

1. Background

Rowing Australia in 2010/11, in association with all Sports Institutes and Academies across Australia (AIS/SIS/SAS), implemented a High Performance Rowing Scholarship framework. This framework also includes the alignment of the National High Performance Development Program (HPDP) to the broad criteria. The scholarship framework has seen a number of iterations since that time.

In line with “Australia’s Winning Edge” objectives and revised ‘athlete categories’ as prescribed by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) 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.

The *Winning Edge Athlete Categories* has been developed to provide a consistent basis, both within and across sports, to:

- identify the athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Winning Edge targets - both in the short and long term
- track their performance over time
- inform the prioritisation of support to these athletes thus ensuring the right support at the right time in the talent pathway

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+, LM4-, LM2X, W1X, W2X, W4X, W2-, W8+, LW2X, Paralympic - MAS1X, WAS1X, MixLTA2X, MixLTA4+.
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 Sweep, Lightweight Men’s Sculling, Paralympic – Women’s Arms Shoulders, Men’s Arms Shoulders, Mixed Trunk and Arms, Mixed Legs Trunk and Arms.
National Training Centre Program (NTC)	Rowing Australia partners with a number of organisations to provide the Daily Training Environment. These locations are referred to as National Training Centres.
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
NTPP	National Talent Pathway Program
ILPP	Individual Learning and Performance Plan
RA	Rowing Australia
IPM	Individual Performance Monitoring

3. Talent Pathway

Outlined below is Rowing Australia’s National Talent Pathway (NTP). The NTP approaches the talent pipeline with a broad focus to include all aspects of athlete development:

- Traditional pathway development
- Talent identification & transfer
- Underage National Teams including the US-Based Australian Program
- Senior Team representation (World Championship & Olympic)
- National Team retention

It aims to ensure athletes and coaches are exposed to the full continuum of development along the Talent Pathway.

To ensure development focused solutions are tailored appropriately to the local environment, the NTP is delivered through multiple mechanisms that are development focused. These include the School/Club structure, National Training Centre Network, and Rowing Australia’s National Talent Pathway Program via two key mechanisms:

- The State Talent Pathway Coordinator (STPC) Program which guides the delivery of the development in the ACT, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia; and
- The Talent Pathway Club Program (TPCP) which operates in conjunction with the STPC in New South Wales and Victoria.

Primary delivery mechanism for senior athletes is via the National Training Centres which in most cases are hosted by the local institute or academy.



4. Overview of the Winning Edge Athlete Categories

a. Winning Edge Athlete Categories

The *Winning Edge Athlete Categories* consist of five levels:

Winning Edge Athlete Categories	
Category	General Criteria
1. Podium	Individual athlete or playing member of a team in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who has a medal performance at the most recent world championship (or equivalent) event ¹ and considered capable of a medal at the next world championship (or equivalent) event.
2. Podium Potential	<p>A) Individual athlete or playing member of a team in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who placed fourth to eighth at the most recent world championship (or equivalent) event and considered capable of progressing to <i>Level 1—Podium</i>.</p> <p>B) Individual athlete or member of a team sport (e.g. squad member) in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who is considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2A—Podium Potential</i> in the next four years.</p>
3. Commonwealth	Individual member or playing member of a team who does not satisfy the criteria for the above categories but is considered capable of winning a gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.
4. Developing	<p>A) Individual athlete or member of a team sport in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who is considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2B—Podium Potential</i> in the next two years.</p> <p>B) Individual athlete or playing member of a team who does not satisfy the criteria for the above categories but is considered capable of winning a medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games.</p>
5. Emerging	<p>A) Individual athlete or member of a team sport in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who is considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 4A—Developing</i> in the next two years.</p> <p>B) Individual athlete or member of a team sport who does not satisfy the criteria for the above categories but is considered capable of winning a medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.</p>

¹ - For Level 1 – Podium, results at the Olympic/Paralympic Games may stand for up to 24 months, provided the athlete maintains potential to medal at future World Championship or equivalent event.

