

Athlete Categorisation Nomination Guidelines

1. Background

This information document outlines the agreed minimum performance criteria established for the respective athlete categories for which athletes will be considered, together with the process and timeframe for the allocation of athletes to these categories.

As prescribed by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), athlete categorisation is a national framework to identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's high performance targets. Athlete categorisation will be used to inform the prioritisation of support to athletes in support of these targets.

The support provided to athletes as a result of the categorisation process enables athletes to pursue a commitment to performance excellence. Importantly, to be prioritised for support, **an athlete must demonstrate potential for future success - past results alone will not ensure support.**

2. Glossary of terms

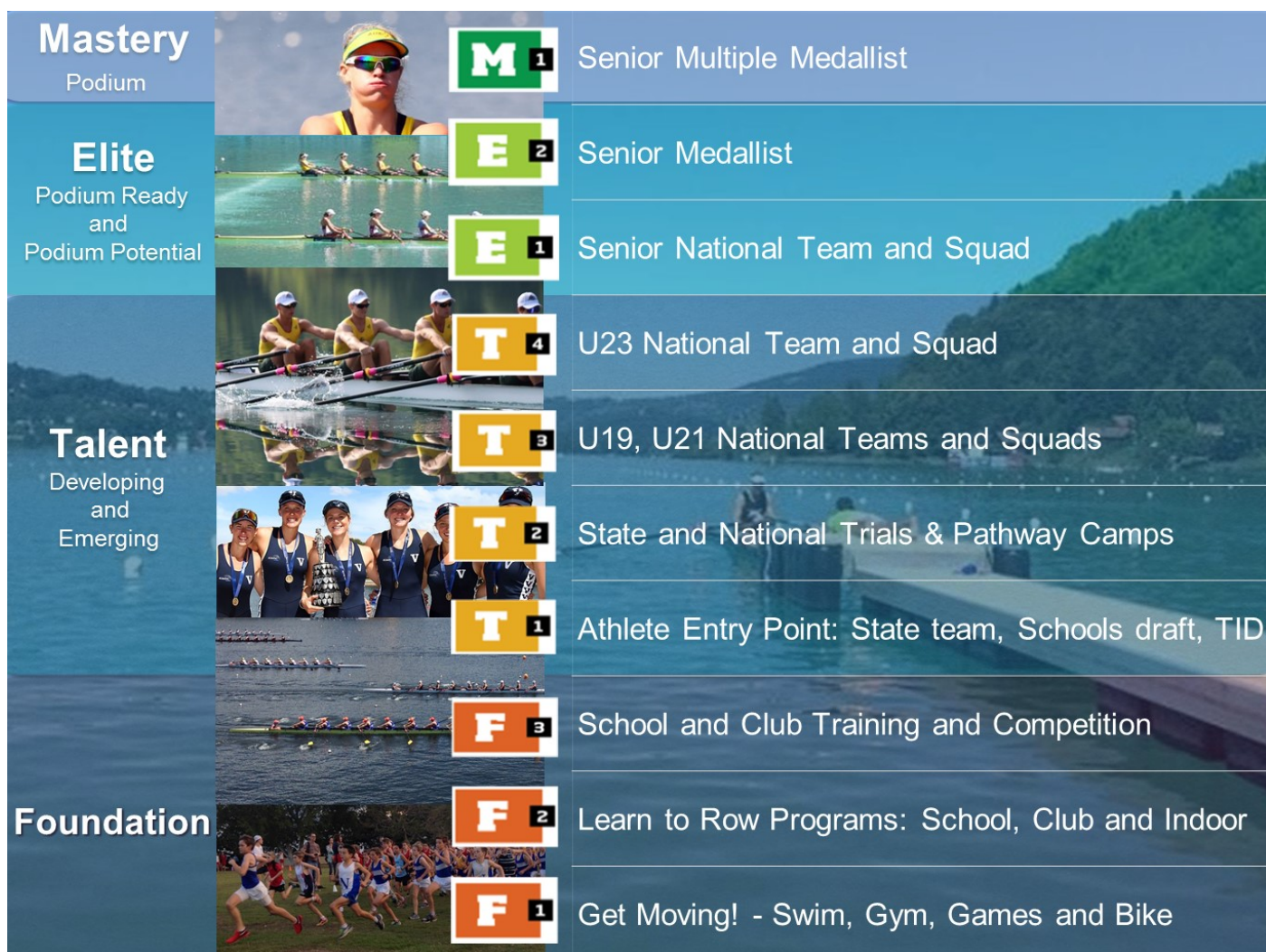
For the purpose of clarity, outlined below are a number of terms, words and abbreviations used throughout this document:

