

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW NATIONAL COACH FOR AUSTRALIA'S BOXING HIGH PERFORMANCE PROGRAM

Sweden's Santiago Nieva has been appointed as the National Head Coach for Australia's boxing high performance program.

Announced today by CombatAUS and Boxing Australia, Nieva will commence the role in June 2022.

Nieva comes to the Australian boxing high performance ranks after a successful tenure as High Performance Director and Men's Head Coach of the Indian National Team. Before this, Nieva held Head Coach roles with both the Swedish National Team and Argentine National Team programs.

CombatAUS Chief Executive Officer, Alex Vallentine, is excited about Nieva's appointment and is delighted to welcome him to CombatAUS' high performance boxing program.

"We're really pleased to have been able to recruit a coach of this calibre to lead the boxing high performance program in Australia, building upon the success delivered by outgoing coach Kevin Smith."

"Santiago brings significant international coaching experience and possesses a huge amount of technical and tactical knowledge. His experience, knowledge and background both as a coach and an elite boxer have him well placed to provide high level leadership and direction to our program and athletes."

Boxing Australia's President, Ted Tanner, echoed Vallentine's sentiments regarding Nieva's appointment.

"We welcome Santiago Nieva to this role leading the high performance program and are incredibly excited to see him working closely with our athletes to achieve success on the world stage. Santiago is a very experienced and well regarded coach on the international scene and I'm pleased he is now part of the Australian program."

The core purpose of the National Head Coach role is to provide world-class technical coaching to elite boxing athletes, and Nieva is keen to make a start.

“I am delighted to get this opportunity leading the Australian boxing program. I have seen Australian boxers in so many competitions and know their potential, and now I will get the chance to further develop their skills and work with them in an exciting partnership between the Combat Institute of Australia and Boxing Australia.”

“Australian boxers have done really well internationally for several years at all levels from Junior to Elite, Men and Women, evidenced by Harry Garside’s Olympic medal in Tokyo. I can’t wait to get started, meet the athletes and the whole Australian boxing community.”

Nieva's international coaching achievements include multiple medals at World Championships, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Pan American Championships and European Championships. He also has several international results as a former elite boxing athlete across 112 bouts, including at World, Pan American and European Championships.

Current coach Kevin Smith will continue in the Head Coach role for the upcoming IBA Women’s World Championships and the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, before finishing his role in August.

Australia's boxing high performance program, run by CombatAUS in consultation with Boxing Australia, aims to increase the competitiveness of Australia's elite boxing athletes on the world stage and achieve sustainable international podium success.

Together, CombatAUS and Boxing Australia provide contemporary technical leadership to ensure the strategic direction of boxing in Australia excels.

CombatAUS manages the elite high performance programs for the Olympic combat sports in Australia.

Boxing Australia is the National Sporting Organisation representing boxing in Australia and a recognised member of the International Boxing Association and the Australian Olympic Committee.

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