

## 29. HIGH PERFORMANCE TRAINING AT QEII PARK

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The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of the current status of negotiations with the New Zealand Academy of Sport South Island. The Academy was established last year as part of a New Zealand Sports Foundation initiative to foster high-performance training in New Zealand. Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin were selected as locations for the three New Zealand centres.

The New Zealand Academy of Sport South Island is based in Dunedin, but is challenged with providing services to the large number of athletes who live and train in Christchurch and its surrounds. As such, the Academy is intent upon establishing an administration base in Christchurch. QEII Park appeals as a particularly suitable location. It is accessible and has aquatic and athletic facilities, which make it an ideal training base for athletes and coaches across a wide range of athletic disciplines.

QEII Park Management is keen to work with the New Zealand Academy of Sport in providing office and reception facilities at QEII Park. The Academy would be required to pay a rental for that office space and would meet all costs related to expenditure items such as electricity, telephones and cleaning services, etc.

As with the public and all athletes, New Zealand Sports Academy carded athletes are required to make payment for access to facilities and services at QEII Park.

QEII Park Management currently has similar partnerships with the Aranui Sports Academy, the Sports Performance Institute of Canterbury, Olympic Weightlifting and the New Zealand Triathlon Academy, all based at QEII Park.

It should also be noted that this initiative is in no way part of an earlier proposal to establish QEII Park's mezzanine floor as a sports training centre. That proposal was not just about high performance. It included primary schools, community recreation, sports competitions, fitness memberships and wellness opportunities. Rather, here is an opportunity to ensure that the New Zealand Academy of Sport South Island is located in Christchurch, in surroundings entirely appropriate for the goals and objectives of the Academy.

It is also timely to note that the mezzanine floor proposal in no way factored in complimentary access to user groups or individuals. Proposed revenue was clearly identified at the time. QEII Park is set to play an increasingly important role as a sports and leisure facility. The Council ensures that it is accessible and affordable. As such, all users are expected to pay access fees at all times.

### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.