

2. Comprehensive Internship Policy – Polity

Recently, the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) has launched a Comprehensive Internship Policy designed to provide structured, hands-on experience to aspiring sports professionals, aligning with the broader goals of the National Sports Policy and the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025.

Policy Overview – National Sports Internship Programme (NSIP)

1. Scope, Institutional Coverage, and Annual Scale

The National Sports Internship Programme is a centrally coordinated capacity-building initiative anchored under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS).

Annual Intake – Approximately 452 internships offered every year across MYAS and its autonomous bodies.

Participating Institutions –

1. Sports Authority of India (SAI)
2. National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)
3. National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL)

These institutions collectively represent policy formulation, elite athlete training, integrity enforcement, and scientific governance within India's sports ecosystem.

2. Multi-Functional and Cross-Disciplinary Domain Coverage

The programme spans 20+ functional domains, reflecting the increasing professionalisation of modern sports administration.

Key domains include –

1. Sports management and governance
2. Sports science and performance analytics
3. Event operations and mega-event logistics
4. Sports communications and public outreach
5. Information technology, data management, and digital platforms
6. Legal affairs, arbitration, and compliance
7. International sports relations and governance

This diversified domain structure ensures horizontal exposure across operational, technical, and policy layers of the sports sector.

3. Eligibility, Target Group, and Academic Orientation

Citizenship – Open exclusively to Indian nationals, reinforcing domestic capacity building.

Educational Qualification –

1. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from –
 1. Recognised universities
 2. Sports institutes
 3. Physical education colleges

2. Age Criteria –

Minimum age – **20 years**

Preferred upper limit – **25 years**

3. Relaxation provisions for –

1. Postgraduate students
2. Doctoral candidates
3. Research scholars in sports-related disciplines

Preferred Academic Backgrounds –

1. Sports management and administration
2. Coaching and athlete development

3. Physiotherapy and sports medicine
4. Sports analytics and biomechanics
5. Nutrition, exercise physiology, and event management

4. Internship Duration, Structure, and Field Placement

Duration – Flexible tenure ranging from **6 weeks to 6 months**, depending on institutional needs and intern profile.

Field Deployment –

1. SAI Regional Centres
2. National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs)
3. Field-level implementation units under Khelo India

This structure ensures on-ground exposure, bridging the gap between theoretical learning and operational realities.

5. Stipend, Certification, and Career Signalling

Stipend Support –

1. Interns receive a financial stipend, varying by –
 1. Duration of internship
 2. Location and nature of posting

Certification – On successful completion, interns are awarded a jointly issued certificate by MYAS and SAI. The certification acts as a formal credential recognised across –

1. Government sports bodies
2. Federations
3. Publicly funded sports institutions

This strengthens employability in the public sports sector and allied agencies.

6. Focus on Sports Science, Integrity, and Innovation

The programme explicitly promotes –

1. Digital literacy
2. Innovation-driven problem solving
3. Entrepreneurial thinking in sports services

Specialised Institutional Exposure –

At NADA –

1. Anti-doping education and awareness campaigns
2. Legal and regulatory compliance
3. Case documentation and athlete rights protection

At NDTL –

1. Laboratory-based exposure to doping sample analysis
2. Understanding international testing protocols
3. Research on integrity, fairness, and performance ethics

This component strengthens India's clean sports architecture, aligned with global standards.

7. Recruitment, Transparency, and Selection Framework

Biannual Recruitment Cycle –

1. January intake
2. July intake

Selection Mechanism –

1. Conducted through a **centralised online portal**
2. Merit-based shortlisting using academic background, domain relevance, and institutional requirements

The process ensures -

1. Transparency
2. Uniform standards
3. Reduced discretion and procedural arbitrariness

8. Mentorship Model and Structured Learning Outcomes

Mentorship Framework -

Interns are guided by -

1. Sports scientists
2. High-performance coaches
3. Senior administrators and policy officials

Core Learning Areas -

1. Athlete performance monitoring and analytics
2. Event planning and logistics management
3. Athlete welfare and support systems
4. Sports marketing and stakeholder engagement

Professional Exposure -

1. Participation in policy design, execution, and evaluation processes
2. Hands-on involvement with flagship schemes such as -
 1. Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)
 2. Target Asian Games Group (TAGG)

9. Expected Outcomes and Medium-Term Impact

Human Capital Development - Creation of a skilled, job-ready sports workforce

Ecosystem Strengthening - Institutional capacity enhancement across training, governance, and integrity systems

Scale of Impact - Target to indirectly benefit over 4 crore youth in five years. Placement and linkage with 500+ sports-related organisations.

Systems Improvement - Strengthened sports science and analytics infrastructure. Improved alignment between academic curricula and real-world sports administration needs

10. Alignment with National Sports Vision and Policy Architecture

The internship programme is aligned with -

1. National Sports Policy
2. Khelo Bharat Niti 2025

Strategic Objectives Supported

1. Youth empowerment and skill formation
2. Professionalisation and institutional reform in sports governance
3. Promotion of clean, transparent, and science-driven sporting practices

Long-Term Vision

1. Building a future-ready sports ecosystem
2. Supporting India's ambitions in -
 1. Sustained elite sporting performance
 2. Hosting international sporting events
 3. Global credibility in sports governance and integrity

Source - <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/ministry-of-youth-affairs-and-sports-launches-comprehensive-internship-policy-to-strengthen-sports-ecosystem/>