

24th February 2022

CombatAUS Boxing Head Coach Position

This update to stakeholders, key system partners and the broader boxing community is to advise that Head Coach Kevin Smith has accepted a role as Technical Director with the Saudi Arabia Boxing Federation.

This was a very difficult decision for Kevin given the success he has been able to lead for Boxing in Australia since commencing as Head Coach in 2014 and his desire to progress that success further towards Paris 2024. However, having been able to finally visit his family in the UK over Christmas for the first time in several years, the pull of being closer to his children and grandchildren, as well as the attractive opportunity to lead a new program in Saudi Arabia ultimately led to Kevin accepting this new role.

In his eight years in Australia Kevin has overseen a program that delivered an Olympic medal at the Tokyo Olympic Games, the country's first Olympic medal since 1988, World Championship medals in consecutive years from 2016 to 2019 and our best ever Commonwealth Games result on the Gold Coast in 2018.

Whilst we recognise this is a huge loss to Boxing in Australia and we thank Kevin for his significant contribution, his work isn't yet done as he will remain with our program as Head Coach for both the 2022 Women's World Championships and the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games (both of which will involve extended international camp preparations from April to July) before moving full-time to Saudi Arabia thereafter.

Kevin states "it has been a privilege working with Australia's elite boxers over the past eight years. Whilst I am moving to a new role and a new country, I hope to retain these links and will watch Australian boxers with great interest over the coming years. And of course, we still have two big campaigns to deliver at over the coming months which I am very excited about".

CombatAUS will shortly go to market for the Boxing Head Coach role, seeking an exceptional candidate that has extensive and successful international program experience, and who meets the performance culture required to positively lead the sport's high performance program to deliver sustainable success. We anticipate this process to be finalised in the coming months enabling a smooth handover period to take place prior to Kevin finishing with CombatAUS.

Please direct any questions to the CombatAUS High Performance Director Andrew Pratley via andrew.pratley@combataus.com.au