

NZOC SELECTION POLICY LA 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to set out the principles and process which the New Zealand Olympic Committee (“NZOC”) will apply when selecting its team (“Games Team”) to represent New Zealand at the 2028 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles, United States of America from 14 July – 30 July 2028 (“Games”).
- 1.2 **High Selection Standard:** The Games represents the pinnacle of athletic achievement and the NZOC shall use this Policy to ensure a high selection standard into the Games Team is maintained.
- 1.3 **Consistency:** This Policy is to be reflected in the nomination criteria to be adopted by each National Federation (“NF Nomination Criteria”) for all athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games.

2. The Process

- 2.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** The process for nomination and selection for the Games Team is set out in the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation which is available on the NZOC website at www.olympic.org.nz.

3. Overarching Selection Criteria

- 3.1 **Eligibility:** Any nominated athlete who wishes to be considered for selection to the Games Team must meet all eligibility requirements set out in the International Olympic Committee Charter applicable to the Games, this Policy, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NF Nomination Criteria for the Games and any requirements of the International Federation (“IF”) of the sport.
- 3.2 **Criteria:** The NZOC will consider all eligible nominated athletes for selection in the Games Team against the criteria set out in this Policy for Individual Events and Team Sport set out below as well as the Other Factors listed in clause 4. The NZOC in its sole discretion shall decide whether an athlete or athletes satisfy the definition of an Individual Event or a Team Sport.

3.3 Individual Events:

3.3.1 Definition: For the purpose of this Policy, an “Individual Event” means an event in the Games in which an athlete competes alone or an event in which athletes compete together in the event (for example as a pair, doubles, crew, mixed team or relay team), and which is not a “Team Sport” as defined in this Policy.

3.3.2 Criteria: Any nominated athlete (or athletes in the case of a pair, crew or relay team) seeking to be selected for the Games Team in an Individual Event(s) must demonstrate to the NZOC’s satisfaction that the nominated athlete(s):

- a. is or are competing in an Individual Event where a quota place at the Games has been qualified in accordance with the IF Qualification System; and
- b. is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing in the Games in that Individual Event, with the potential to win an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing); and
- c. has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth in elite events internationally that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games.

3.3.3 Additional Circumstances: In considering the performance of a nominated athlete at Key Events, the NZOC may, in its sole discretion, waive its criteria in clause 3.3.2.b and 3.3.2.c, where a quota place has been qualified at the Games in accordance with the IF Qualification System, but where no athlete has met the criteria in clause 3.3.2.b and 3.3.2.c, to take into account athletes:

- a. who have demonstrated to the NZOC’s satisfaction, he or she is capable of having a positive impact on another nominated athlete’s medal success at the Games in an Individual Event (where such nominated athlete’s primary role will be to support the other nominated athlete who is capable of medal success by employing a tactical racing approach during competition to enhance the chances of medal success); or
- b. who has demonstrated to the NZOC’s satisfaction, he/she is capable of achieving an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing) in an Individual Event at the Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games, provided he/she:
 - i. has not previously competed at an Olympic Games; and
 - ii. is aged 23 years or younger on 31 December 2028; and
 - iii. has a positive track record of sufficient quality and depth in elite events internationally that demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games.

3.3.4 Evidence: To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria by nominated athletes for Individual Events in clauses 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NF of the nominated athlete(s)' performances and results in Key Events (see clause 3.5) in the Individual Event(s) at which they seek to be selected for the Games. This evidence shall include the performance and results of the likely competitors in the Individual Event at the Games.

3.3.5 Performance Plan: In addition to the criteria set out in clause 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, whichever is relevant, the athlete(s) must provide a defined performance plan outlining how the athlete(s) will prepare to have a creditable performance at the Games or be competitive at the Games, if requested by the NZOC.

