

Changes to Northumbria Sport

Student/Applicant/Parent FAQs

General

1. Why is the University making these changes at this time?

Northumbria remains committed to high performance sport and will continue to compete at the highest levels, including British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) leagues and competitions. The size and shape of our sports offer evolves every year. In a changing environment that includes a reduction in available external funding, we must ensure that we continue to offer all our students value for money and the best possible student experience.

As a result, we are rebalancing our sports portfolio to engage more students in a broader programme of participation. We are doing this in line with our wider sport, health and wellbeing strategy across the University.

Whilst we will continue to compete at the highest level in many sports, in future, there will be a greater investment during the new University Strategy period of 2018-2023, on Student Participation and Engagement to ensure the sport offer at Northumbria is for all. This re-focus on University Sport will be delivered by growing and investing further in our wider sport, health and wellbeing strategy across the University. We will deliver a more extensive participation programme across our Clubs, Leagues and Volunteering with the aim to engage an additional 1,000 students and staff compared to 5,800 in 2017-18. This increase will involve an expanded Club and League programme (Currently NORTH) and a new Hall Sport initiative, to actively engage first year students in their campus community.

2. After sending an email to the consultation inbox, I have received an automatic response. Will I be getting an individual response, or is my email just for feedback purposes?

Yes, all emails will be responded to individually. We will try our best to reply to your query as quickly as possible but we appreciate your patience on this

3. Referring to an email I received, when does the consultation period end?

The consultation period will last a total of 45 days, ending on Friday 24th August 2018. However, we will ensure offer holders, students and staff have sufficient information relayed to them over the upcoming weeks in advance of this date

National League

4. Why have the National League teams been directly affected within Northumbria Sport even though it is such a high level and attracts numerous students across the world?

The University remains committed to providing access for students to represent the University in as many sports as possible. Each of the National League sports also has representation within BUCS programmes and therefore with limited resources, it was not possible to sustain representation in both competitions – hence the decision to focus on BUCS.

We are currently working with a number of local partners to explore player pathways at National League level within the region.

5. My Daughter has been involved with the player pathway at Northumbria for Netball. Will this programme still be running considering the cut of Netball Super League?

The sessions that are currently running will continue, as planned. We have confirmed with England Netball that we would like to work with them and the Regional Management Board to preserve the player pathway within the region, for next year and beyond. The University, England Netball and the Regional Board all want to continue to develop the pathway across all age groups in order to support the re-establishment of a North East franchise in the near future. At this moment in time, we do not know the precise format, but there is definitely a national and regional drive to continue and the University will support it through the provision of facilities and support services. As a university, we are fully committed to women's sport and the development of talented young girls in the region and want to play a key role in developing the game.

BUCS

6. Will my sport be directly affected within BUCS?

The majority of the Team Northumbria sports will still be competing in BUCS.

The Northumbria sports that will be affected and will be removed from their respective BUCS competition in full under current proposals are:

- *Boxing;*
- *Cricket (Indoor and Outdoor);*
- *Equestrian;*
- *Fencing;*
- *Gaelic Football;*
- *Korfball;*
- *Snowsports; and*
- *Ultimate*

Additionally, a number of individual 2nd and 3rd BUCS teams will be affected and will not be re-entered in BUCS leagues for 2018/19. The teams no longer entered into BUCS competitions are: Badminton M2, Basketball M3, Futsal M3, Futsal W3, Golf 2, Netball 3, Rugby Union W2, Table Tennis W2 & W3, Table Tennis M2 and Tennis M2.

We will be further developing our participation programme and exploring options for further local and regional competition and opportunities with a variety of partners.

7. What is Stan Calvert going to look like with a loss of certain BUCS programmes

Following our successful run in the Stan Calvert Student Varsity this will be developed further with an aspiration to widen the event to ensure Stan Calvert is a varsity accessible to more students. We will be working with Newcastle University to start to shape the future of the competition

Membership package and programme

8. Will the prices of the membership of both Team Northumbria and NORTH be revaluated?

One of our key objectives is to ensure that the membership offer provides value for money for students and staff. The Team Northumbria membership prices will be revaluated as the package included is being changed.

Each year, we undertake a review of our membership offer and associated pricing structure to reflect the product and level of service on offer.

Scholarship packages

9. Does my Team Northumbria scholarship still stand if I have signed a contract?

If you have signed a contract that includes a Sport Financial Scholarship, you will still receive this financial support for the upcoming 2018/19 academic year. However, the athlete support services will have to be evaluated case by case and your new contract shall be tailored to those requirements. As always our financial scholarship commitments are evaluated every year.

Student Development Programme

10. Will there still be a Volunteer and Internship programme which is related to supporting Team Northumbria and the NORTH programme?

As a national award winning programme, a full student development programme will still be on offer. The only part that will change will be the roles offered in different areas of the service and with partners in the community. The student volunteer and internship programme contributes significantly to student employability, so is a key priority moving forwards. Next year, the programme will grow through the introduction of scholarships for talented young coaches and officials and the introduction of social action events that benefit individuals and communities.

Staffing

- 11. As Colin Stromsoy (Director of Sport) decided it was the right time for someone else to take the lead, when will we find this out?**

The University is currently reviewing the management structure of Sport at Northumbria. Until this review has concluded, no direct replacement for Colin Stromsoy will be appointed. We will provide updates on the progress of this review throughout the year.

In the meantime, BUCS sport will remain under the leadership of Heather Steel; Sports Facilities will be managed by Daryl Dixon; and Sports Participation (including Northumbria Sport Foundation) will be led by Sue Vout.

- 12. The BBC news article have stated that numerous staff members are affected. What staff members have been affected and will I have a coach for my team next year**

Given we are in consultation with staff affected by these changes, we are unable at this stage to make any comment in relation to this, suffice to say that we will ensure that all teams involved in next years' programme will have appropriate coaching provision.

New Students and current Offer Holders

- 13. I am new to the University and would like to compete against other Universities, not just Northumbria students. If I do not get into a team, what are my options and other opportunities for this?**

Next year, we will be organising some friendly fixtures against local universities, clubs and colleges across a number of sports. We piloted this in a couple of sports this year and it worked really well. We also enter local county leagues in a number of sports and grow the number of students who can take part in Stan Calvert. This year, we will also work with the four other universities in the region to investigate the possibility of forming a new North East University league.

- 14. I am a current offer holder and due to start in September. What are my options if I now wish to withdraw from Northumbria University?**

Please get in touch with us directly so we can ensure you can receive the correct information for your circumstances from ourselves and the University Admissions team.