

ATHLETE CATEGORISATION



National Athlete Categorisation Framework

In delivering the National High-Performance Sports Strategy (NHPS), Athlete Categorisation is used to identify, track and prioritise athletes at each stage of the Performance Pathway, to support Australia consistently winning medals at major international events. Athlete Categorisation will be used by the National Institute Network (NIN) and National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) to inform planning and to prioritise support to best achieve system targets.

NSOs will develop a sport-specific matrix, in collaboration with the AIS Performance Pathways Team (and SIS/SAS partners where appropriate), that defines each of the five categorisation levels. The AIS Performance Pathways Team will assist NSOs to develop appropriate sport-specific identification, confirmation and development profiling and assessments for each level. This matrix will be agreed in advance of athlete nominations as part of the planning process for the next pinnacle¹ event cycle.

NSOs will categorise athletes annually, against the sport-specific matrix, in line with an agreed annual review process.

Description & Criteria	
National Performance Pathway Categorisation	Podium Olympic/Paralympic Pathway – Athletes have won a medal at an Olympic/Paralympic Games, World Championships or agreed event in the previous 24 months AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to win a medal at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games. Commonwealth Games Pathway (CG-only sports) – Athletes have won a medal at the Commonwealth Games, World Championships or agreed event in the previous 24 months AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to win a medal at the next Commonwealth Games.
	Podium Ready Olympic/Paralympic Pathway – Athletes have placed 4-8th at the most recent Olympic/Paralympic Games/World Championships OR by exception an agreed equivalent alternative (ie an objective, data verified performance or World Ranking) AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to PODIUM level, targeting a medal at the next Olympic /Paralympic Games. Commonwealth Games Pathway (CG-only sports) – Athletes have placed 4-8th at the most recent Commonwealth Games, World Championships or agreed event AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to PODIUM level, targeting a medal at the next Commonwealth Games.
	Podium Potential Athletes will have achieved agreed performance benchmarks which, alongside international competition performances, reliably indicate their future potential for podium success. Athletes must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to at least PODIUM READY level within the agreed sport-specific matrix timeframes.
	Developing Athletes have progressed through a reliable national talent confirmation phase and placed within a dedicated national development program. Athletes must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to at least PODIUM POTENTIAL level within the agreed sport-specific matrix timeframes.
	Emerging Athletes have been identified by an NSO via a valid and reliable talent identification profiling method (agreed in advance and with future podium potential characteristics identified) and are going through a set, time-limited talent confirmation period.

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1. Pinnacle Event – Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games