



Individual Athlete Scholarship Information

Aim

The NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarship program aims to get NT athletes into Australian teams and squads with a focus on Olympic, Paralympic, and Commonwealth Games and World Championship sports. Selection for the Individual Athlete Scholarship Program is primarily based on National representation or the recognised potential of athletes to represent Australia.

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.

There are two time periods for Territorians to apply for Individual Athlete Scholarships at the NTIS, July and December. Current scholarship holders of the NTIS can be upgraded at any time providing they meet the relevant selection criterium. Scholarships will be advertised in the month prior to the bi-annual intake ie May and October.

The July intake scholarship period is from July 1 to June 30 the following year. The December intake scholarship period is from December 1 to June 30 only.

Upon receipt of your application, and if you are successful, the NTIS will determine what level of Individual Athlete Scholarship to offer you, either an Elite Scholarship, an Elite Development Scholarship or a Carbine Club Development Scholarship.

Eligibility

The applicant must be:

- Registered with a recognised Northern Territory Sporting Organisation.
- Endorsed by a representative of the Northern Territory Sporting Organisation.
- Australian Citizens and be eligible for selection to Australian national teams.
- Representing the Northern Territory in competitions where possible.
- Resident in the Northern Territory. Residency is defined as going to 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 (this would 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, in order of priority:

- Events on the Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games programs.
- World Championship sports (recognised for high performance/AIS funding by the Australian Sports Commission). See http://www.ausport.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/145740/Annual_Report_06-07.pdf for details.

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 may be made in sports where athletes are Nationally recognised at an elite level at a younger age.

These scholarships are not available for athletes who are existing scholarship holders with another State or Territory institute/academy of sport. However visiting athletes from a reciprocal interstate/academy may apply for a visiting athlete training agreement. More information is available by calling 89226819.

The services and funding provided to each scholarship holder will be determined on a case-by-case basis by NTIS management. The level of financial allocation and services within the Athlete Agreement is subject to the athletes' adherence to their Athlete Agreement, policies of the NTIS and the Athlete Performance Agreement.

If a current scholarship holder does not have a current ranking sufficient to satisfy the selection criteria below, he or she must demonstrate progression of performance over time and be judged by the NTIS as having the potential to achieve such a ranking and the attitude to do so 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 fully used the services of the NTIS and can document this use to rehabilitate 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 should be competing at an international open level and:

- Be a current open Australian team/squad representative; or
- Be officially on the Sport's Paralympic Preparation Program; or
- Hold a professional licence for that sport.

Athletes in sports that do not have continual Australian Squads (eg. Athletics) will be determined by open level performance within the sport internationally and nationally.

Elite Development Scholarships

Elite Development Scholarships are offered to Territory athletes that can convince the NTIS that with support they have the potential to be an Elite Scholarship holder within 1-2 years.

Selection Criteria

To be eligible for an Elite Development Scholarship athletes should either be:

- A late age Junior Australian team/squad representative eg. U21/U23; or
- In an Australian Open Development Squad; or
- In a Paralympic Preparation Development Squad; or
- Hold a professional licence for that sport.

Development Scholarships

The Carbine Club Development Scholarships are offered in general to talented junior athletes who have demonstrated an outstanding ability to perform at the national level.

Selection Criteria

To be eligible for Development Scholarships scholarship athletes must:

- Be selected for or represented at a junior Australian Squad/team at U16/U17/U18/U19 level; or
- Achieved outstanding National or International competition achievement eg. National champion, National qualification time/distance, Nationally identified; or
- Demonstrated potential to make the Paralympic Preparation Development Squad.

In general, athletes must be at least 15 years of age to be considered for an NTIS Individual Athlete Scholarship although exceptions may be made in a sport where athletes achieve elite status at a younger age.

Other Assessment

Note: 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;
- The assessment by the National Sporting Organisation as to their performance level, national ranking and international ranking of the athlete and/or the prospect of selection to a National squad.

Process for Application

Applications must have their application endorsed by their:

- parent or guardian if the applicant is under the age of 18 years;
- coach, and
- NT Sporting Organisation representative.

Applications must be forwarded to the NTIS by the closing date of 16 May 2008.

The NTIS will then seek National Sporting Organisation information (if required) in relation to the information you have provided in this application.

Athlete (parents if applicable) and coach interviews will take place with the NTIS selection panel to assess the capacity of the athlete and coach fulfilling the responsibilities of a high performance training program.

The NTIS Selection panel will meet after the closing date to discuss applications and make recommendations to the Director for the offer of NTIS scholarships.

Scholarship Conditions

An athlete who accepts an NTIS Scholarship is required to be medically cleared to enter a scholarship program and agree to terms and conditions of an Athlete Agreement.

The agreement specifies the athlete must:

1. Abide by the NTIS Anti-Doping Policy;
2. Conduct themselves in manner befitting scholarship holders of the NTIS;
3. Have their career, education and professional development monitored by the Institute through the Athlete and Career Education Program;
4. Comply with the directions of their coach and NTIS staff.
5. Arrange a meeting with the NTIS Manager Sport Programs with their coach if the athlete undertakes a short term or long term relocation interstate.
6. Have and maintain appropriate private health insurance.
7. Recognise the NTIS as per schedule if competition and training budget is greater than \$5,000.
8. Provide major results within 24 hours to NTIS Manager Sport Programs.
9. Abide by the NTIS Code of Conduct which requires athletes to:
 - Behave in a dignified manner when representing the NTIS relating to language, manner, temper and punctuality
 - Work effectively in studies and/or occupation;
 - Co-operate with coaches and NTIS staff, and comply with all reasonable directions;
 - Abide by the rules of the sport and respect the decision of the referee/umpire/judge, make all appeals using the formal process and respect the final decision;
 - Wear the official Institute uniform designated for the sport at training and when in competition and at other official functions;
 - Not consume alcohol while in NTIS uniform or representing NTIS;
 - Commit 100% to training and competition requirements.
 - Comply with the rehabilitation and game recommendations as laid down by the doctor, physiotherapist, and/or NTIS Sports Medicine Coordinator;
 - Accept and respond in a positive manner to the feedback, advice and recommendations of the recognised NTIS coach;
 - Be honest to all NTIS staff, and coaches, especially regarding all aspects of training and competition requirements;
 - Attend all appointments, training, testing sessions and meetings on time or phone to cancel as soon as it becomes apparent attendance is not possible;
 - Maintain personal habits of health conducive to sporting excellence and
 - Care and respect the equipment provided as part of the program scholarship.

Scholarship Benefits

Scholarship benefits may include:

- Use of NTIS gymnasium or YMCA Alice Springs training facilities;
- Support services in strength and conditioning, sport science, nutrition, sports medicine and sports psychology;
- Assistance with program development and travel administration;
- Financial assistance to offset costs associated with high performance coaching, training, competition, travel, accommodation and equipment, in consultation with the NTIS;
- Assistance through the national Athlete Career Education (ACE) program, and
- Clothing attire for training.

Note: The actual benefits received by an athlete are dependent on the level of scholarship, needs and availability of funds and services.