

2024 ATHLETE CATEGORISATION FAQS – NEW ATHLETES

Question	Response
Who is Athlete Categorisation for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Athletes supported through Athlete Categorisation have demonstrated potential to achieve Olympic and Paralympic Podium Success within two Olympic and Paralympic Cycles (Paris 2024, LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032). – 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. – Athlete Categorisation is an annual process and athletes who are not successful may be successful in the future following further development and maturation.
What support do I receive if I am categorised?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – AT environments include high performance coaching and performance support delivered by the relevant NIN partner. – Paralympic pathway athletes in agreed DTEs will receive individualised support from AT and relevant NIN partner in line with their IAPP and subject to the capacity of AT 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.
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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 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. – Invited athletes may be provided with opportunities to trial in Centres to assist informing any decision and/or offer.
I am an Olympic Pathway Athlete and am unable to relocate to a TA environment at the moment (i.e. because of work or school), can I be supported in any other way?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Olympic Pathway Athletes will not be eligible for categorisation unless they are training (or are committed to train) in a AusTriathlon (AT) environment. – 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 AT Centres or AT national camps / activities irrespective of their categorisation status.
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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Olympic Pathways Athletes can choose to remain in their home environments and if selected to races and teams will receive support as team members. – To provide the best world class training environments possible, with the support of the Australian Institute of Sport and National Institute Network, AT has centralised high performance coaching and performance support resources within AT Centres.

<p>I am a Paralympic Pathway athlete; at what age can I get World Triathlon International Classification?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For International classification, there is a minimum age requirement of 16 years.
<p>I am a Paratriathlete how do I know if I can join a Performance Centre?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. - 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. - 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.
<p>What relocation support is available if I was to move to a TA environment?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 AT Wellbeing and Engagement Manager, and the NIN Wellbeing and Engagement Advisory (where relevant) will be extensively involved in any relocation planning.
<p>If I move to a TA centre how can my home coach assist and/or be supported through the process?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The coaches that you work with through the entirety of your athletic career are critical to your success. AT 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.
<p>I am an Olympic /Paralympic athlete, am I required to work with a TA accredited coach in order to secure coaching support?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes.
<p>Can I take Planned Absence due to career or education opportunities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A planned absence from the sport is any pre-planned extended period when an athlete is unable to prepare and/or compete 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 (other than for pregnancy and/or parental leave) will generally not be supported. - 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.

<p>What can I expect if I am invited to an interview, how should I prepare?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Athletes progressing to this stage, the Athlete Interview is an opportunity to discuss plans and intentions as well as to clarify any information provided through the application process. The interview panel has three members including the AT 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 13 October when they are notified of progressing to the interview stage. Scheduling for interviews will be flexible to athlete needs and availability.
<p>Is a mid-year review possible for an athlete who has not been categorised, has been categorised too low for dAIS, or has exited categorisation to be reconsidered for categorisation/dAIS?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - dAIS nominations are annual and do not allow for mid-year changes. Prior to the second payment, the AIS need to confirm existing dAIS allocations, and any changes (e.g., retirement. Sport Integrity sanction) that see an athlete not receiving the second half of their grant. Any monies not processed in payment 2 cannot be reallocated to a different athlete.
<p>If I am offered categorisation and I choose not to accept my offer, can I still be selected for races and teams?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.
<p>If I apply and am unsuccessful, can I apply for Athlete Categorisation in the future?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.

Notes

Further questions and responses will be added to this list if common enquires are received during the application period.

Contact Us

Any athlete who wants to discuss Athlete Categorisation, the process or their individual circumstances is encouraged to contact the AusTriathlon HP Operations Manager at roni.seden@triathlon.org.au.