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AC Canoe Slalom National Centre of Excellence

2017-18 Athlete Application Guidelines

The AC Slalom Canoe / Kayak National Centre of Excellence Program (NCE) based in Penrith NSW aims to provide a high performance training environment for nationally identified athletes with the aim of achieving sustainable medal winning performances at Olympic Games and World Championships.

The NCE maximises the collective expertise and resources of Australian Canoeing (AC), the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) and the New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) to provide high quality training, coaching and performance support services.

Athletes wishing to be a part of the AC NCE program for the period April 2017 to March 2018 will need to submit an application to Australian Canoeing to express their interest in an Athlete Agreement. The application process will commence following the final selection trials on 17 – 19 February and close on 28 February 2017.

Athletes will then have the opportunity to talk to the coaches and develop an individual athlete performance plan (IPP) and Athlete Agreement for consideration in early March.

To be eligible to apply athletes must reach a performance standard at the 2017 Australian Team Trials.

Athletes should reach the following percentage behind the base score (fastest Australian) at two of the three selection trials.

NCE Performance Standards

Senior Criteria	19-23 yr Criteria	16-18 yr Criteria
K1 94.6%	K1 96.4%	K1 101%
C1 101%	C1 106.5%	C1 111.1%
K1W 110.2%	K1W 113.9%	K1W 124%
C1W 124%	C1W 130.4%	C1W 138.7%

Rationale for changes to percentage:

Overhauling the way we calculate the percentage for the performance standard to reduce the variability. In the past the performance percentage has been based on the best single run from each selection trial. In some cases this created an unusually tough or an unusually easy percentage because of a rouge performance.

The new proposed system is based on a calculation of all four Australian winners in C1 Men, K1 Men, C1 Women and K1 Women. This gives an average winning score for each stage of selection. The new performance standards are equivalent to the old percentages but they are calculated from the new average winning score at each trial. This will reduce the variability that can be created by course design or a rouge result.

Olympic category support:

In 2017 we start the new Olympic cycle. The ICF Olympic Program for Slalom in Tokyo will be for C1 Men, K1 Men, C1 Women and K1 Women. Athletes will only be able to qualify for NCE standards based on performance in the four Olympic categories. Funding support will be only directed to athletes in C1 and K1. C2 remains a class at the Worlds and World Cups however our Government support is designated towards the future Olympic categories.

Athletes may also be considered on the evidence of international performances or demonstrated individual progression in the case of extenuating circumstances at the time of the selection trials.

Agreements and support will be tiered in line with the AC Athlete Categorisation policy available [here](#).

Athletes nominating for selection to the NCE squad need to show high levels of commitment to work towards top international levels of performance. They will be expected to be located or relocate to nearby the Penrith Whitewater stadium or commit to spending extended periods of training in Penrith.