TERM	EXPLANATION
BME	Benchmark Event - In any year the BME will be the Senior World Championships, except in an Olympic/Paralympic year where it will be the Olympic/Paralympic Games. For underage age athletes their BME is the relevant age World Championship.
ARTeam	Australian Rowing Team
Olympic/Paralympic Boat Class	Refers to a specific boat class that is offered on the Olympic/Paralympic Program. These boat classes are: Olympic - M1X, M2X, M4X, M2-, M4-, M8+, LM2X, W1X, W2X, W4X, W2-, W4-, W8+, LW2X. Paralympic - PR1M1X, PR1W1X, PR2Mix2X, PR3Mix4+.
Olympic/Paralympic Discipline	Discipline refers to a category of rowing. These categories include: Olympic - Women's Sweep, Women's Sculling, Men's Sweep, Men's Sculling, Lightweight Women's Sculling, Lightweight Men's Sculling. Paralympic – Women's PR1 (formerly Arms and Shoulders), Men's PR1 (formerly Arms and Shoulders), Mixed PR2 (formerly Trunk and Arms), Mixed PR3 (formerly Legs, Trunk and Arms).
National Training Centre Program (NTC)	An NTC is one of two centres operated by Rowing Australia – the Women's National Training Centre and the Men's National Training Centre.
Pathway Centre	A Pathway Centre is a state based program, underpinning the NTC, and includes those categorised athletes not housed at an NTC.
Domestic Preparation	Refers to the period of time between the conduct of a BME and National Team Selection.
International Preparation	Refers to the period of time between National Team Selection and the conduct of a BME.
Daily Training Environment (DTE)	Refers to the daily training location for an individual athlete. Reference may also be made to International DTE which is the location for the preparation of an ARTeam crew or Domestic DTE which is the training location of an athlete between BME and selection of ARTeam crews
ILPP	Individual Learning and Performance Plan
RA	Rowing Australia
IPM	Individual Performance Monitoring

3. Talent Pathway

Rowing Australia’s High Performance Talent Pathway approaches the talent pipeline with a broad focus to include all aspects of athlete development. The Pathway aims to ensure athletes and coaches are exposed to the full continuum of development along the FTEM Talent Pathway Model, as demonstrated below.

To ensure Pathway programs are tailored appropriately to the local environment, state-based pathway programs are delivered through multiple mechanisms that are development focused. These include the School/Club structure, National Training Centres, and state based Pathways Centres. The primary delivery mechanism for senior level athletes is via the RA Men’s and Women’s National Training Centres.



4. Overview of Athlete Categories

a. **Athlete Categories:** The *Athlete Categories* consist of seven levels:

Podium Pathway category	Description
Podium	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.
Podium Ready	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
Commonwealth Gold	Athlete who does not fit into the categories above but is considered capable of a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games.
Podium Potential	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Ready in the next two years.
Developing	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Potential in the next two years.
Emerging	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Developing in the next two years.
Other category	Description
International	Athlete who does not satisfy any of the <i>Podium Pathway</i> category criteria but has earned selection for the national senior team or squad preparing for the NSOs benchmark event.

