



UNIVERSITY
OF WOLLONGONG
AUSTRALIA

FEMALE ATHLETE HIGH-PERFORMANCE PROGRAM - FOOTBALL

UNIACTIVE

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Following the success of a pilot program designed specifically for female athletes, this 24-week program focuses on tailoring individualised education and training for female physical health, athletic development, and psychological development.

This approach complements players existing training commitments by providing specialised support that might not be available in standard training routines at clubs. By collaborating with local clubs, the program ensures that development efforts are synergistic.

This integration helps in fostering a community-wide support system for female athletes, enhancing their growth opportunities and exposure. Providing expertise in sports-related programs (e.g., Exercise & Sports Science, Nutrition, and Dietetics, Sports Psychology) enhances the educational aspect of players development, providing them with knowledge and skills beneficial both on and off the field.

We plan to continuously engage with participants, parents, and partner clubs to gather feedback and make necessary adjustments. This ensures the program remains relevant and effectively supports the athletes - players will have access to top-tier facilities and equipment.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

WEEK START DATE	WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
APRIL 28	WK 1	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
MAY 5	WK 2	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
MAY 12	WK 3	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
MAY 19	WK 4	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
MAY 26	WK 5	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JUNE 2	WK 6	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JUNE 9	WK 7	WEEK OFF			
JUNE 16	WK 8	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JUNE 23	WK 9	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JUNE 30	WK 10	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JULY 7	WK 11	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JULY 14	WK 12	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JULY 21	WK 13	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
JULY 28	WK14	WEEK OFF			
AUGUST 4	WK 15	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
AUGUST 11	WK 16	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
AUGUST 18	WK 17	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
AUGUST 25	WK 18	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
SEPTEMBER 1	WK 19	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
SEPTEMBER 8	WK 20	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
SEPTEMBER 15	WK 21	WEEK OFF			
SEPTEMBER 22	WK 22	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
SEPTEMBER 29	WK 23	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
OCTOBER 6	WK 24	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
OCTOBER 13	WK 25	Female Health Education	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
OCTOBER 20	WK 26	Mental skills	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2
OCTOBER 27	WK 27	Nutrition	S&C group #1	Technical Training	S&C group #2

Participants are split into 2 groups and will only attend one S&C session in person, each week. They will either attend Tuesday in group #1 or Thursday in group #2. Participants do not attend both. All sessions are in the morning before school, delivery of session start 6:30am - 7:30am. Mental Skills sessions are delivered online.

PROGRAM CONTENT

MODULE 1 - FEMALE HEALTH EDUCATION

DELIVERED BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DR RIC LOVELL

8 Female Health Education Sessions covering:

- Menstrual Health x2
- Importance of appropriate sports bra's
- Sleep
- Injury Risk Reduction
- Recovery
- Sex differences
- Pelvic Health

MODULE 2 - STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

DELIVERED BY S&C COACH, LACHLAN MACKENZIE

- Designed for a female athlete perspective
- Appropriate to the stage of season
- Tailored to the developmental level of the athlete
- Informed by sports science
- Incorporate elements of resilience building and performance enhancement



MODULE 3 - NUTRITION

DELIVERED BY SPORTS DIETITIAN, NICOLA JAFFREY

Nutrition screening form followed by 8 Workshops covering:

WEEK	TOPIC	INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY
	Nutrition screening form	
1	Nutrition basics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Macro• Meal composition• Meal frequency• Supplements - food first (pyramid)	Food diary
2	Meal planning/shopping lists/ food preparation	Filling out planner together
3	Female athlete nutrition consideration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• REDs• Nutrition around cycle• Iron intake	
4	Training nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pre and post	What would you do? Give different scenarios and ask athletes what they would do in each to optimise pre and post nutrition OR give example answers to choose from.
5	Optimising body composition	Adjustments to nutrition plan when this is the goal
6	Hydration <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re-hydrating after games• How to improve fluid retention	
7	Game day nutrition	True or false What is missing from this meal/snack?
8	Building habits <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Habit stacking• One thing at a time	Role model habits checklist

MODULE 4 - MENTAL SKILLS

DELIVERED BY SPORTS PSYCHOLOGIST, FRANCIS DE VRIES

Female Athlete Mental Skills Development covering:

Pre-Program:

All athlete's complete mental skills profiling (5-10 mins).

All athlete's complete personal improvement plan (5 mins).

All athletes get set up with online dashboard system.

Post-Program:

- All athletes complete post-program mental skills profiling (5-10 mins).
- All athletes receive a post-term report.
- All athletes receive a guided next step to improve.

