

## Athlete Categorisation Policy 2017-2020

The Triathlon Australia (TA) Athlete Categorisation Policy is aligned to AIS Athlete Categorisation 2017-2020. TA will consider athletes for inclusion in each of the Categorisation levels in Table 1.

**Table 1: Program Level Summary**

<b>AIS CATEGORISED ATHLETES</b>	<b>PODIUM</b>	<b>Medallist at the Olympic/Paralympic Games or relevant Benchmark Event/s (see Table 2) within the last 24 months</b>  AND  <i>considered capable of a medal performance at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games</i>
	<b>PODIUM READY</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> at the Olympic/Paralympic Games or relevant Benchmark Event/s (see Table 2) within the last 12 months</b>  AND  <i>considered capable of progressing to Podium in the next 2 years</i>
	<b>PODIUM POTENTIAL</b>	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to Podium Ready within the next 2 years.
	<b>DEVELOPING</b>	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to Podium Potential within the next 2 years.
	<b>EMERGING</b>	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to Developing within the next 2 years.
	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Triathlon</u></p> Athlete who does not satisfy any of the <b>Podium Pathway</b> category criteria but has earned selection for the national senior team or squad preparing for a benchmark event (see Table 2).  <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Paratriathlon</u></p> Athlete who does not satisfy any of the <b>Podium Pathway</b> category criteria but has earned selection for the national senior team or squad preparing for a benchmark event (see Table 2).

The TA Athlete Agreement will detail the level of support that athletes will receive. This support will be delivered in partnership between TA, the AIS and State Institutes/Academies of Sport (SIS/SAS) as and where available. It should be noted the provision of services to athletes is subject to available resources. Membership of a certain category does not automatically entitle an athlete to receive support, and athletes within the same category may not receive the same level of support.

### Paratriathlon – special note

As the medal events for the 2020 Paralympic Games are confirmed by ITU and IOC/IPC, TA will review this Categorisation Policy and make any necessary amendments to align the policy with Paralympic Podium success in 2020 and beyond.

- All ITU 2017 and 2018 World Championships (WC) classifications will be considered until there is confirmation of the 2020 Paralympic Program.
- Once Paralympic classes are confirmed, only athletes in 2020 Paralympic medal events can be categorised as Podium Ready or Podium.

**Table 2: Benchmark Events**

Year	Triathlon and Paratriathlon		
	Event	Location	Date
2018	ITU World Triathlon Grand Final	Gold Coast, AUS	September
	ITU Paratriathlon WC	Gold Coast, AUS	September
	ITU Triathlon MR WC	Hamburg, GER	July
	Commonwealth Games (Sprint)	Gold Coast, AUS	April
2019	ITU World Triathlon Grand Final	Lausanne, SUI	September
	ITU Paratriathlon WC	Lausanne, SUI	September
	ITU Triathlon MR WC	TBC	TBC
2020	Olympic (Individual)	Tokyo, JAP	July
	Olympic (MR)	Tokyo, JAP	July
	Paralympic Games	Tokyo, JAP	September
	ITU World Triathlon Grand Final	TBC	TBC
	ITU Paratriathlon WC	TBC	TBC

## SELECTION PANEL, NOMINATION AND REVIEW DATES

The Panel for the Athlete Categorisation will consist of:

### Triathlon

- National Performance Director (NPD)
- Chairperson of the TA Elite Selection Committee (TAESC)

### Paratriathlon

- NPD
- National Manager Paratriathlon
- Chairperson of the TAESC

This group will consult TA's Chief Medical Officer and any other person/persons it deems appropriate.

Nominated athletes will be submitted to the nominated representative from the AIS for review and approval prior to announcement.

Without in any way limiting the discretion of the Selection Panel, the Selection Panel may consider any matter in relation to any athlete under consideration for discretionary nomination. In exercising the discretion, the Selection Panel need not consider any particular matter and need not apply any weighting to any matter it does consider.

The TA Athlete Agreement period runs from January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Athletes can only be added to the categorised athlete list, moved between levels, or deselected at defined review times.

Athletes will be added to the list, or de-selected from the list or have their Categorisation re-assessed on two occasions:

- After conclusion of the international season and post-benchmark event review (generally Oct/Nov).
- Pre-International season (generally April/May). In this case, changed benefits and support will start when all required assessments have been completed successfully and all paperwork returned.

Athletes will be informed in writing if they have been removed from the list of TA Categorised Athletes. The end date of their membership will depend on the exact dates of eligibility, but typically membership will end on either 30<sup>th</sup> June or 30<sup>th</sup> December.

## APPEALS

- Any athlete who would like to appeal their categorisation level or their non-categorisation is recommended to first discuss directly with the NPD.
- If an athlete would like to appeal the decision they should submit an appeal in writing to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of TA. This should clearly state where the process of the TA Athlete Categorisation Policy has not been followed.
- The CEO will appoint a member of the TAESC who was not involved in the original selection process to review the decision.
- This person will review whether there are any grounds for appeal against the process used. If they deem this so they will direct the original panel to review their decision.
- Once the original panel have reviewed the decision they will confirm to the athlete in writing their decision.
- There is no further avenue of appeal.

