1. OVERVIEW
Bond University is currently a member of the Australian Sport Commission’s Elite Athlete Friendly University program (EAFU), which provides guidelines for flexible study loads and requirements for elite athletes.

The intensive three-semester year that Bond offers can create an added strain on students trying to balance academic and sporting commitments, for those who are training in their respective sporting disciplines at an elite level. This may have an adverse impact on a student’s ability to perform at their peak in their academic studies, their sporting pursuits, or both.

The purpose of this Policy is to support elite athletes in the balanced pursuit of their academic and sporting goals at Bond University by permitting more flexible academic arrangements. The Policy provides a mechanism that governs the accommodations available to elite athletes across Bond University so that there is a fair and consistent approach to managing their absences for training and/or competition.

2. THE POLICY
2.1. Elite Status Criteria
Elite athlete status will be granted to a student who meets the criteria set out on the National Network of Elite Athlete Friendly Universities website.

Elite athlete status may also be granted to a student who is a representative in a Bond recognised sport at a national or international level.

Elite athlete status must be approved by the Executive Director of Sport. Students are registered as an Elite Athlete by the Bond Sport and Programs Manager.

2.2. Admission Provisions
Bond University entry requirements are the same for all applicants seeking admission to the same program.

2.3. Nominated Staff Contact
The University recognises that elite athletes may require specific advice and assistance while enrolled at the University.

The initial point of contact for elite athletes at Bond University is the Sport and Programs Manager. The Sport and Programs Manager will liaise with other relevant individuals within the University to discuss any actions or considerations which need to be taken or given in individual cases.
The Enrolment and Student Engagement Officers in the Student Business Centre, in conjunction with the Student Affairs and Service Quality Manager in the elite athlete’s Faculty of enrolment are the key contacts regarding academic matters once elite athlete status has been recognised and the student has commenced their program of study at Bond.

2.4. Flexible Study Guidelines
Elite athletes must liaise with the Sport and Programs Manager to give effect to the provisions of this Policy. The Faculty Executive Dean or delegate is the decision-maker for all academic adjustments.

The University will endeavour to provide support for elite athletes, but will not compromise the integrity of academic programs and the maintenance of appropriate academic standards. In some programs, such as the medical and physiotherapy programs, the nature of the teaching and learning experience and the program structure make accommodations more difficult to put in place.

Where appropriate, the provision of support may include flexible study arrangements, alternative examination arrangements, renegotiation of assessment deadlines, alternative format learning materials, outgoing cross-institutional study, timetable planning and flexibility about class attendance requirements, deferral, leave of absence, withdrawal, and refunds.

Deferment of a centrally scheduled examination may be sought on the basis of participation in a state, national or international sporting event. Elite athletes on scholarship may apply to take a reduced study load due to their sporting commitments.

3. DEFINITIONS

4. RELATED PROCEDURES, GUIDELINES AND FORMS

Bond Elite Sport Program Application