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# Australian Canoeing Athlete Categorisation



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## Selection Criteria

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Australia's Winning Edge 2012-2022 (Winning Edge) is our nation's game plan to move from world class to world best. The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) drives the Winning Edge initiative and a key part of this national strategy is to identify our high potential athletes and ensure they receive the right support at the right time in their pathway.
- 1.2 The Australian Canoeing (AC) Winning Edge Athlete Categories ("Athlete Categories") have been developed following AIS criteria. The AC Athlete Categories aims to align former athlete categorisations (tiering and scholarships) with the principles of Winning Edge, which can be found on the AIS website. It will provide a consistent basis to:
  - a) identify the athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Winning Edge targets in Tokyo 2020 and beyond and at World Championships annually;
  - b) track their performance over time; and
  - c) inform prioritisation of support to these athletes
- 1.3 Importantly, membership of an Athlete Category requires evidence of an athlete's potential for future success. It does not solely recognise past results.
- 1.4 AC has developed these selection criteria to select athletes to the different categories and for nomination to the AIS for inclusion in the national list of Athlete Categories, which includes athletes across all sports.

## 2. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 2.1 These criteria may be amended or supplemented by the Board of AC, or the AIS, in its absolute discretion from time to time. AC shall provide as much notice of such change as possible to all affected Athletes, Member State Associations and others as determined by the Board in accordance with clauses 3.2 and 3.3 of the Selection Procedures By-Law.
- 2.2 The Selection Panel will consist of the NPD, National Head Coach and relevant SIS/SAS Head Coach or Program Manager. This panel will determine the nomination of athletes under these criteria within each State.
- 2.3 AC will submit the list of selected athletes to the AIS for ratification in April and October each year.
- 2.4 Selection to the AC Athlete Categories does not imply selection to AC national teams or squads which are governed by separate selection criteria available on the AC website. Equally, non-selection to the Athlete Categories does not exclude Athletes from selection to AC national teams or squads.
- 2.5 The Selection Panel will consider evidence provided to support each selection and will only select athletes that genuinely satisfy the criteria in **Figure 1**.
- 2.6 The Selection Panel may at its discretion, request a review of an athlete at other times (e.g. following a benchmark event or if an athlete is not actively training).

- 2.7 Athletes will remain in an Athlete Category until such time as they are removed. Athletes may be excluded at any time from the Athlete Categorisation program at the absolute discretion of AC.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Athletes seeking selection to the Athlete Categories must:

- a) Be a current member of AC, eligible and available to represent Australia in international competition and actively training towards the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or the World Championships. This includes athletes who are currently pursuing citizenship for the purpose of representing Australia at the Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- b) Have submitted to AC a signed Athlete Agreement and an Individual Performance Plan (IPP) endorsed by the Coach (National or SIS/SAS Head Coach or nominated delegate), and attend athlete development meetings with the NPD, or his nominated delegate, and other AC or NIN high performance staff as required;
- c) Comply with all anti-doping requirements of AC and the ASC;
- d) Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence, as outlined in the AC Athlete Agreement;
- e) Abide by both the rules and the spirit of the sport;
- f) Maintain the high standard of personal behavior expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
- g) Not bring AC, its partners, or the ASC, into disrepute.

### 4. ATHLETE CATEGORY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

4.1 The AIS Athlete Categories consist of five levels. For selection to all levels, recent performance must be supported by evidence that the athlete demonstrates progression towards meeting AC's Winning Edge targets within a defined time period.

