



# Unlocking your leadership potential

**EY Women Athletes Business  
Network (WABN)**

**2021 Global Mentoring Program**



**Building a better  
working world**



# Women Athletes Business Network Global Mentoring Program

With the uncertain and changing times, the issues facing businesses are more complex than ever. In order to overcome these new challenges, we need a diverse mix of cultures, experiences and values at the table. EY research has shown that many female athletes become successful business leaders. Also, EY finds this group is building their own businesses. For elite female athletes, the same qualities that make them a success in sports are also a recipe for achievement at the helm of a business, and they have the potential to be influential leaders who produce winning results in global organizations.

EY created the Women Athletes Business Network (WABN) to support female athletes who have outstanding leadership potential and to provide guidance on their transition into the business world. The purpose of the program is to inspire the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs and fulfilling our purpose of building a better working world.

One of the key activities of WABN is the signature global mentoring program. Female athletes from around the world are selected and matched with EY business leaders. Each mentor advises their mentee for 10 months to set career goals and a plan for future growth.

Applications are now open for the 2021 mentoring program. If you have competed in sports on an international scale and want to apply that experience in the business world, we'd love to hear from you.

## Mentoring

Each mentee is paired with a mentor according to their career aspirations. Mentees receive advice on career transition, and how to translate their experiences in sport into business excellence. Mentees will identify their strengths, set clear goals, design a career plan, and gain a new set of practical solutions.

## Connections

Mentees have access to a global network of leaders, along with entrepreneurs from our EY Entrepreneurial Winning Women program, and other elite athletes in the WABN program.

## Upskilling

Expand your capabilities to fulfill the talent needs of a rapidly changing economy. Innovative sessions using the latest digital technology offers mentees new career and business opportunities.

## Career opportunities

EY Athlete Transition Program offers internships to qualified athletes as part of a global diverse hiring and recruitment effort

## Testimonials from participants



### Kim Brennan Australia, WABN Mentee 2016

Rowing, 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics gold medalist  
EY Australia Consultant  
Deputy Chef de Mission Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games of Australian Sports Foundation

WABN was an incredible opportunity to learn from amazing female business leaders, but also share and connect with my athlete peers across the globe. It was a really special learning opportunity that inspired me to maintain the athlete mindset of dreaming big, well beyond the sporting field.



### Sarah Hanffou France, WABN Mentee 2018

Table Tennis, 2012 London Olympics  
Founder & CEO of Maitre Hanffou Law Firm  
President of Ping sans Frontières

Being part of this program was a life changing experience. The mentees were all brilliant and benevolent, I learned a lot from our discussions on self-confidence, career building, and work and life balance. As for my mentor, without her, I would not be where I am today. She helped me break down the barriers that I had erected myself. Even more, beyond the concrete success that comes from mentoring, I have also learned about humility. My concrete result include a qualification for TOKYO 2020 (Team Cameroon) even though when entering the program, I had planned to end my sporting career. Also, I achieved the opening of my own law firm and a significant development of my NGO. All I can say is thank you for such an opportunity!



### Rika Saito Japan, WABN Mentee 2019

Weightlifting, 2008 Beijing Olympics  
2nd year master's student, Graduate School of Sport Sciences, Waseda University  
JADA (Japan Anti-Doping Agency) Athlete Committee

This program was a good opportunity for me to reflect on myself. With each piece of advice my mentor gave me, I developed a clearer vision of where I am now, where I want to be, what I need to do in order to get there and what possibilities are open to me. While the things I learned from my mentor and my training as a whole were of course valuable, the greatest joy for me was meeting other people who have the same passion as me. Even after the program, the other former mentees are a source of inspiration for me as I carry out the research that is necessary for the next step I will take.

## Global Leader of Women Athletes Business Network



### Janelle Sasaki

EY Japan Brand, Marketing and Communications Director, Women. Fast forward Committee Member

Janelle Sasaki was a competitive gymnast in the USA for 10 years. Floor and beam were her strongest events, and she won the all-around title in the California league twice. After leaving the sporting world for the business world, she brought the leadership skills she learned as an athlete to Silicon Valley, where she gained a reputation for innovative talent strategies through her scholarship program, hiring strategies for student athletes and career design sessions that prepares athletes for the business world. She is passionate about coaching and mentoring athletes on the transition from sport to a career in business and entrepreneurship.

