

ELITE ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



ELITE ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME APPLICATION FOR THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

The President/The Chairperson/ The General Manager/Chief Executive officer

Dear Stakeholders,

The department is ready to launch its Elite Athlete Development Programme (EADP) for 2024/2025. The programme commenced in the 2014/2015 financial year, and 2024/2025 will represent its ninth year of existence. You are hereby invited to complete the attached application forms for talented athletes from within your structures that meet the criteria listed on this document. You are requested to submit all relevant, traceable information and updated performance data of athletes. Incomplete or poorly completed applications may result in your athlete being left out of the programme. Each federation is expected to rank athletes in terms of their performance (starting with the best) for inclusion in the programme.

The Elite Athlete Development Programme (EADP), delivered in partnership with sport federations and high-performance institutions, is a direct response to the KZN Provincial Government Cabinet Lekgotla of 20-21 February 2014. The Lekgotla resolved that; *'talented athletes are identified and developed through the implementation of a structured system of talent support and promotion of high performance.'*

The vision of the department's EADP is to "Identify and develop KZN athletes, in an optimal environment, with the qualities required to be international champions". The programme is based on an *'athlete-centered, coach-led and performance-driven system'* that provides athletes with world-class support services and facilities, so they can focus solely on performance.

1) APPLICATION FOR THE 2024-2025 EADP

The achievements of the athletes in the EADP display that through scientific support athletes are more likely to succeed and become ambassadors in their local communities. Since the inception of the Programme, EADP Athletes have won Olympic and Paralympic medals, World Championship medals, Youth Olympic and Commonwealth Games medals and many more International and National Medals. Our congratulations to the Athletes for their outstanding achievements and to their families, Coaches, Clubs, Federations and Academies. You continue to make KZN Proud!

The programme is implemented through the Prime High-Performance Institute and offers athlete support in different tiers with services which include; medical screening, musculoskeletal screening, dietary assessments, high performance testing, functional movement screening, medical support, high performance training, simulated altitude training, gym membership and nutritional support.

Please pay careful attention to the following information before completing the application forms attached. The due dates listed at the end of this correspondence must be adhered to as late applications will not be considered and will disqualify your athletes.

General Information

1. Only applications from Sport Federations, on an official letterhead, will be accepted. Applications made by individuals, athletes, parents and/or coaches will not be accepted.
2. All information supplied must be accurate and the department reserves the right to verify all submissions.
3. Sport federations must submit applications for athletes selected through their talent identification systems and that meet the criteria attached.
4. You are requested to email all applications to: The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Sport, Arts & Culture, Mr Sihle Ngubane, sihle.ngubane@kzndsac.gov.za , contact number **033 897 9405**.
5. The department will not be responsible for applications that are not submitted as per paragraph 4 above.
6. The Department will appoint a panel to decide all applications. The department reserves the right to interview the athlete or coach should it deem it is essential to do so.
7. In selecting the athletes for the programme, the general eligibility criteria that appears hereunder will be applied. A separate application form (Annexure 1) must be completed for each athlete. All applicants must:
 - Be a South African citizen (have a valid South African identity document)

- Reside in KwaZulu-Natal.
 - Be a registered member of a recognized club affiliated to a provincial federation that is recognized and affiliated to SASCOC (KZN Sport Confederation) and has been invited by the department to apply for inclusion in the programme.
 - Observe their national federations and SASCOC's Articles of Association and Policies.
 - Enter into an agreement with the department.
 - Abide by the rules and regulations of their provincial and national federations.
 - Have provided information on his/her performance that is accurate, and which can be validated through a reliable reference or available records.
 - Submit a completed application form (Annexure 1) signed by the President of the provincial sport federation.
 - Submit a motivation letter signed by the Provincial Federation President, indicating the Federation support of the applicant.
8. The application form must be completed by the Federations who are to review the status of athletes currently in the EADP. The following tables are to be completed in the form and submitted with the application forms
- **Table A - Athletes who have been on the 2023/2024 programme for the 2024/2025 year**
 - **Table B - Athletes who are to be removed from the programme for the 2024/2025 year**
 - **Table C - List of applicants for the 2024/2025 programme for the 2024/2025 year**

These schedules must be initialed and signed off by the Federation President.

Sport Specific Criteria

Selected athletes will be categorized into three tiers. Individual athletes will be categorized into either Tier 1 or Tier 2 and Teams will be categorized into Tier 3. Tier 1 or Tier 2 athletes are selected based on their performances at Provincial, National and International level. The Tier 1 category comprises the elite athletes whilst the sub-elite athletes are in Tier 2. Athletes that qualify as per above will be subjected to the following specific selection criteria:

1. TIER 1: Elite Athletes are to achieve against the following criteria;
 - a) Athlete has achieved national representation in the past 12-18 months

or

- b) Athlete has achieved respective International Body qualification criteria for an international event.
- or
- c) Athlete has had a podium finish at an International sanctioned event between April 2023 and March 2024
- or
- d) Junior athlete was ranked in the Top 30 in their age group in the world in April 2023 until March 2024.
- or
- e) Senior: Ranked in the Top 10 Nationally (currently or from 2022).
- or
- f) Age Group: Ranked in the Top 3 Nationally (currently)

2. TIER 2/TIER 3: Sub-Elite Athletes

- a) Athletes who have been identified by their Federation as having the potential to achieve one of the Elite Athlete (Tier 1) requirements in the next 2-3 years
- or
- b) Athletes that are Ranked in the Top 30 Nationally in their Age Group (currently).

3. TEAM TIER

Team Tier is restricted to sport TEAMS only.

4. FUTURE STARS TIER:

a) Athletes who are deemed by their Coach and Federation to have the potential to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in 2026 and the Olympic and Paralympic games in 2028 and 2032.

Applications will be considered from Federation representative teams for

- Medical and physical assessments
- Conditioning programmes
- Conditioning "camps" as part of team preparation

Thank you for taking the time to complete this application and trust that you have supplied accurate information and attached all the relevant information.

Please note that there will be a focus on athletes from priority sports codes, as identified by SASCO, as part of the National Sport Recreation Plan to create a winning nation.

We are reminded that the transformation of sport is a national priority to promote social cohesion and nation building. Based on this the department reserves the right to take into consideration transformation, spatial disparities, and vulnerable groups.

The 2024/2025 Programme is set to commence between May-June 2024, running through to April 2025. Meeting eligibility criteria does not ensure selection onto the programme. The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, in consultation with the relevant Federation and the Selection Committee, reserves the right to confirm the final list of selected athletes in their relevant tiers.

We wish you all the best in your sporting aspirations.

THE CLOSING DATE FOR 2024/2025 APPLICATIONS IS 19 APRIL 2024.