### AC Winning Edge Podium Pathway Athlete Categorisation

Level	AIS Categorisation Description	CANOE SLALOM	CANOE SPRINT	PARACANOE
<b>Podium</b>	Athlete who had a medal performance at a world championship (or equivalent) event in the previous 24 months and is considered capable of a medal at the next world championship (or equivalent) event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Podium at Senior BME Event within the last 24 months, and, meets NCE Senior Performance Standards; and,</li> <li>▪ Capable of a medal at the next BME event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Podium at Senior BME Event within the last 24 months; and,</li> <li>▪ and, Capable of a medal at the next BME event</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Podium at Para BME Event within the last 24 months; and,</li> <li>▪ Finish in the Top 50% of their competitors; and,</li> <li>▪ Capable of a medal at the next BME event</li> </ul>
<b>Podium Ready</b>	Athlete who placed fourth to eighth at the most recent world championship (or equivalent) event and is considered capable of progressing to Podium in the next two years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place 4<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> at the most recent Senior BME Event, and, meets NCE Senior Performance Standards; and,</li> <li>▪ Capable of a medal at a BME in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at the most recent Senior BME Event; and,</li> <li>▪ Capable of a medal at a BME in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place 4 - 8<sup>th</sup> at most recent Para BME Event; and,</li> <li>▪ Finish in the Top 50% of their competitors; and,</li> <li>▪ Capable of a medal at a BME in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Podium Potential</b>	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Ready in the next two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place 11<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> at the most recent Senior BME Event, and, meets NCE Senior Performance Standards; or,</li> <li>▪ Place Top 10 at U23 BME Event, and, meets NCE 19-23yr Performance Standards; or,</li> <li>▪ Quality performance at an alternate international event (e.g. world cup);</li> <li>▪ and, capable of a medal at a Senior BME event in the next 4 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at the most recent Senior BME Event; and,</li> <li>▪ Finish in the Top 50% of their competitors; or,</li> <li>▪ Medal at U23 BME Event; or,</li> <li>▪ Quality performance at an alternate international event (e.g. world cup);</li> <li>▪ and, Capable of a medal at a Senior BME event in the next 4 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place 9 - 12<sup>th</sup> at most recent Para BME Event; and,</li> <li>▪ Finish in the Top 50% of their competitors; and,</li> <li>▪ Capable of a medal at a Senior BME event in the next 4 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Developing</b>	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Potential in the next two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified NCE National Senior Team member and, meets NCE Senior Performance Standards; or,</li> <li>▪ Identified National U23 Team member, and, meets NCE 19-23yr Performance Standards; or,</li> <li>▪ Identified National Junior Team member, who placed Top 15 at the most recent Junior BME event; or,</li> <li>▪ Quality performance at an alternate international event (e.g. world cup);</li> <li>▪ and, capable of progressing to Podium Potential in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified National Senior Squad member; or,</li> <li>▪ Identified National U23 Team member, who placed 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> at the most recent U23 BME event; and,</li> <li>▪ Finish in the Top 50% of their competitors; or,</li> <li>▪ Identified National Junior Team member, who placed Top 9 at the most recent Junior BME event; or,</li> <li>▪ Quality performance at an alternate international event (e.g. world cup);</li> <li>▪ and, capable of progressing to Podium Potential in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified State Development Squad member;</li> <li>▪ and, capable of progressing to Podium Potential in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>
<b>Emerging</b>	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Developing in the next two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified National Junior Team member, and/or;</li> <li>▪ Capable of progressing to Developing in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified National Junior or U23 Team member, and/or;</li> <li>▪ Capable of progressing to Developing in the next 2 years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identified State Development Squad member;</li> <li>▪ and, capable of progressing to Podium Potential in the next 4 years.</li> </ul>

