

**Title:** EU Guidelines on Dual Careers of Athletes

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**Aims:** This document is a set of guidelines created by an expert group, selected by the European Union. The aim of the report is to present recommendations for creating an ideal environment to support dual career athletes. Therefore, it is a relevant document for governments, sporting governing bodies, educational institutions and employers. Furthermore, the guidelines are designed to be applicable to all athletes: male, female, boys and girls with and without disabilities.

**Results and Practical Implications:** Some of the main challenges identified in supporting dual career athletes were: safeguarding the development of young athletes; the balance between sports training and education or employment; and the end-of-sports-career phase. Due to the nature of dual careers, the individuals may come under a number of different policy domains and organisations whether that is commercial or public. The guidelines recommend nations to introduce an element of “joined up policy” (p. 8). Four main approaches were seen of this within European Union member states: a state-centric approach that is backed by legislation; a state facilitator approach that allows formal agreements between education and sporting bodies; a national sports federation or institution as acting facilitator in this; and a ‘laissez faire’ approach of no formal structure. An awareness of the approach you work within enables you to understand how your

structure might function. The report goes on to present a total of 36 guidelines for action, including: codes of conducts for members of performance and education teams; sport and public authorities funding for dual career support services; those delivering support services should be qualified; the cooperation of stakeholders; and a national accreditation or quality label for dual career services.

TASS have produced this lay summary. The full article is available (permissions may apply):

[http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/sport/library/documents/dual-career-guidelines-final\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/sport/library/documents/dual-career-guidelines-final_en.pdf)