



## Bridging the Mental Health – Performance Gap in Sport

### - Workshops and Packages -

#### Mental Performance Workshop Series (4 weekly, 90-minute sessions)

##### Building Athletes for the Long Game

These four weekly workshops develop the mental skills that separate good from great—and build humans who carry resilience, confidence, and self-awareness well beyond sport. We bridge the gap between mental health and performance, teaching young athletes that taking care of yourself and pursuing excellence aren't competing priorities—they're inseparable. Sustainable excellence means showing up at your best more often, recovering smarter, and building careers in sport that make you better, not broken.

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##### 1. Know Yourself, Know Your Game

###### Understanding what makes you tick—your strengths AND what throws you off

You can't get better if you don't know yourself. What are you naturally good at? What gets you fired up? What completely derails you? This session helps you figure out your strengths as a player and mate, and also what triggers frustration, doubt, or distraction.

You'll learn to set goals that actually mean something (not just numbers), debrief with yourself and your coach in ways that lead to real improvement, and use journaling to track patterns you might otherwise miss. Because self-awareness isn't just feel-good stuff—it's how you get smarter about your game and stop making the same mistakes over and over.

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##### 2. Finding Your Zone and Staying There

###### Managing your energy so you can perform when it matters

Your best performance isn't about being calm or hyped—it's about finding the right intensity for *you* and knowing how to get there when the pressure's on. Some players need to settle their nerves; others need to pump themselves up. Either way, you've got more control than you think.





Using breathwork and mindfulness, we'll teach you to read what your body's doing, dial your energy up or down as needed, and compete with butterflies in your stomach instead of waiting until they're gone. You'll learn how to prepare before games, reset after screw-ups, and stay solid when everything feels chaotic. We'll also talk about how mates can help each other stay steady and what you actually need from your coach in big moments.

Managing your body's reactions under pressure is what separates good from great.

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### 3. Mastering Your Mind

#### Controlling your thoughts, sharpening your focus, building real confidence

That voice in your head saying you're not good enough? It's loud, and it's usually lying. Your mind wandering to the crowd, your last mistake, or what people are thinking? That's killing your performance.

We'll show you how to notice when your self-talk is dragging you down, challenge the thoughts that aren't helping, and build an inner voice that's tough *and* supportive. You'll also learn to control where your attention goes—catching yourself when you drift and getting back to what matters. We'll practice using imagery (mental rehearsal) to prepare for competition and build confidence before you even step on the field.

Confidence isn't something you're born with. It's built through how you talk to yourself, where you put your focus, and who you choose to listen to. Learn to use mates who believe in you and coaches who push you to get better.

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### 4. Preparing for Peak Performance

#### Planning ahead so you're ready when game day hits

Game day doesn't start at kickoff—it starts with how you prepare. This session teaches you to build routines that calm your nerves, sharpen your focus, and help you trust yourself.

You'll create your own prep plan for the night before, the morning of, and those final moments before you compete—covering your warm-up, your mental game, and your physical readiness. You'll also learn how to tell coaches what you need, use mates to stay grounded when you're nervous, and tune out distractions that mess with your head.

Showing up prepared—body and mind—is how you perform with confidence and set yourself up to go the distance.

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## Team & Culture Workshop (3hrs or 2x1.5hrs)

### Communication That Builds Championships

*For coaches, staff, and athletes: Creating culture through real connection*

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*Aligning values with actions. Defining expectations. Planning for how to get back on track if behaviours don't align with values. All of these require clear and consistent communication. It requires awareness of what others need to be their best selves. How you talk to each other—in practice, in games, in the locker room—shapes everything. This workshop brings athletes, coaches, and staff together to build the communication that turns individuals into a team that actually trusts each other.*

#### We'll work on:

- **Co-creating culture:** Making sure your values show up in how you actually act. Creating plans for when people act in ways that go against the values
- **Talking under pressure:** Staying clear when the stakes are high and emotions are running hot
- **Celebrating what's real:** Recognizing what people bring without fake hype
- **Supporting through the hard stuff:** What to say when mates are struggling or doubting themselves
- **Bouncing back as a group:** Handling losses and keeping belief in each other alive

*The best teams communicate with honesty, care, and guts—especially when it's uncomfortable. Championships get built on relationships and alignment, not just talent.*





## Parent and Coach Workshop (2.5hrs)

### Mental Health Literacy / Mental Health First Aid

#### Recognizing the Red Flags

*Responding to mental health concerns in training and competition environments*

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*That kid who used to love practice but now drags their feet? The perfectionist who loses it over one mistake? The anxious athlete obsessed with what everyone thinks? The restless, unfocused player who can't seem to lock in? Learn to spot when normal stress becomes something bigger—and what to do about it.*

*This session gives you the tools to recognize early warning signs, have tough conversations without making it worse, and get young athletes the right support before things spiral.*

#### We'll cover:

- The difference between game-day nerves and real anxiety, between working hard and dangerous perfectionism
- Spotting when shifts in mood, energy, eating, sleeping, or pulling away mean something deeper is going on
- Crisis vs. emergency: When you need help right now vs. when you watch and support
- How to connect athletes with help in ways that don't break trust
- Balancing high standards with actually caring about the human

**For parents:** Learn to pick up on subtle signs of distress, the right questions to ask, how to listen so they'll actually talk and when it's time to get a professional involved.

**For coaches:** Build a culture where asking for help shows strength, not weakness. Where getting mental health support doesn't mean lowering your competitive bar. Where taking care of your mental health is modelled as a foundation to best performances.