- 4.2 The Podium Pathway Athlete Categories apply to Olympic and Paralympic disciplines and events only
- 4.3 For the purposes of the above Athlete Categories:
- a) Only athletes competing in Olympic or Paralympic disciplines are eligible for the AC Winning Edge Athlete Categories.
  - b) Athletes with performances in Non-Olympic/Paralympic events may be included only where there is clear evidence that performance in a Non-Olympic/Paralympic event will contribute to the AWE targets in Olympic or Paralympic events. Alternatively, these athletes may be included in a separate 'International' Category which will be assessed on a case by case basis.
  - c) Athletes who do not satisfy any of the Podium Pathway category criteria but has earned selection for the national team or squad preparing for the NSOs benchmark event may be included in a separate 'International' Category which will be assessed on a case by case basis.
  - d) Should an exceptional circumstance prevent an athlete from achieving the benchmark event criteria for Podium potential or above, and there is compelling evidence that the athlete would otherwise meet the criteria for that level, AC may take into consideration extenuating circumstances. In particular, AC will consider the National Olympic Committee (NOC) ranking of an athlete and likelihood to qualify an Olympic quota for Tokyo 2020 and contribute to AWE performance targets in Tokyo 2020.
- 4.4 Athletes in an Athlete Category are expected to show a progression in performances and results. A detailed review will be undertaken of all Winning Edge Athletes. Athletes should be able to demonstrate improvement each year, e.g. an improvement in their personal best, or maintenance of a medal winning position. It is acknowledged that athlete progression is not always linear and therefore performance plateaus and regression will be considered, but only when there is evidence of strong athlete commitment and compliance to continuous improvement. Athletes who fail to progress will be removed from the Athlete Categories.
- 4.5 Athlete Categorisation will ultimately be used to prioritise AC's and the high performance system's resources, including AC financial support and AIS Performance Support from AIS providers. The athletes in the higher categories can expect to receive a greater level of support than those in the lower categories. In all cases, the provision of services to athletes in the Athlete Categories is subject to available resources.
- 4.6 Selection to a certain category does not automatically entitle an athlete to receive support, and athletes within the same category may not receive the same level of support. In particular, the AIS Direct Athlete Support (dAIS) criteria may not align directly with the Athlete Categories.

## 5. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS & ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- 5.1 The criteria that AC will use to select athletes for the Athlete Categories includes the performance threshold at the benchmark event, the eligible benchmark events and disciplines, and the indicators of future potential that are relevant in canoeing.
- 5.2 For each category AC has identified the annual benchmark event for 2017 to 2020, and the performance standard expected.

- 5.3 For the Podium Potential and Developing categories, there may be consideration of performance at a number of events in addition to the BME, e.g. World Cups, where the performance at the secondary event and the characteristics of the athlete may be more relevant for assessing future potential.
- 5.4 The AC Selection Panel will use a range of criteria to assess the future potential of an athlete. The Panel, in its sole discretion, may consider some or all of the following factors:
- a) ranking in a benchmark event or performance at another designated event;
  - b) meeting specific time or distance standards relative to international benchmarks;
  - c) the gap to medal performance expressed in absolute time or a percentage of the winning or medal time;
  - d) athlete age and physical and personal characteristics;
  - e) demonstration of a rate of progression consistent with maintaining or developing world class performance; and
  - f) athlete agreement and Individual Performance Plan process
  - g) the presence or absence of high ranking athletes or nations at the nominated benchmark event
- 5.5 Membership of an athlete category will be formally reviewed twice annually at which point athletes may be added, removed or moved to a different category. Individual athlete reviews will occur following the completion of the BME and following national team selection trials each year.
- 5.6 As a principle, athletes must continue to demonstrate potential to medal at a future BME or, demonstrate progressive improvement each year in performance areas identified in their IPP. Unless there is other evidence that an athlete is on-track to contribute to AWE targets, athletes who fail to progress may be removed from the Athlete Categories.

## 6. EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES & SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- 6.1 The AC Selection Panel should take into consideration the potential of an athlete to assist AC in achieving its Winning Edge targets. The Selection Panel may consider a range of circumstances in determining whether an Athlete should be included or maintained in an Athlete Category, including but not limited to the following:
- a) In particular, special consideration may be given to maintain a Podium Athlete in the Podium Category for two years, where there is clear evidence that this will assist the potential of AC to achieve its Winning Edge targets.
  - b) Special consideration may be given to NOC rankings where an Athlete has demonstrated the potential to achieve a podium or podium potential performance or qualify an Olympic quota that could provide that athlete or another athlete with an opportunity to deliver a medal winning performance, based on NOC rankings not absolute rankings.

6.2 If an **exceptional circumstance** prevents an otherwise eligible athlete from satisfying the criteria for an Athlete Category, AC, in its absolute discretion, may allow for special consideration. Such circumstances could include illness at the time of the benchmark event, an athlete returning from injury or an expected reduction in the international competitiveness of the discipline (e.g. competitor retirement).