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

### Eligibility

In order to be eligible as a TA Categorised Athlete, an athlete must:

- a) Satisfy all relevant International Triathlon Union (ITU), International Olympic Committee (IOC), International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) eligibility and nationality rules. Note that this clause is a general eligibility clause, not considering the medal events on the Commonwealth, Olympic or Paralympic Games programs.
- b) Hold Australian citizenship at the time of being categorised.
- c) Be a registered member of TA
- d) Complete and sign TA paperwork as required. Such paperwork may include a TA Athlete Agreement and/or a TA Ethical Framework and/or TA Athlete Anti-Doping Declaration. The required paperwork will be made clear in the letter offering categorisation.
- e) Complete, in conjunction with their coach, the Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP) and an Individual Athlete Competition Plan (IACP). This plan must be reviewed and signed off by the NPD.
- f) Be and remain in 'good standing' with TA and at all times comply with TA's Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves, their sport or the National Team into disrepute. TA may consider past and present behavioural conduct in determining whether an athlete is in 'good standing'. If TA determines that an athlete is not in 'good standing' with TA, in its absolute discretion TA may choose not to offer and athlete a National Athlete Agreement.
- g) Be training in an approved TA High Performance Daily Training Environment (TA HP DTE) or agreed plans to move to a TA HP DTE when appropriate.

- h) Be assessed, by the Selection Panel, as being capable of progressing to the next categorisation level within the next 2 years. In the case of an athlete being considered for PODIUM categorisation, that athlete must be considered capable of a medal performance at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games.

Athletes whose performance in the next calendar year is likely to be affected by a known performance limiting factor or planned absence\* from the sport will only be considered for inclusion on the list of Categorised athletes in exceptional circumstances and where the NPD supports that it is in the best interests or aims of the program. To assess their medical status and suitability to be offered a National Athlete Agreement all members will be required to complete a medical form and, if deemed necessary by TA's Chief Medical Officer, undergo further examination. Any falsification of the medical forms will lead to immediate termination of the National Athlete Agreement.

\* A performance limiting factor is any known issue that is likely to prevent an athlete from meeting the aims of the program. Examples include pre-existing injuries, known degenerative illnesses, employment that does not allow for high performance preparation, etc. A planned absence from the sport is any pre-planned extended period of time when an athlete is unable to prepare and/or competing at the level required to meet the aims of the program. Each case will be judged on an individual's circumstances such as their previous performance level, age, etc but as a guideline breaks of over three months will generally not be allowed.

If an athlete's eligibility for the program changes TA may end their membership at its sole discretion either as soon as practical after the athlete's status has changed, or at the end of the National Athlete Agreement (31<sup>st</sup> December). Examples of how an athlete's eligibility might change include, but are not limited to, a planned change of nationality or change to eligibility for Australian citizenship, a change to an athlete's classification or the classifications to be contested at the next Paralympic Games, an anti-doping violation or a violation of TA's Code of Conduct.

## 1. Podium

### Triathlon

PODIUM categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) has achieved the benchmark event performance required - see Table 1 and 2.

### Paratriathlon

PODIUM categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) has achieved the benchmark event performance required - see Table 1 and 2.  
b) has a medal event at the 2020 Paralympic Games once Paralympic classes are confirmed.

### **Continuing selection - Triathlon and Paratriathlon:**

- i. Achieves the benchmark event performance required.
- ii. Demonstrates the capability of achieving a medal performance at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- iii. Should an exceptional circumstance prevent an athlete from achieving the required BME result for Podium, and there is compelling evidence that the athlete should be included in this category, TA may in their sole discretion submit a request for special consideration to the AIS.

## 2. Podium Ready

### Triathlon

PODIUM READY categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) has achieved the benchmark event performance required - see Table 1 and 2.

### Paratriathlon

PODIUM READY categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) has achieved the benchmark event performance required - see Table 1 and 2.
- b) has a medal event at the 2020 Paralympic Games once Paralympic classes are confirmed.

### **Continuing selection - Triathlon and Paratriathlon:**

- i. Achieves the benchmark event performance required.
- ii. Demonstrates continued improvement consistent with achieving future podium performance at the Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- iii. Should an exceptional circumstance prevent an athlete from achieving the required BME result for Podium Ready, and there is compelling evidence that the athlete should be included in this category, TA may in their sole discretion submit a request for special consideration to the AIS.

## 3. Podium Potential

### Triathlon

#### **Automatic Criteria**

PODIUM POTENTIAL categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) finishes Top 15 in a WTS race in 2018/2019/2020 which has a full field (max number under ITU rules); or
- b) finishes Top 3 in a Mixed Relay World Series race in 2018/2019/2020.