3.4 Team Sports:

3.4.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, a "Team Sport" means an event at the Games in which a group of athletes, including reserves or substitutes ("Team") compete together in the game or event of the following sports:

- American Flag Football
- Baseball
- Basketball (3x3 and team)
- Cricket
- Football
- Handball
- Hockey
- Lacrosse
- Rugby Sevens
- Artistic Swimming (does not include the duet)
- Volleyball (does not include Beach Volleyball)
- Water Polo

3.4.2 Criteria: A Team wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC's satisfaction that:

- a. the nominated Team has qualified a team place at the Games in accordance with the IF Qualification System; and
- b. the nominated Team is capable of advancing beyond the first round of competition or is capable of achieving a top eight placing where there are no quarter finals; and

- c. all athletes available and eligible to compete for the nominated Team at the Games are an equal or higher standard and quality to the athletes who comprised the Team that earned qualification; and
- d. the athletes in the nominated Team have a track record of sufficient quality and depth in international events that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated Team will be competitive at the Games.

3.4.3 Evidence: To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria for a Team Sport in clause 3.4.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NF of the performances and results of the nominated Team, in the Key Events (see clause 3.5). This evidence shall include the performances and results of the likely competitor teams in the Team Sport at the Games. This evidence may include, at the NZOC's request, a performance plan and evidence on the progress of the athletes in the Team against their performance plans.

3.5 Key Events:

3.5.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, "Key Events" means international events that have an equivalent field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games e.g. World Cups or World Championships. Where applicable, world rankings may be included as a benchmark performance indicator for selection.

3.5.2 Determination: The Key Events must be agreed to between the NF and NZOC and be listed in the NF Nomination Criteria. The Key Events must be held within the 24-month period prior to the commencement of the Games, unless otherwise agreed in the NF Nomination Criteria.

4. Other Factors

- 4.1 **Behaviour**: The selection of athletes or Teams into the Games Team will primarily be based on the sports performance of the nominated athletes or Teams. However, the Selection Panel may also take into consideration any actions of athletes or Teams that may reflect badly upon or which have brought the NZOC or any Games' sport into disrepute (or which has the potential to do so) when assessing the suitability of any athlete, Team or other person to be selected by the NZOC for the Games Team.
- 4.2 **Extenuating Circumstances**: In considering the performance of nominated athletes at Key Events, the NZOC may in its sole discretion take into account extenuating circumstances and therefore waive or vary some or all of its criteria. NFs must supply detailed evidence to support consideration of extenuating circumstances under this clause. For the purpose of this Policy, "extenuating

circumstances" means the inability of an athlete or Team to compete or perform to an optimum level due to factors such as:

- a. injury or illness of an athlete;
- b. equipment failure;
- c. travel delays;
- d. bereavement or personal misfortune; or
- e. such other circumstances as the selectors, in their sole discretion, reasonably consider constitute "extenuating circumstances".

4.3 Team Environment: The Games Team must operate as a harmonious and constructive unit and the NZOC may therefore also take into consideration any history of ability (or inability) of any athlete to function appropriately in a team environment.

4.4 Anti-Doping: The NZOC will only select nominated athletes to the Games Team who have fully complied with the NZOC's Integrity Regulation which is available on the NZOC website at www.olympic.org.nz.

5. Additional Matters

5.1 Qualification: Notwithstanding clauses 3.3.2.a, 3.3.3.b and 3.4.2.a, the fact that a nominated athlete or Team has qualified a place for an event at the Games will not guarantee selection of the nominated athlete or the Team into the Games Team.

5.2 Not Obligated: The NZOC will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by an IF and/or Olympic Games Organising Committee (e.g. universality places, quota places or invitation places). Any such acceptance will be solely at the discretion of the NZOC and in accordance with this Policy.

5.3 Selection Panel: The NZOC has determined the following individuals will act as selectors on its behalf under this Policy:

- Mike Kernaghan
- Annette Purvis
- Tim Slyfield
- Dr Lesley Rumball

5.4 Right to Amend: The Board of NZOC reserves the right to amend this Policy from time to time in its sole discretion, where it considers there is a genuine and reasonable need to do so.

5.5 Variation: Any variation to the adherence to this Policy is at the sole discretion of the Board of NZOC.



Approved by the NZOC Board: 6 May 2025