b. Rowing Athlete Categories

Category	Rowing Criteria - Domestic	Rowing Criteria - International
1. Podium	Athlete achieving <u>finish positions 1-3</u> at current Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or Senior A World Championship (BME) in an <u>Olympic/Paralympic boat class</u> and considered capable of maintaining this level of performance at the next BME	Criteria apply as per domestic. If an athlete fails to achieve selection on to National Team without any extenuating circumstances, level and/or qualification for support will be reviewed.
2. Podium Ready	Athlete achieving <u>finish positions 4-8 and in the top 50% of entries in their event</u> at current Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or Senior A World Championship (BME) in an <u>Olympic/Paralympic boat class</u> and considered capable of progressing to <i>Podium</i> .	Criteria apply as per domestic. If an athlete fails to achieve selection on to National Team without any extenuating circumstances, level and/or qualification for support will be reviewed.
3. Podium Potential	Athlete achieving <u>finish positions 4+ and not in the top 50% of entries in their event</u> at current Olympic Games, Paralympic Games or Senior A World Championship (BME) in an <u>Olympic boat class</u> and considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Podium Ready</i> in the next two years OR Athlete achieving <u>finish positions 1-3 and in the top 50% of entries in their event</u> at current Senior A World Championship in an <u>Olympic/Paralympic Discipline (non-Olympic/Paralympic boat class)</u> and considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Podium Ready</i> in the next two years. U23 gold medal winners in an Olympic boat class may also be considered for inclusion at this level as recommended by Deputy Performance Director and Pathways Head Coach.	Criteria apply as per domestic. If an athlete fails to achieve selection on to National Team without any extenuating circumstances, level and/or qualification for support will be reviewed PLUS any athlete selected onto National Senior Team who is not currently categorised can be included at this level.
4. Developing	Athlete achieving <u>finish position 1-6 and in the top 50% of entries in their field at current Under 23 World Championship</u> and considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Podium Potential</i> in the next two years AND as recommended by Deputy Performance Director and Pathways Head Coach. In addition, any athlete deemed capable of progressing to <i>Podium Potential</i> in the next 2 years and by recommendation of state Head Coach and/or program administrator, will have their performances assessed against RA benchmarks in on and off water monitored activities, that may include time trials and ergometers, for consideration at this level. Junior gold medal winners in an Olympic boat class may also be considered for inclusion at this level as recommended by Deputy Performance Director and Pathways Head Coach.	Athletes selected onto the National Under 23 Team for a particular year (who have not currently been categorised) OR athletes deemed capable of progressing to <i>Podium Potential</i> in the next 2 years, and by recommendation of state Head Coach and/or program administrator, will have their performances assessed against RA benchmarks in on and off water monitored activities, that may include time trials and ergometers, for consideration at this level.
5. Emerging	Athlete achieving <u>finish position 1-6 and in the top 50% of entries in their field at current Junior World Championship</u> and considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Developing</i> in the next two years AND as recommended by Deputy Performance Director and Pathways Head Coach. In addition, any athlete deemed capable of progressing to <i>Podium Potential</i> in the next 4 years and by recommendation of state Head Coach and/or program administrator, will have their performances assessed against RA benchmarks in on and off water monitored activities, that may include time trials and ergometers, for consideration at this level.	Athletes selected onto the National Junior or U21 Team for a particular year (who have not currently been categorised) may be considered at this level on a case-by-case basis and will be assessed against performance standards and recommendation of state Head Coach and/or program administrator. In addition, athletes deemed capable of progressing to <i>Developing</i> in the next 2 years, and by recommendation of state Head Coach and/or program administrator, will have their performances assessed against RA benchmarks in on and off water monitored activities, that may include time trials and ergometers, for consideration at this level.
6. Commonwealth	This category does not apply to rowing as rowing is not currently in the Commonwealth Games.	This category does not apply to rowing as rowing is not currently in the Commonwealth Games.
7. International	This category will be considered on a case-by-case basis for those athletes that do not fit into the categories above.	This category will be considered on a case-by-case basis for those athletes that do not fit into the categories above.

5. Pre-Eligibility Requirements

In order to be considered for categorisation, and in turn receive support, athletes must comply with the following criteria:

- Be an Australian citizen* and eligible and available to represent the ARTeam in international competition.
- Be actively training towards and seeking selection for the relevant BME.
- Be a registered member of Rowing Australia or a member state association.
- Have completed all necessary documentation and requirements for individual SIS/SAS, where relevant.
- Comply with all anti-doping and other policy requirements of Rowing Australia and Sport Australia
- Agree to be bound by and comply with all Rowing Australia policies available at <https://www.rowingaustralia.com.au/rowing-australia-policies/>, including without limitation the Member Protection Policy, Anti-Doping Policy, National Policy on Match-Fixing and NTC Invitation Guidelines.
- If requested to do so by Rowing Australia, sign a Rowing Australia Participant Agreement. Athletes acknowledge that it is a condition of eligibility for categorisation that RA may make such a request.
- Complete all medical screening requirements.
- Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence
- Abide by the rules and spirit of the sport of rowing
- Maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia or seeking to represent Australia
- Not bring the sport of rowing, Rowing Australia or Sport Australia into disrepute.
- Para athletes should hold a *review* or *confirmed* status international classification. The international classification must align with the sport class for which they are categorized. Any para athlete without an international classification cannot be categorized higher than *Level 5 – Emerging*

If, at any given time, an athlete receives an offer for a position at one of Rowing Australia’s NTCs and declines that invitation, the athlete’s Categorisation and any associated support provided in the DTE will be reviewed if an exemption has not been granted based on exceptional circumstances. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

***Note: If an athlete is actively pursuing Australian citizenship, an exemption to this requirement may be granted by:**

- In the case of Senior athletes, the Performance Director, and;
- In the case of underage and pathway athletes, the Deputy Performance Director.