*No one can perform well long-term if they're not well. Period. And high performers tend to mask emotions and would prefer to put on a "performance" to please everyone else. It's our duty of care to learn how to notice the early warning signs of mental health concerns and prevent them from worsening. Because we're not just building athletes. We're building humans.*

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## Parent Workshop (1.5hrs)

### Beyond "How Was Practice?": Connecting With Your Athlete

*What to say after training, games, wins, losses and everything in between*

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The conversations you have with your kid on the drive home, at dinner, or before bed matter way more than you think. What you say—and how you say it—shapes how they feel about sport, mistakes, and themselves.

This workshop helps parents turn everyday conversations from grilling or critiquing into actual connection and learning.

#### You'll learn:

- How to read your athlete's mood and match it (sometimes they want to talk; sometimes they need quiet)
- Questions that open them up instead of shutting them down ("What did you notice?" beats "Why didn't you...?")
- How to celebrate effort and progress without pretending results don't matter
- When to give perspective and when to just listen
- How to handle losses, slumps, and setbacks without fixing everything or brushing it off
- The difference between pushing for excellence and pushing them toward burnout

*You can't control their performance. But you can control whether your conversations bring you closer or push you apart. If you help them bounce back or suffer more in silence. If they soak in the wins to build confidence or dismiss their wins as 'not good enough.' The goal isn't just better athletes. It's raising tough, confident humans who know how to handle pressure, deal with disappointment, and keep perspective long after sport is over.*





## Coach Workshop (2.5hrs)

### Unlocking Potential: Coaching the Person, Not Just the Player

*How to motivate your athletes to give it their all*

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*The best coaches don't just teach skills, they unlock something in people. This workshop gives you actionable communication tools, rooted in motivational interviewing and sport psychology, to help young athletes find their own drive and take ownership of their development.*

#### **You'll learn:**

##### **Working with resistance, not against it**

When athletes dig in their heels or shut down, pushing harder usually backfires. Learn to roll with resistance—exploring their hesitation with curiosity rather than judgment and helping them find their own way forward instead of forcing compliance.

##### **Asking questions that build thinking athletes**

Socratic questioning helps athletes solve problems for themselves instead of waiting to be told what to do. We'll practice questions that unlock insight, develop independent thinking, and build the decision-making skills that show up in pressure situations.

##### **Having hard conversations without breaking trust**

Accountability without connection is just criticism. Learn to address performance gaps, effort concerns, and behavioral issues in ways that challenge athletes while strengthening the relationship. Because sustainable excellence requires both high standards *and* genuine care for the person.

##### **Helping athletes discover their 'why'**

Trophies and rankings only motivate so far. Learn to help athletes connect with what genuinely drives them—their values, their identity, who they want to become. Process over outcome. Intrinsic motivation over external pressure. Athletes who want it for themselves, not because they fear disappointing you.

##### **Leveraging strengths to unlock best performances**

Stop only fixing weaknesses. Every athlete has something they're naturally good at. Learn to identify and build on strengths—creating confidence and competence that elevates everything else. Give people the benefit of the doubt, assume best intent, and watch what becomes possible when athletes feel seen for what they bring.

*This isn't about being soft or lowering standards. It's about coaching in ways that develop autonomy, competence, and genuine drive—not just compliance. Because the athletes who perform best long-term aren't the ones who fear letting you down. They're the ones who've discovered what they're capable of and want it for themselves.*

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## Important Information

### Trust Us

These workshops are not just training. They bring together decades of experience from Dr. Wheeler and her team. As experts who have lived and taught others how to *Bridge the Mental Health-Performance Gap*. Who have engaged hundreds of audiences. Who bring actionable strategies, not just theory. For more information about Dr. Wheeler, please visit: [www.drheatherwheeler.com](http://www.drheatherwheeler.com)

### Seeing Everything as Investment

We believe that sport is an incubator for developing the humans we want as future leaders. Investing in something that not only helps athletes unlock peak potential in sport but also helps them achieve develop the basic skills to be a better human is something we think you'll agree is worth investing in. We also believe that your membership will see it that way too. Especially if you make it a priority.

### Multi-Workshop Packages

Teams that invest in multiple workshops receive reduced pricing. When you commit to building a comprehensive mental health and performance culture—addressing athletes, parents, and coaches—we recognize that investment with bundled rates tailored to your needs.

### Customized Programming

Every team has unique needs, challenges, and goals. These workshops can be tailored to address your specific culture, competitive level, age ranges, and areas of focus. Whether you need content adjusted for pre-competitive athletes, support around specific mental health concerns, or programming that integrates with your existing team values—we'll create something that fits.

### In-Person Delivery Preferred

While virtual delivery is available, in-person workshops create deeper connection, allow for more effective experiential learning, and build stronger team culture. The impact of embodied practices—breathwork, movement, and group connection—is significantly enhanced when we're together in the same space.

### Ongoing Consultation

The real impact of any workshop comes with translating the knowledge to action. We offer ongoing consultation for “after the workshop” so that teams can troubleshoot the skills in action. While all workshops include gathering feedback from attendees, which is summarized and shared with directors or other key staff, it is always helpful to iteratively take that feedback and adjust as needed. Let us know if you would like to consider hiring us as consultants for a 6-12 month period to support this important part of learning for your staff and athletes.

## Ready to Build Excellence That Lasts?

Let's design a workshop package that meets your team where you are and takes you where you want to go. Contact us to discuss your needs and explore how we can work together to bridge the gap between mental health and performance in your sport organization or community.

