

## 2023 Athlete Categorisation FAQs – New athletes

Question	Response
Who is Athlete Categorisation for?	<p>Athletes supported through Athlete Categorisation have demonstrated potential to achieve Olympic and Paralympic Podium Success within two Olympic and Paralympic Cycles (Paris 2024 and LA 2028).</p> <p>While there is no formal minimum age, younger athletes may not be within the age range for Podium Success in Paris or LA and may be better supported within their State Pathway program given their stage of development. For Olympic Pathway athletes, this is likely to be at a post secondary school age.</p> <p>Athlete Categorisation is an annual process and athletes who are not successful may be successful in the future following further development and maturation.</p>
I am an Olympic pathway athlete and am not sure which TA environment I would prefer to join if categorised – how do I work this out? Can I trial at a Performance Centre?	<p>Athletes can indicate at the time of application for categorisation their preferred centre or that they have no preference of Centre. Athletes who progress to the interview will have the opportunity to discuss their preferences and any questions or additional information they need.</p> <p>Invited athletes may be provided with opportunities to trial in Centres to assist informing any decision and/or offer.</p>
I am an Olympic pathway athlete and am unable to relocate to a TA environment at the moment (i.e. because of work of school), can I be supported in any other way?	<p>From the 2023 categorisation year onwards, Olympic Pathway athletes will not be eligible for categorisation unless they are training (or are committed to train) in a Triathlon Australia (TA) environment.</p> <p>In addition to ensuring a connection with their relevant State Pathway program, athletes remaining in their home location may be invited for camps / visits to TA Centres or TA national camps / activities irrespective of their categorisation status.</p>
I am an Olympic Pathway athlete and I don't want to relocate to a Performance Centre why won't you support me in my home environment?	<p>Olympic pathways athletes can choose to remain in their home environments and if selected to races and teams will receive support as team members.</p> <p>To provide the best world class training environments possible, with the support of the Australian Institute of Sport and National Institute Network, TA has centralised high performance coaching and performance support resources within TA Centres.</p>
I am a paratriathlete how do I know if I can join a Performance Centre?	<p>The suitability of a Performance Centre for a paratriathlete will depend on their individual circumstances to ensure that the performance centre possesses the capacity and expertise for appropriate class specific coaching and support for the athlete.</p> <p>For prospective athletes applying to be categorised, daily training environment preferences and plans will be discussed at the interview stage and considered on a case by case basis.</p>

	Daily training environment plans for currently categorised athletes are discussed as part of Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP) processes and can be raised at any time with the Paralympic Performance Manager.
What relocation support is available if I was to move to a TA environment?	Relocation support will be provided on an individualised basis. For any athlete progressing to the interview stage, individual needs will be discussed at the interview. The TA Wellbeing and Engagement Manager and the NIN Wellbeing and Engagement Advisory (where relevant) will be extensively involved in any relocation planning.
What support do I receive if I am categorised?	TA environments include high performance coaching and performance support delivered by the relevant NIN partner. Paralympic pathway athletes in agreed external DTEs will receive individualised support from TA and relevant NIN partner in line with their IAPP and subject to the capacity of TA and the NIN. A schedule of athlete support will be published annually following the relevant Benchmark Event (generally in October / November) and is detailed in the Athlete Agreement for categorised athletes.
What can I expect if I am invited to an interview, how should I prepare?	For athletes progressing to this stage, the athlete interview is an opportunity for the athlete to discuss their plans and intentions as well as to clarify any information provided through the application process. The interview panel has three members including the TA Wellbeing and Engagement Manager. The interview will be scheduled for 45 minutes with the opportunity for questions. A parent or guardian should attend for any athletes under 18 years of age. Further information will be shared with relevant athletes on 14 October when they are notified of progressing to the interview stage. Scheduling for interviews will be flexible to athlete needs and availability.
If I move to a TA centre how can my home coach assist and/or be supported through the process?	The coaches that you work with through the entirety of your athletic career are critical to your success. TA Centres present an opportunity for home coaches to engage and partake in professional development, and as appropriate to assist in your transition to a new environment.
If I am offered categorisation and I choose not to accept my offer, can I still be selected for races and teams?	Yes - an athlete's categorisation status, or level, is independent to the process of selection for any level of race or Australian team. Any athlete selected to races and teams will receive support as team members.
If I apply and am unsuccessful, can I apply for athlete categorisation in the future?	Athlete Categorisation is an annual process and athletes who are not successful may be successful in the future following further development and maturation.

	Athletes who are not successful should ensure they remain connected with their State Pathway program and keep focusing on developing the Hierarchy of Discriminators – prioritising improvement in single discipline performance through sustainable training loads, health, technical skills, grit and psychological skills.
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*Further questions and responses will be added to this list if common enquires are received during the application period.*

Any athlete who wants to discuss Athlete Categorisation, the process or their individual circumstances is encouraged to contact a Triathlon Australia staff member as below;

<b>Olympic pathway</b>	<b>Paralympic pathway</b>
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