Studies by the WABN have shown that top athletes have skills that are extremely useful in business. In fact, 94% of female executives who were surveyed responded that they had played sports, and 52% responded that they had been competitive athletes in university or later. A study conducted jointly by EY and the Peterson Institute for International Economics also found that the net profit of a company increases by 6% when at least 30% of its leaders are women.\*

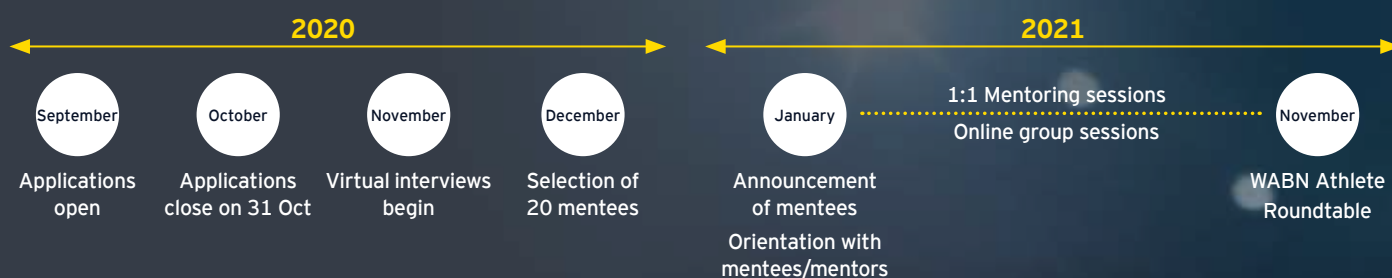
I was shy as a child. Gymnastics taught me to have confidence in myself, to set goals, to overcome challenges, and, above all else, to never give up.

\*Source: <https://www.piiie.com/publications/working-papers/gender-diversity-profitable-evidence-global-survey>

# How to apply

## Application and selection process

Please note that the schedule may change.



## WABN Global Mentoring Program

**What:** This signature mentoring program provides female athletes with an EY business mentor for guidance on how to translate their accomplishments in the sporting world to business excellence. Mentees are able to expand their network with business leaders, entrepreneurs, and other elite athletes, while learning the skills they need to succeed in business.

**Format:** Each mentee is matched with an EY business leader and is mentored for 10 months. Online group sessions and WABN Roundtable will be held.

**Organizer:** EY WABN\*

**Sponsor:** Women. Fast forward  
Patrick D. Winter  
EY Asia-Pacific Area Managing Partner

**Cost:** No fees

**Application requirements:**

- ▶ Applicants must be a current or former female athlete who has competed in the Olympics, Paralympics, professional, or international competition. Applications are accepted regardless of the applicant's age or the year(s) in which she competed.
- ▶ Applicants must be seeking to enter the business world and/or improve their leadership skills
- ▶ Desire to work in business or entrepreneurship
- ▶ Fluency in English
- ▶ Committed to participation in mentoring and roundtable events

**Number of participants:** 20 worldwide

**How to apply:** Please email EY WABN for the application form.

Janelle Sasaki  
EY Global WABN Leader, WFF  
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Find more information on WABN below.

Women. Fast forward

[www.ey.com/en\\_gl/women-fast-forward](http://www.ey.com/en_gl/women-fast-forward)



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EY Women Athletes Business Network



Women Athletes Business Network

\* Women Athletes Business Network

The Women Athletes Business Network was founded by EY in Rio de Janeiro in March 2016. Advisors include Kim Brennan, Martina Navratilova, Nadia Comaneci and Tegla Loroupe, who have all achieved success in business after retiring from sports. Masato Mizuno, Chairman of Mizuno Corp., is an external advisor from Japan. EY Women Athletes Business Network (WABN) is an external network of professionals and athletes to address the needs of business to find diverse talent, and to unlock the ambition of women athletes in adapting their leadership skills outside of their sports.

EY | Assurance | Tax | Transactions | Advisory

### About EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

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