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITY
1	Goal Setting	Workshop 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the Brain • Self-Determination Theory • How to Set Effective Goals
2	Goal Setting	
3	Goal Setting	Challenge 1: Tennis Ball Juggles
4	Values	Workshop 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtues & Positive Psychology • Values as Standards of Behaviour • Values as Verbs
5	Values	
6	Values	Challenge 2: Clean Your Boots

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITY
1	Motivation	Workshop 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motivation Systems in the Brain • Getting More Motivated • Staying Motivated
2	Motivation	
3	Motivation	Challenge 3: Hero Week
4	Focus	Workshop 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the Brain Pays Attention • Directing Attention for Performance • How to Focus Better on Anything
5	Focus	
6	Focus	Challenge 4: Screen Time

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITY
1	Resilience	Workshop 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Nervous System · How to Build Resilience · Showing Resilience & GRIT
2	Resilience	
3	Resilience	Challenge 5: Cold Showers
4	Emotional Control	Workshop 6: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The Brain Science of Emotions · How to Better Control Emotions · Using Emotions to Your Advantage
5	Emotional Control	
6	Emotional Control	Challenge 6: Showing Gratitude

WEEK	TOPIC	ACTIVITY
1	Confidence	Workshop 7: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Where Confidence Comes From · Growing Confidence & Self-Efficacy · Expressing Your Abilities
2	Confidence	
3	Confidence	Challenge 7: Triumph Week
4	Peak Under Pressure	Workshop 8: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · What Happens to the Brain Under Pressure · Re-Framing Pressure as Opportunities · Strategies to Perform at Your Best
5	Peak Under Pressure	
6	Peak Under Pressure	Challenge 8: Team Talk



MODULE 5- PATHWAYS – CAREER SUPPORT

DELIVERED BY SPORTS PROGRAM MANAGER, JAMES PENDRIGH

- Offers guidance on navigating career opportunities within and beyond sports using university resources.
- US college pathway support
- Professional football pathways

MODULE 6 - TECHNICAL SESSIONS

DELIVERED BY FOOTBALL COACH, MEL PENNINGTON

Technical Training Sessions are designed to enhance the skills of female athletes, focusing on the specific technical development needed for their sport. These sessions supplement existing team training and playing environments, providing training to refine technique, improve performance, and boost confidence on the field. With expert coaching and personalised feedback (player evaluations will be included), athletes will have the opportunity to elevate their game.

PROGRAM DELIVERERS

DELIVERER	MODULE	ABOUT
Dr Ric Lovell	Female Health Education	Dr Lovell is an Associate Professor in Sport & Exercise Science at the University of Wollongong. His predominant research focus investigates optimal preparation, performance and athletic development strategies for team-sports players, including injury prevention, talent identification and monitoring training and match loads
Lachlan Mackenzie	Strength and Conditioning	Lachlan is a ASCA Level 2 strength & conditioning coach with extensive experience in youth development and team sport settings.
Nicola Jaffrey	Nutrition	Nicola is an Advanced Sports Dietitian with extensive experience in professional sports nutrition. She possesses a unique understanding of elite nutrition principles and their practical applications. Nicola holds a Master of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics from.
Francis De Vries	Mental Skills	Francis is a professional football player currently representing Auckland FC in the A-League and the New Zealand National Team. He holds a B.A. (Honors) in Psychology and has made over 100 professional appearances. Francis has experience collaborating with elite athletes from diverse backgrounds.
James Pendrigh	Pathways/Career Support	James is a former professional footballer with extensive experience playing in the US. He has a deep understanding of the various pathways available for different athletes.
Mel Pennington	Technical Sessions	Mel is a former Brighton and Hove Albion FC Academy football coach, who also holds a UEFA B coaching license.

COST-24 WEEK PROGRAM

MODULE 1 - 6

\$52 PER WEEK - (TOTAL 24 WEEKS)

MODULE	DETAIL	TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS
Module 1	Female Health Education - session every 3-4 weeks.	8
Module 2	Strength & Conditioning and player monitoring (informed by sports science) – 1 In person session every week. The program allows for an additional session to be performed on their own.	24
Module 3	Nutrition – 1 session every 3-4 weeks.	8
Module 4	Mental Skills – 1 session every 3-4 weeks.	8
Module 5	Pathways - 2 sessions over 24-week program.	2
Module 6	Technical Training - 1 session every week.	24

COST BREAKDOWN

\$52 per week, per athlete

In-Person Contact Time: 2 hours per week, per athlete.

There will be a free UniActive Gold Gym Membership included in the program for selected participants (value of \$1040).

Total Cost for 24 weeks: \$1248

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!

To express your interest, scan the QR code to access the EOI form on the UniActive website:

<https://uniactive.uow.edu.au/health-fitness/uow-sport/female-athlete-high-performance-program/>

FOR ANY QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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