6. Athlete Support

In order to ensure appropriate support to categorised athletes, as well as ensuring maximisation of medal performances at BME’s, consideration has been given to the number of athletes that can be supported within the Athlete Categorisation process.

The number of scholarships available within a Pathway Centre or RA NTC is generally of a fixed number. Priority will be determined based upon athletes’ current performance level and/or assessed future potential.

Again, note that the provision of services is subject to available resources. The membership of a particular category does not automatically entitle an athlete to receive support, and athletes within the same category may not receive the same level of support.

7. Categorisation Review Periods

The categorisation of athletes will be subject to ongoing reviews. Membership of the program will be formally reviewed twice per year, at which time athletes may be added, removed or moved to a different category.

System Wide Semi Annual Review – the complete athlete list will be reviewed on two occasions throughout the year. The first review is conducted so as to ensure a commencement of the domestic preparation of athletes in any given year. This review refers to the section of the criteria table “Rowing Criteria – Domestic” and is based on performance in a BME. The second system wide review is considered following the selection of National Teams. This review refers to the section of the criteria “Rowing Criteria – International”.

Ongoing Individual Performance Monitoring – Athletes will be assessed against their “Individual Learning and Performance Plan” within their Daily Training Environment. If following a review an athlete is deemed not to be progressing they will be provided opportunity to address any concerns within a 3 month period. Failure to address concerns in an appropriate manner may result in the level of support being changed or an athlete removed completely from the support program. Any athlete who at any point in time fails to meet the pre-eligibility requirements may also be subject to review of support.

8. Selection, appeal and review process

The table below outlines the selection, appeal and review process for Athlete Categorisation. On an annual basis a date specific document is published to ensure that timeframes are achieved.

Athlete Categorisation Selection - Timeline	
Date	Activity
11 May, 2020	Categorisation sent to each state for applicant screening and selection discussion
28 May, 2020	Categorisation Moderation Meeting
5 June, 2020	National Categorisation recommendations forwarded to AIS
	Confirmation and publication of Categorisation

The appeal process for any athlete unsatisfied with the Categorisation outcomes is in accordance with the Rowing Australia SNR Appeals Policy which is published on the Rowing Australia website.

9. Expected Progression

Underpinning inclusion is the expected progression of athletes. In reviewing athletes’ inclusion significant weight will be given to the progression of an athlete in their on-water performances over time together with their progress against other factors addressed in their Individual Learning and Performance Plan.

10. Indicators of Future Potential

The primary measure of future potential is in boat performances in Underage Teams. Senior age athletes are benchmarked against historical data in making a determination on potential for future success. The ILPP is an important piece in determining the future ‘medal’ potential of an athlete.

11. Special Consideration

Should an exceptional circumstance prevent an athlete from achieving the required benchmark event result for Podium or Podium Ready levels and there is compelling evidence that the athlete should be included in one of these categories, athletes’ individual circumstances may prevent them from achieving the minimum performance criteria. The circumstances of such athletes can be taken into consideration.

12. Key Contacts

Should you have questions or require further information, please see the list of key contacts below:

Area	Contact	Contact Details
Performance Director	Bernard Savage	bsavage@rowingaustralia.com.au ; 0407 101 504
Deputy Performance Director	Jaime Fernandez	jfernandez@rowingaustralia.com.au ; 0427 271 297
Senior Coach Para Rowing	Gordon Marcks	gordon.marcks@rowing.ausportnet.com ; 0407 787 270
Pathways Head Coach	Lyall McCarthy	lyall.mccarthy@rowing.ausportnet.com ; 0418 333 348
Pathway Centre ACT - ACTAS	David Fraumano	headcoach@rowingact.org ; 0412 652 986
Pathway Centre New South Wales - NSWIS	Lizzi Chapman	lizzi.chapman@nswis.com.au ; 0402 115 920
Pathway Centre Queensland - QAS	Ben Southwell	ben.southwell@npsr.qld.gov.au ; 0400 143 671
Pathway Centre South Australia - SASI	Jason Lane	jason.lane@sa.gov.au ; 0458 769 631
Pathway Centre Tasmania - TIS	Brett Crow	brett.crow@tis.tas.gov.au ; 0428 138 551
Pathway Centre Victoria - VIS	Noel Donaldson	Noel.donaldson@vis.org.au ; 0417 115 364
Pathway Centre Western Australia - WAIS	Rhett Ayliffe	rayliffe@wais.org.au ; 0438 883 604