

Press Release

NSNIS Patiala draws up draft of revamped admission policy for diploma course in sports coaching, calls for feedback

New Delhi, May 27, 2020: In a first-ever endeavour, every year 46 eminent athletes will get direct admission to the flagship Diploma Course in Sports Coaching at the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) in Patiala, from the session of 2020-21 onwards. The revamped admission policy of the course has included this provision for the very first time, with an effort to encourage participation of eminent sportsperson in the sports coaching sector.

Several changes in the existing policy has been incorporated to ensure that new coaches are able to cater to the evolving needs of the growing sports ecosystem of India and to attract the best available talent in the country. For the first time the entrance exam for the course has been made online, and will not be held manually. The number of seats have also been increased from 566 to 725, in keeping with the restructuring of various sporting disciplines & need of the country.

The key modifications in the proposed policy include the following:

Direct Admission to prominent sportspersons: To enhance the level of coaching in the country, it has been proposed that eminent athletes who have either participated in the Olympics or won medal in world championship or gold medal in Asian/Commonwealth Games will be given direct admission to the course, without any written test or interview. This first-of-its-kind direct inclusion of eminent athletes has been proposed in order to encourage eminent athletes for coming into the field of sports coaching. There are 46 seats reserved for eminent athletes (men and women) in 23 sporting disciplines. In case of more than one application in one discipline, a system has been put in place, based on sports achievements, to choose the final candidate.

Inclusion of new parameters in the selection process: Three new parameters, namely logical reasoning and coaching aptitude, communication and basic computer knowledge have been added to the 100-mark written paper. The inclusion of these parameters have been done following a Gap Analysis exercise that shows that new set of coaches need to be able to communicate with athletes, parents, administrators and other stakeholders with ease and also need to be able to adapt to the digital-first approach taking over the country.

Increased objectivity in selecting candidates: The marking of the three parameters of educational qualification, virtual interview and sporting achievements have been changed to reduce subjectivity and increase objectivity in the process. The marks allotted to minimum educational qualification (10+2, Graduation) has been brought down to 10 instead of 15. Instead, the exam will test the coaching aptitude of the candidate. In order to ensure that the best athletes join as coaches, the marks for educational qualification has been reduced. The marks for Sporting Achievements have been enhanced from 10 to 20, with an effort to get athletes who have participated and excelled in more sporting events.

Lowering of admission eligibility age from 23 years to 21 years: A candidate will be allowed to appear for a competitive exam at age 21. This will allow fresh graduate to straight come to Diploma course instead of two years of compulsory wait. The maximum age of joining the course is 35 years with provision for relaxation of 5 (in place of 3 years earlier) if the candidate is an eminent athlete, belongs to SC/ST category or belongs to the North-east.

Age relaxation also applies for ex servicemen.

Inclusion of Minimum Physical Standard: For the first time a minimum physical standard has been incorporated in the entrance criteria to ensure a fitter coaching cadre. This will replace the 20 marks allotted to practical test in the old system.

More competition for exam: In order to create a bigger funnel to attract talent, several relaxations have been made in the eligibility criteria especially in the sports achievement section. First of all, instead of the mandatory requirement of two times participation in All India University Games, now candidates who have participated only once, either in the All India University Games or Khelo India University Games or Senior National Championship will be eligible to apply. Besides, participation in Khelo India School Games, Youth Games and University Games twice, has been added to encourage Khelo India athletes, especially those in indigenous sports. To facilitate wider participation from athletes from the north east, competitions like Inter-Service, Inter-Railways Championships and Police Games have been included. It has been noticed that athletes from the north east participate in big numbers in these games, and inclusion of these competitions as sporting achievements will help them compete with their counterparts from the rest of India.

The draft admission criteria approved by the academic council for the course has also been thrown open to stakeholders for consultation. All suggestions can be sent to the email id: academics.nispatiala@gmail.com till May 31.

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