- Due to jurisdictional requirements, certain state institutes and academies of sport (SIS/SAS) may elect, in consultation with Rowing Australia, to support additional athletes who do not meet the criteria for the *Winning Edge Athlete Categories*.

b. Rowing Winning Edge Athlete Categories

Winning Edge Athlete Categories - Rowing			
Category	General Criteria	Rowing Criteria - Domestic	Rowing Criteria - International
1. Podium	Individual athlete or playing member of a team in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who has a medal performance at the most recent world championship (or equivalent) event and considered capable of a medal at the next world championship (or equivalent) event	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 Potential	<p>A) Individual athlete or playing member of a team in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who placed fourth to eighth at the most recent world championship (or equivalent) event and considered capable of progressing to <i>Level 1—Podium</i></p> <p>B) Individual athlete or member of a team sport (e.g. squad member) in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who is considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2A—Podium Potential</i> in the next four years</p>	<p>A) 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 Level 1 - Podium</p> <p>B) 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 Level 2A—Podium Potential in the next four 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 Discipline</u> (non-Olympic boat class) and considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2A—Podium Potential</i> in the next four years</p>	<p>A) 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</p> <p>B) 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</p>
3. Commonwealth	Individual member or playing member of a team who does not satisfy the criteria for the above categories but is considered capable of winning a gold medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games	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
4. Developing	<p>A) Individual athlete or member of a team sport in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who is considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2B—Podium Potential</i> in the next two years</p> <p>B) Individual athlete or playing member of a team who does not satisfy the criteria for the above categories but is considered capable of winning a medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games</p>	<p>Athlete achieving finish <u>position 1-4 and in the top 50% of entries in their field at current Under 23 World Championship</u> in an <u>Olympic discipline</u> and considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2B—Podium Potential</i> in the next two years OR any athlete deemed capable of progressing to level <i>2B-Podium Potential</i> in the next 2 years assessed against their performance in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent Identification Testing Battery • Performance in IPM • Progression against ILPP • Boat speed progression 	<p>Athlete selected onto the National Under 23 Team for a particular year who has not currently been categorised OR any athlete deemed capable of progressing to level <i>2B-Podium Potential</i> in the next 2 years assessed against their performance in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent Identification Testing Battery • Performance in IPM • Progression against ILPP • Boat speed progression
5. Emerging	<p>A) Individual athlete or member of a team sport in an Olympic or Paralympic discipline, who is considered capable of progressing to at least Level 4A—Developing in the next two years</p> <p>B) Individual athlete or member of a team sport who does not satisfy the criteria for the above categories but is considered capable of winning a medal at the 2018 Commonwealth Games</p>	<p>Athlete achieving finish <u>position 1-4 and in the top 50% of entries in their field at current Junior World Championship</u> in an <u>Olympic discipline</u> and considered capable of progressing to at least Level 4A—Developing in the next two years OR any athlete deemed capable of progressing to level <i>2B-Podium Potential</i> in the next 4 years assessed against their performance in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent Identification Testing Battery • Performance in IPM • Progression against ILPP • Boat speed progression. 	<p>Athlete selected onto the National Junior or U21 Team for a particular year who has not currently been categorised OR any athlete deemed capable of progressing to level <i>4A - Developing</i> in the next 2 years assessed against their performance in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talent Identification Testing Battery • Performance in IPM • Progression against ILPP • Boat speed progression

5. Pre-Eligibility Requirements

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

- Be eligible and available to represent the ARTeam in international competition, and be actively training towards the relevant BME.
- Be a registered member of Rowing Australia
- Have signed a Rowing Australia Athlete Agreement
- Have completed all necessary documentation and requirements for individual SIS/SAS
- Have completed current ARTeam Individual Learning and Performance Plan that has been approved by the RA High Performance Leadership Team
- Comply with all anti-doping and other policy requirements of Rowing Australia and the Australian Sports Commission
- Complete all medical screening requirements as stipulated by RA
- Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence

6. Athlete Numbers and 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 Olympic Team size is a maximum of 48 athletes and the Paralympic Team a maximum of 9 athletes. Consideration has been given to the number of athletes required across Level 1 and 2(a) and (b) to support the delivery of these teams as well as the capacity of the system to be able to support these athletes. As such the nominal maximum number of athletes to be included within the Categorisation Levels is 75 Olympic and 14 Paralympic aspirants. Further to these numbers consideration will be given to the number of athletes required to support specific Olympic disciplines.

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

The system also has limitations around the numbers that can be supported within Level 4 and 5.

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 on October 1 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. National Teams are typically selected by the end of April. This review refers to the section of the criteria "Rowing Criteria – International". Typically this review would be completed by 1 May in any given year.

Ongoing Individual Performance Monitoring – Athletes will be assessed against their "Individual Learning and Performance Plan" on a monthly basis 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
1 August	Athlete application for consideration for Rowing Categorisation open
12 August	Closing date for all Rowing Categorisation applications
15 August	Categorisation applications collated at Rowing Australia and sent to each NTC for applicant screening and selection discussion
17 September	National Rowing Scholarship Moderation Meeting NTC Head Coaches, Category Lead Coaches, AIS Performance Manager and National High Performance Leadership Team present.
19 September	National Categorisation recommendations forwarded to AIS and SIS/SAS for consideration
23-24 September, 2014	NTC telephone hook-up as required for consideration of local requirements
26 September, 2014	Confirmation and publication of Categorisation
1 October	Official commencement of Domestic Training Period
1 May	Review of athlete categorisation completed by this date
	Revised list sent to AIS SIS/SAS for ratification
3 May	Confirmation and publication of Categorisation

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

8. 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.

9. Indicators of Future Potential

The primary measure of future potential is in boat performances in Underage Teams. Rowing Australia also requires all level 4 and 5 athletes to undertake monthly IPM. This IPM is benchmarked against senior medal athlete standards.

Senior age athletes are benchmarked against historical data in making a determination on potential for future success.

Further to this Rowing Australia conducts an extensive program of Talent Identification which aims to identify athletes with the attributes deemed necessary to bring about future success.

The ILPP is an important piece in determining the future 'medal' potential of an athlete.

10. Special Consideration

Should an exceptional circumstance prevent an athlete from achieving the required benchmark event result for levels 1 or 2A, and there is compelling evidence that the athlete should be included in one of these categories

In special cases, athlete's individual circumstances may prevent them from achieving the minimum performance criteria. The circumstances of such athletes can be taken into consideration.

The overriding notion is to ensure that the right athlete receives the right support at the right time in the Talent Pathway. If at any time, in the opinion of the RA High Performance Leadership Team, an athlete is deemed not to be receiving the appropriate level of support the National Performance Director will address this with the AIS Performance Manager.

11.Key Contacts

Should you have questions or require further information please see the list of contacts below.

Area	Contact	Contact Details
National Performance Director	Chris O'Brien	chris.obrien@rowing.ausportnet.com 0418 518 856
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National Head Coach Integration	Drew Ginn	drew.ginn@rowing.ausportnet.com 0409 745 681
Para Rowing – Lead Coach	Gordon Marcks	gordon.marcks@rowing.ausportnet.com 0407 787 270
National Talent Pathway Manager	Marty Rabjohns	marty.rabjohns@rowing.ausportnet.com 0418 357 750
NTC - Canberra	Simon Booth	sbooth@rowingaustralia.com.au 0401 010 136
NTC ACT - ACTAS	Andrew Randell	andrew.randell@rowing.ausportnet.com 0488 111 185
NTC New South Wales - NSWIS	Tim McLaren	tim.mclaren@nswis.com.au 0424 984 376
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