

Interview with ICSSPE's Executive Board Member

Dr. Kishore Gopinathan

- 1. Over the course of your career, from national sports administration to your current role as Vice Chancellor of Young India Sports University, you've championed sports academics, coaching, management, and science education. How do you see ICSSPE's role in advancing global sport education and capacity building, especially in aligning academic excellence with practical athlete development and policy impact?**

Throughout my career, I have consistently maintained that sports education must function at the intersection of academic rigor, practical application, and policy relevance. ICSSPE is very important in this area because it connects universities, sports systems, researchers, and policymakers from all over the world.

ICSSPE's strength is that it can push for academic standards that are in line with those around the world while still being aware of what's going on in each area. ICSSPE can help make sure that academic excellence directly contributes to athlete development pathways and institutional capacity building by promoting curricula that combine sport science, coaching, management, and governance with hands-on learning. ICSSPE also has the authority to shape policy by turning research and educational results into evidence-based frameworks that national governments and sports organizations can use.

- 2. You've emphasized the integration of sports science laboratories, AI-driven analytics, and high-performance systems in academic and training environments. What emerging technologies and innovation strategies do you believe ICSSPE should prioritise to enhance both education and performance outcomes in sport worldwide?**

It's no longer a choice to use technology in sports education and performance systems; it's a must. ICSSPE should put a lot of effort into making sure that sports science labs, AI-driven analytics, and data-informed high-performance systems are used in both academic and training settings. These tools can greatly improve finding talented athletes, keeping track of their performance, preventing injuries, and helping them grow as athletes over time.

But technology needs to be guided by morals and a clear goal. In addition to encouraging new ideas, ICSSPE should also encourage responsible data use, training and education for coaches and teachers, and collaboration between sport scientists, technologists, and practitioners from different fields. Digital learning platforms, virtual labs, and shared research facilities also have a lot of potential to make high-quality sports education available to everyone, especially for schools and countries that don't have a lot of money

- 3. Across your work, including at LNCPE and now at a national sports university, you've engaged with diverse populations, traditional games, and inclusive sport pathways. How do you think ICSSPE can better support ethical sport education, cultural diversity, and inclusive practices, ensuring that sport contributes to social development and equity across societies?**

Sport has a huge social responsibility, and moral issues should be at the heart of sport's education. During my career, I have learned how important it is to see traditional games, indigenous physical cultures, and inclusive participation models as real and important parts of sport's systems. ICSSPE can take the lead by making ethics, inclusion, safety, gender equality, and cultural diversity a part of academic programs, coach training, and research agendas.

ICSSPE can help make sure that sport not only improves performance but also promote social development and fairness by supporting inclusive sports pathways for women, people with disabilities, and marginalized communities. Promoting values-based education, encouraging dialogue between different cultures, and documenting traditional knowledge systems will make sport a stronger tool for social cohesion and human development.

- 4. Based on your experience with governance frameworks, academic programmes, and research collaborations, what opportunities do you see for ICSSPE to bridge research, policy, and practice more effectively between emerging sport education institutions, national sport bodies, and international governance structures??**

One of ICSSPE's most important chances is to connect research, policy, and practice. High-quality research is often only published in academic journals, which means that policymakers and practitioners don't have access to the evidence they need. ICSSPE can help fill this gap by creating collaborative research networks that include universities, national sports bodies, and international organizations from the start.

ICSSPE can also act as a "knowledge translator," turning research results into policy briefs, models for implementation, and resources for practitioners. Joint academic programs, faculty exchanges between countries, and collaborative doctoral initiatives can all help emerging sport education institutions build their capacity even more. ICSSPE can help create coherent, evidence-based sport systems that are long-lasting, open to everyone, and connected to the rest of the world through these means