The human rights of athletes: Do athletes need further protection?

Chairs: Roslyn Kerr (Lincoln University) & Jenny McMahon (University of Tasmania)

Theme focus: As many nations continue to pour money into elite sporting programmes in their quest to win Olympic medals (Houlihan and Zheng, 2012), athletes and coaches are under constant pressure to perform in order to justify significant government or commercial investment. In such a highly competitive environment, it is not surprising that those involved in sport may stop at nothing in their quest for success, including potentially impinging on the human rights of athletes.

This themed session will focus on a number of research projects that centre on sporting cultures. First, potentially damaging practices occurring in various sporting cultures will be brought to the fore, including how athletes have been subjected by others and themselves to extreme practices in the name of performance. The second part of the session will be dedicated to discussing the human rights of athletes and how athletes might be better protected in such sporting cultures.

Session format: We are seeking papers, research presentations and case-studies from a variety of presenters focusing on a specific topic, question and/or methodology.

Abstracts should be 250-350 words clearly indicating the following information:

- Author name(s) indicating position and affiliation as well as full details of correspondence author.
- Full paper title as it will appear in the conference programme.
- Abstract including Background (outline of the context/literature informing the study or issue), Approach/methodology (indication of the broad theoretical orientation and/or methodological approach) and Significance/Key learnings (description/application of findings or key learnings).
- Full references for any research cited in the abstract (no tables, figures or footnotes).

Abstracts using Word format are to be submitted to Roslyn Kerr (Roslyn.Kerr@lincoln.ac.nz)

Deadline for abstracts is Friday 29th May 2015