletters and social media.
- Participation in exclusive leadership and professional development opportunities.

UniSport Be the Influence (BTI) – Team Leader Course

University Team Captains will complete the UniSport BTI Team Leader self-paced online course, which takes approximately 40 minutes to complete. University Team Managers will provide access.

Course Objectives:

- Understanding personal brand and its importance.
- Enhancing leadership and interpersonal communication skills, particularly in high-pressure environments.
- Promoting positive behaviours foundational to effective leadership.
- Building confidence to influence and lead peers positively.

The role of University Captain is an esteemed and vital position within the university's sporting framework. Those selected will play a key role in fostering a positive, inclusive, and high-performing sports culture while representing their university with distinction. It is an opportunity to inspire and support fellow athletes while developing invaluable leadership and teamwork skills for the future.