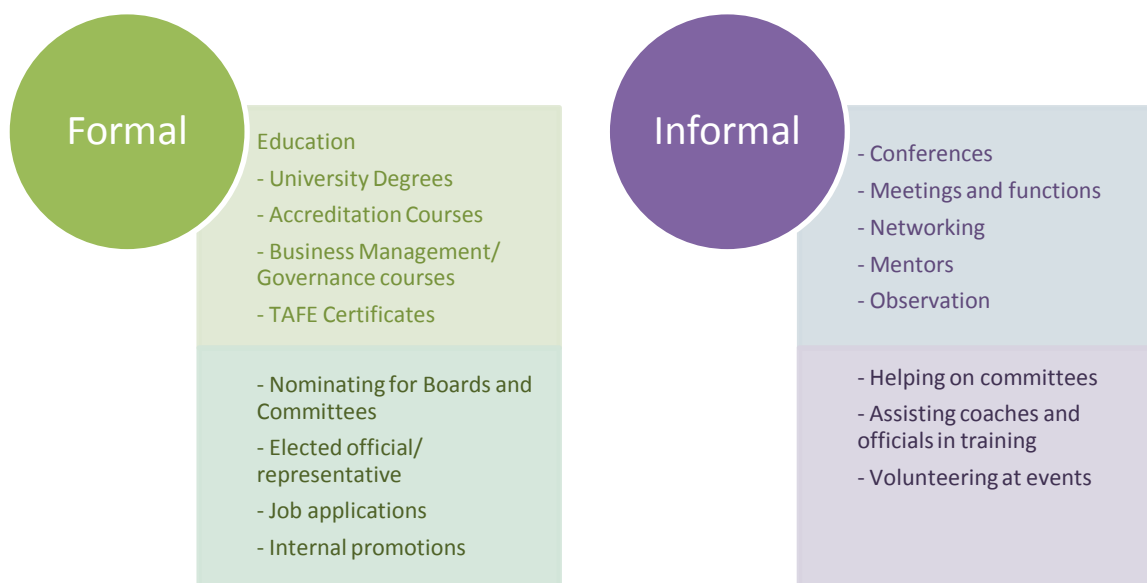


FACT SHEET 4 – LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND PATHWAYS IN SPORT

There are many leadership opportunities in sport either as a volunteer or as an employee. The pathway to further leadership roles is often based on a combination of formal and informal steps. These can best be depicted as;



Leadership often starts at the local community level within your club or organisation. In sport many people then volunteer at a district or state level and may progress to the national or international usually by being nominated and elected by the members. Being well known and having a track record of involvement is usually required to progress through these stages. Nominating for specialist committees such as Development or Coach Development also help you to become better known and to learn the formal and informal steps and politics within your sport, and YES politics and people relationships play an important role in progressing in sport, so pay attention to them!

Coaching and officiating pathways often require you to progress through the ranks both in terms of accreditation /rankings and through experience. Starting off at club and underage levels is often a way to begin your pathway. Experience with more complex and representative teams/athletes over time will help you to take the next step to better appreciate what other opportunities are available. Don't be too shy to ask for help and seek out opportunities to learn from more experienced people, possibly by observing or shadowing them. The informal situations often enable you to understand and appreciate the system (and the politics) that operates in your sport and the steps you need to take to progress.

There are many opportunities to be employed in sport in a wide range of paid positions, whether for the government (local, regional, state or national) or sport and recreation organisations. Go and talk to these bodies and find out what the range of jobs are, what is required to meet the job criteria and how often vacancies occur. Look at specialist sport employment websites and keep involved in your sport to find out about opportunities.

Kim, a physical education teacher started coaching her school basketball team and after two years was asked to coach the District school sport Under 16 Girls Basketball Team. From here Kim progressed to the state u/16 girls team and then to the u/18 state team. She accepted a scholarship to become a State Institute basketball coach and has completed her Level 2 Coaching Accreditation and is seeking to do her Level 3. She has applied to become the State Women's assistant coach and has a goal of coaching Australia in the next 10 years.

Samantha was elected her club representative to state council and after 3 years has been elected on the state development committee. She has attended 2 national workshops on development and has become chair of the national committee. She has nominated for her State Board and attends the National Board meetings on occasions. She discusses issues with her state counterparts often and is well informed on the key issues.