

ATHLETE POLICY

The Northern Inland Academy of Sport expects selected athletes to be *fully* committed to the Academy program. Athletes are expected to demonstrate this commitment by having a 100% attendance rate (within reason) and compliance to *all* areas of the program.

Background

The Program Policy is in line with those of most State Sporting Organisations. The Academy sees its role as preparing athletes to compete at state level, and part of this role is preparing the athlete for the expectations of the next level.

Guidelines

1. Attendance at squad training sessions and programmed athlete education sessions is compulsory for *all* Academy athletes, *ie athletes must maintain a 100% attendance rate at Academy activities.*
2. Under certain circumstances, permission may be granted for an athlete to miss a given session provided prior approval is sought from the Support Personnel or NIAS Staff. Acceptable circumstances are as follows:
 - 2.1 *Illness or injury:* An athlete may be granted permission to miss a session due to illness or injury. The athlete should be prepared to provide a medical certificate if requested. The athlete may be exempted from participating in the session, but may be asked to attend if it is felt that viewing the session may assist in the athlete's development and will not be detrimental to their health.
 - 2.2 *Compulsory school activity:* This includes excursions, examinations, major assessment tasks, and other school activities. The athlete should be prepared to provide documentation from the school.
 - 2.3 *Representative sporting honours:* Includes Combined High Schools, Combined Independent Schools, Combined Catholic Schools, and state or national representative commitments. This also includes participation in higher level development programs such as NSWIS and Pursu32+. The athlete should be prepared to provide documentation from the relevant governing body. If the commitment is in a sport other than the one the athlete is in the Academy for, the NIAS Sports Programs Manager may refuse permission to miss the Academy session.
 - 2.4 *Family commitments:* An athlete *may* be granted permission to miss a session to attend a major family event, eg wedding, funeral, reunion, significant birthday, annual holiday. The athlete should be prepared to provide a letter explaining reasons for requested non-attendance from a parent / guardian.
3. To be granted approval to miss a session an athlete must contact the NIAS Sports Programs Manager as soon as possible via XPS. The initial determination of the suitability of the reason for non-attendance is at the discretion of the Sports Programs Manager. In exceptional circumstances, an appeal to the CEO may be sought. The CEO decision shall be final.

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4. Attendance registers are maintained by the relevant sport Support Personnel (Manager) via XPS. Should an athlete fail to attend a session without prior approval, the Manager is to contact the athlete to establish a reason. If no satisfactory reason is able to be provided, the athlete will be given a written warning by the CEO.
5. Families must ensure that their athlete respective fees are paid prior to the commencement of the NIAS program or event. Unfinancial athletes will not be able to participate unless prior communication is made and a payment plan is determined or negotiated with the NIAS CEO.
6. In the event of wet weather on a scheduled training session, athletes will be contacted via the XPS communication tool.
7. Athletes will only be given one warning. Following a second incident of unsatisfactory attendance the athlete will be notified in writing of their removal from the program. In this instance, the athlete has the right of appeal to the CEO. The CEO's decision shall be final.
8. When a warning letter is issued to an athlete, or an athlete is removed from the Academy, the Board is to be notified in writing.

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