

Media Release

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## Former Olympic and Commonwealth Games Representative Joins Badminton Australia!



Former Olympic, Commonwealth games representative and Australian #1 Stuart Brehaut has been recently appointed as the High-Performance Manager/National Coach. Stuarts role will see him managing the high-performance team, which means he'll be managing, coaching and administering the elite training and performance program. We asked Stu a few questions about the announcement and what he's keeping on eye on for Tokyo in the not too distant future.

### **Congratulations on your appointment Stu! Tell us how you're feeling about joining the BA team as the HP Manager ?**

Thanks! I am really excited to be joining the BA team. The High-Performance Manger / National coach role is an exciting opportunity to work with, support and develop the members of BA's High-performance team and squad.

### **Some of our community may know you, others may not, for those who don't give us an idea of your background in Badminton and some of your biggest achievements**

So, during my playing time I was a member of the Australian Olympic Team in 2004 (Men's Singles) as well as the Australian Commonwealth Games teams of '98, '02 and 2006. I also captained the Australian team in multiple Sudirman Cups , Thomas Cups and plenty other events around the world. Once finishing my playing career, I then moved into coaching the Australian Junior National Coach for 4-5 years coaching at World Junior Championships, Youth Olympics and Youth

Commonwealth Games. I am sure I have probably met many members and supporters of the Australian Badminton community, however for those I haven't yet met I look forward to coming across them in the future!

**That's not a bad resume Stu! Looking forward, a big focus for you will obviously be both the Tokyo Olympics in 2020 and the Sudirman Cup this year, how do you see the next 12-18 months panning out for our athletes?**

Yes, the upcoming 12 - 18 months will be extremely busy with a short-term focus on both the Sudirman Cup and 2020 Olympics. The longer-term focus is 2022 Commonwealth Games. Importantly I also think that while events are important and a great opportunity for our players to test how they are going; I am a big believer in tournaments not being the only way we should judge success. There is a great opportunity over the next period of time to bring the Australian Badminton community together and focus on developing a squad, people, and a team that all players can aspire to be a member of, and really building a strong culture.

**On that, tell us what kinds of strategies and support you can see going forward as important for our elite players.**

In the recent few weeks we have developed a funding model that has the potential to support players based on results no matter where in the country they are located, which is really great for the players. Importantly I also think there is a great opportunity for more Australian based coaches to be given opportunities to interact and be part of the National program and I look forward to working with them to boost the overall standard of Australian badminton.

**Sounds like some great changes already! Thanks for your time Stu and best of luck this year, congratulations and welcome to BA!**

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