Background
The Slalom Canoe / Kayak National Centre of Excellence Program (NCE) maximises the collective expertise and resources of the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), Australian Canoeing (AC) and the New South Wales Institute of Sport (NSWIS) in a unique partnership to achieve medal winning performances and sustainable international success.

Principles
The Slalom Canoe / Kayak National Centre of Excellence will offer up to a maximum of 20 scholarships.

The National Performance Director and National Centre of Excellence coaches set the scholarship criteria and make recommendations to the National Centre of Excellence Joint Management Committee (JMC).

The Joint Management Committee approves the NCE scholarships.

The scholarship period for 2006 will extend from April 2006 until following the national senior selection events in March/April 2007. A scholarship review will occur in September 2006, where tiers may be altered and additional junior athlete(s) may be offered tier 3 scholarship(s) for performance at their benchmark event. The two criteria included in this document are:

1. Scholarship Criteria, April 2006

NCE Scholarships – Relationship with SIS/SAS
NSW Registered Athletes
The NSWIS, the AIS and Australian Canoeing have agreed to fully integrate their Canoe Slalom Programs. This means former NSWIS athletes will only sign one NCE (joint NSWIS/AIS) agreement and will be dual badged NSWIS/AIS.

The NSWIS athletes will continue to receive financial assistance for training and competition, however these funds will be administered through the NCE operational budget (i.e. by Samantha Hutchins, NCE Program Coordinator). The criteria for NSW based athletes requires the athlete to fulfil the selection criteria for the NCE, reside in NSW, be affiliated members of NSW Canoeing and compete for a NSW Club at selection events.
Other ‘State-based’ Athletes

Other state based programs, linked to the relevant SIS/SAS, play a key role in the national program. These programs provide critical daily training environment support to athletes that do not reside in NSW. The NCE will continue to support these ‘state-based’ athletes through NCE camps and other benefits documented in the ‘Schedule of Scholarship Benefits’.

The athletes in the VIS Canoe Slalom program and individual scholarship holders at the WAIS (or any other SIS/SAS) will continue to receive financial assistance for training and competition as determined by their relevant SIS/SAS.

These athletes will sign both a SIS/SAS and NCE agreement. These athletes will also be dual badged by their relevant SIS/SAS and the AIS.
The scholarship period for 2006 will extend from April 2006 until following the national senior selection events in March/April 2007. A scholarship review will occur in September 2006.

**Tier 1 criteria**

Tier 1 scholarships will be offered to:

- Athletes/crews who achieved a top 5 performance at 2005 World Championships and are selected to the 2006 national senior team;
- Athletes who achieve a medal at a 2006 World Cup event.

**Tier 2 criteria**

Tier 2 scholarships will be offered to:

- The top 3 ranked athletes/crews in each class in the 2006 senior national team selection ranking, subject to meeting the following NCE tier 2 scholarship performance standard at two out of the four national team selection events:
  
  The NCE tier 2 scholarship performance standard is the following percentage score above the base score. The base score at each selection event is the lowest total score recorded by an athlete/crew at that event in any of the ICF classes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Performance Standard</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K1</td>
<td>104%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>112%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K1W</td>
<td>120%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>118%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tier 3 criteria**

A maximum of 20 NCE scholarships will be offered. Tier 1 and tier 2 positions will be awarded first, with tier 3 scholarships allocated from the remaining positions.

Tier 3 scholarships will be offered to:

- The 4th ranked athlete/crew in the 2006 national senior team selection ranking in K1, C1 or K1W subject to meeting the NCE tier 2 scholarship performance standard above.
- 2006 Team 22 athletes/crews meeting the NCE tier 3 scholarship performance standard at two out of the four national team selection events:
  
  The NCE tier 3 scholarship performance standard is the following percentage score above base score. The base score at each selection event is the lowest total score recorded by an athlete/crew at that event in any of the ICF classes.
event is the lowest total score recorded by an athlete/crew at that event in any of the ICF classes.

- K1: 106%
- C1: 116%
- K1W: 124%
- C2: 122%

- Junior athlete(s) achieving top 10 placing at the 2005 junior pre-world championships and gaining selection to Team 22 in 2006.

**General criteria**

In considering the performances of athletes at the selection events the selection panel may give weight to extenuating circumstances.

The athlete must be an Australian citizen, or currently taking all reasonable steps to become an Australian citizen.

The athlete must be eligible to represent Australia and be an affiliated member of Australian Canoeing by being a financial member of an affiliated Club.

The athlete is a fit and proper person to participate in the NCE scholarship program and to represent the AIS, the NSWIS and AC.

The Athlete displays a suitable temperament, and suitable levels of self-motivation and self-discipline, to participate in the NCE scholarship program.

Scholarship holders must comply with the training/competition requirements of the NCE Scholarship Program, the NCE Athlete Scholarship Agreement and the NCE Athlete/Coach agreement.
Scholarships will be continued in September 2006 based on the following criteria. Additional scholarships may be offered according to the Tier 2 and 3 criteria below.

**Tier 1 criteria**
Tier 1 scholarships will be continued for athletes who achieve one of the following:

- A top 5 performance at the 2006 World Championships.
- A medal at a 2006 World Cup event.

And who complete a satisfactory performance review against the targets set in their 2006 Athlete Agreement and develop a satisfactory 2007 Athlete Agreement based on the following: performance, technique, fitness and attitude. These will be discussed and agreed between the athlete and Head Coach.

**Tier 2 criteria**
Tier 2 scholarships will be continued for athletes who achieve one of the following:

- The following placing at the 2006 World Championships;
  - Top 20 K1W class
  - Top 20 in C1 class
  - Top 15 in C2 class
  - Top 25 in K1 class.
- A finals placing at a 2006 World Cup event.

And who complete a satisfactory performance review against the targets set in their 2006 Athlete Agreement and develop a satisfactory 2007 Athlete Agreement based on the following: performance, technique, fitness and attitude. These will be discussed and agreed between the Athlete and Head Coach.

Additional Tier 2 scholarships will be offered to athletes who are members of the 2006 Australian Canoe Slalom Team to compete in the 2006 World Championships who achieved the following placing in this event:

- Top 20 K1W class
- Top 20 in C1 class
- Top 15 in C2 class
- Top 25 in K1 class
Tier 3 criteria

Tier 3 scholarships may be continued for 2006 NCE athletes who do not meet the Tier 1 or 2 criteria set above, but who complete a satisfactory performance review against the targets set in their 2006 Athlete Agreement and develop a satisfactory 2007 Athlete Agreement based on the following: performance, technique, fitness and attitude. These will be discussed and agreed between the Athlete and Head Coach.

Additional Tier 3 scholarships will be offered to junior athlete(s) achieving top 10 placing at the 2006 junior world championships.
NCE VISITING ATHLETES

NCE Visiting Athlete(s) include:

1. Athletes invited to train at the NCE at the discretion of the NCE coaches;
2. NSW registered athletes as recommended by the NSWIS Slalom Canoe Coach; and,
3. NSWIS Emerging Athletes (see program description)

Athletes invited to train with the NCE will be classified by the AIS as “visiting athletes” to the NCE program.