#### **Discretionary Criteria**

Where an athlete has not met the above criteria they may be considered for discretionary selection into this category. When considering discretionary selections, the selection panel may consider one or more of the following considerations, or any other matter it deems relevant:

- a) Consistent competitive performances at WTS races in 2018/2019/2020
- b) Ability to enhance Australian success in the MR World Championship, or Major Games events

## **Paratriathlon**

### **Discretionary Criteria**

An athlete may only be considered for discretionary selection into this category. When considering discretionary selections, the selection panel may consider one or more of the following considerations, or any other matter it deems relevant:

- a) 16 years of age or older (the minimum age currently set by the ITU to compete in paratriathlon events).
- b) Athletes must have an international classification “Provisional Classification Status”, “Review” or “Confirmed” classification status on the ITU Classification Master List within 12 months of first categorisation.

### **Continuing selection - Triathlon and Paratriathlon:**

- i. Demonstrates continued improvement consistent with achieving future podium performance at the Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- ii. Progression to Podium Ready within 2 years of inclusion in the Podium Potential Category

Note that where athletes have a known performance limiting factor or planned absence from the sport continued recognition as podium potential can be considered.

## **4. DEVELOPING**

### **Triathlon**

#### **Automatic Criteria**

DEVELOPING categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) Podiums at U23 World championships in 2018/2019/2020; or
- b) Wins Junior World Championships in 2018/2019/2020.

#### **Discretionary Criteria**

Where an athlete has not met the above criteria, they may be considered for discretionary selection into this category. When considering discretionary selections, the selection panel may consider one or more of the following considerations, or any other matter it deems relevant.

- a) Progression from Continental Cup to World Cup and WTS performances in 2018/2019/2020
- b) Potential to enhance Australian success in a Mixed Relay World Championship, Mixed Relay World Series or Major Games event in the future.

## Paratriathlon

### **Discretionary Criteria**

An athlete may only be considered for discretionary selection into this category. When considering discretionary selections, the selection panel may consider one or more of the following considerations, or any other matter it deems relevant.

- a) Adult athlete generally with less than 18 months involvement in triathlon **OR**
- b) Former Under 20 Emerging Athlete.

### **AND**

- c) 16 years of age or older (the minimum age currently set by the ITU to compete in paratriathlon events).
- a) Has an improving triathlon performance profile, or performances in another sport, which indicates potential for podium performance at the **2024** Paralympic Games.
- b) Athletes must have an international classification “Provisional Classification Status”, “Review” or “Confirmed” classification status on the ITU Classification Master List within 12 months of first categorisation.

### **Continuing selection - Triathlon and Paratriathlon:**

- i. Demonstrates continued improvement consistent with achieving future podium performance at the Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- ii. Progression to Podium Potential within 2 years of inclusion in the Developing Category

Note that where athletes have a known performance limiting factor or planned absence from the sport continued recognition as developing can be considered.

## 5. EMERGING

### Triathlon

#### General Criteria

EMERGING categorisation will be achieved when an athlete:

- a) is selected in either the 2018/2019/2020 Australian Team for the U23 or Junior ITU World Championships, including the U23/Junior Mixed Relay World Championships.

#### Discretionary Criteria

Where an athlete has not met the above criteria they may be considered for discretionary selection into this category. When considering discretionary selections, the selection panel may consider one or more of the following considerations, or any other matter it deems relevant:

- a) Competition results in U23/Junior/Youth racing in 2018/2019/2020.
- b) Considered potential to enhance Australian success in a Mixed Relay competition, or Major Games event in the future.

### Paratriathlon

#### Discretionary Criteria

An athlete may only be considered for discretionary selection into this category. When considering discretionary selections, the selection panel may consider one or more of the following considerations, or any other matter it deems relevant:

- a) Under 20 years old **OR**
- b) Currently in the first 6 months of involvement in triathlon for an adult athlete.

#### **AND**

- c) Results in able bodied or paratriathlon races, or in another sport, indicate potential to be a future Paralympic Games podium paratriathlete.
- d) The type and degree of impairment is considered to be consistent with the potential to be classified eligible under the ITU classification system.
- e) Athletes must have at least a National classification "Provisional Classification Status", "Review" or "Confirmed" classification status from the age of 16 years, and within 12 months of categorisation.

#### **Continuing selection - Triathlon and Paratriathlon:**

- i. Demonstrates continued improvement consistent with achieving future podium performance at the Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- ii. Progression to Developing within 2 years of inclusion in the Emerging Category

Note that where athletes have a known performance limiting factor or planned absence from the sport continued recognition as emerging can be considered.

## ADDITIONAL EVENT SPECIFIC CATEGORIES

### 6. International (Benchmark Event Team Member)

Athletes who do not satisfy any of the *Podium Pathway* category criteria but have earned selection for the national senior team or squad preparing for a benchmark event (see table 2) may be eligible for INTERNATIONAL categorisation

Support for athletes recognised under International categorisation will be at the discretion of the NPD.

**International categorisation will run from the time of selection for the relevant BME until the completion of the relevant event.**