



2021-2024 ATHLETE CATEGORISATION POLICY

Updated: 4 October 2023

1. BACKGROUND

- a) Shooting Australia (SA) is required to nominate athletes to the AIS for categorisation against a sport specific National Athlete Categorisation Framework.
- b) The SA National Categorisation Framework is shown at Table 1.

2. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- a) The National Athlete Categorisation Framework provides a clear and consistent basis, both within the Sport System and across sports, to:
 - (i) Identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's performance targets at Pinnacle events (e.g. Olympic and Paralympic Games).
 - (ii) Inform the prioritisation of support to these athletes; and
 - (iii) Track athlete performance over time.
- b) The SA Categorisation Panel values repeated high-level International performance when identifying those athletes for Categorisation. Athletes can demonstrate high-level International performance at Benchmark event (BME) and World Cup competition, in the sport of Shooting, by:
 - (i) Winning Medals; and
 - (ii) Making Finals.

3. CATEGORISATION PANEL

- a) The SA Categorisation Panel shall be made up of 5 members being:
 - (i) SA High Performance Manager (Chair);
 - (ii) Relevant SA National Coach (Pistol, Rifle or Shotgun) or Para Technical Lead;
 - (iii) VIS Representative;
 - (iv) SASI Representative; and
 - (v) AIS Representative (Independent Observer).

4. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

- a) Only athletes who compete in an Olympic or Paralympic event, as defined in clause 6 (a), shall be nominated to the AIS for Categorisation.
- b) To be eligible for Categorisation, an athlete must:
 - (i) Be an Australian citizen and eligible and available to represent Australia in international competition;
 - (ii) Be a registered and financial member of a SA Member Organisation (MO);
 - (iii) Be a current member of a SA National Squad;
 - (iv) Have signed a current SA Athlete Agreement;
 - (v) Have an Individual Performance Plan (IPP) approved by the relevant National Coach;
 - (vi) Comply with all relevant SA policies and rules as amended from time to time;
 - (vii) Be in good financial standing with SA;
 - (viii) Comply with all anti-doping requirements of the IOC/IPC, ISSF/WSPS, AIS and SA;

- (ix) Be actively training towards the next Pinnacle event;
 - (x) Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence;
 - (xi) Maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
 - (xii) Not bring themselves, the sport of Shooting, SA, or any of its partners into disrepute.
- c) Para athletes should hold a Review or Confirmed status international classification and the international classification must align with the sport class for which they are nominated. Any para athlete without an international classification cannot be categorised higher than Emerging. Para athletes who do not hold an international classification should hold a national classification and be planning to seek international classification within an acceptable timeframe.

5. NOMINATION PROCESS AND TIMEFRAMES

- a) Athletes will satisfy both the descriptive and performance criteria detailed in Table 1.
- b) Athlete Categorisation will be formally reviewed in or around November each year (i.e. at the conclusion of the international competition season).
- c) At this time, athletes may be added, removed, or moved to a different category.
- d) Categorisation of athletes does not imply selection of those athletes to SA National Squads or Teams. These are governed by separate selection criteria available on the SA website. Equally, non-categorisation of athletes does not mean that they will be excluded from selection to SA National Squads or Teams.
- e) Athletes will remain in an Athlete Category until such time as they are moved or removed.
- f) Athletes must continue to demonstrate progression and improvement in areas of performance that shall be identified in their IPP. Athletes who fail to progress may be removed from the Athlete Categories at the sole discretion of SA.
- g) The Categorisation Panel may at its discretion, request a review of an athlete at other times (e.g. following a Benchmark event or if an athlete is not actively training or demonstrating the required commitment levels as determined by SA, the AIS or the SIS/SAS).
- h) Athletes may be excluded at any time from the Athlete Categorisation program at the absolute discretion of SA.
- i) Athletes categorised as Developing or above, shall not be eligible to be categorised as Emerging in the future.
- j) Athletes may transition between Developing, Podium Potential, Podium Ready and Podium, subject to meeting the descriptive and performance criteria set out in Table 1.

6. EVENTS

- a) The Categorisation Panel may nominate athletes for Categorisation, who compete in the following Olympic/Paralympic events:

	SENIOR MEN'S EVENTS	SENIOR WOMEN'S EVENTS
PISTOL	10m Air Pistol 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team 25m Rapid Fire Pistol	10m Air Pistol 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team 25m Pistol
RIFLE	10m Air Rifle 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team 50m 3 Position Rifle	10m Air Rifle 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team 50m 3 Position Rifle
SHOTGUN	Trap Skeet Mixed Team Skeet	Trap Skeet Mixed Team Skeet
PARA	P1 Air Pistol - SH1 P3 25m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed) P4 50m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed) R1 Air Rifle Standing - SH1 R3 Air Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed) R4 Air Rifle Standing – SH2 (Mixed) R5 Air Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed) R6 50m Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed) R7 50m 3 Position Rifle - SH1 R9 50m Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed)	P2 Air Pistol - SH1 P3 25m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed) P4 50m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed) R2 Air Rifle Standing - SH1 R3 Air Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed) R4 Air Rifle Standing – SH2 (Mixed) R5 Air Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed) R6 50m Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed) R8 50m 3 Position Rifle - SH1 R9 50m Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed)

- b) Events that are added or removed from the Pinnacle event program will be included or removed at such time that this is communicated to SA.

7. REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

- a) Only athletes who have previously been Categorised may request reconsideration of the decision regarding their exit from Categorisation, or their change of Categorisation level.
- b) All requests for reconsideration must be put in writing to the Chair of the Categorisation Panel.
- c) In their Request, the athlete must address either or both of the following grounds for reconsideration, namely that the Categorisation Panel
 - (i) Made an error of fact; or
 - (ii) Failed to consider a relevant performance standard.
- d) The request for reconsideration must be made within seven days of the notification to the affected athlete.
- e) Upon receipt of a valid request, the Chair of the Categorisation Panel will ask the Independent Observer to review the athlete's request.
- f) Following this review, the Independent Observer may invite the Categorisation Panel to reconsider their decision, or may request the Chair of the Categorisation Panel to provide further detail to the athlete addressing their concerns and/or the reasons for the Categorisation Panel decision.
- g) The Independent Observer shall provide reasons for their decision to the affected athlete and the Categorisation Panel.
- h) For the avoidance of doubt:
 - (i) The Independent Observer is not entitled to make or substitute selection decisions; any changes would need to be made by the Categorisation Panel;
 - (ii) Athletes are not entitled to appeal against the Categorisation of any other athlete; and
 - (iii) There is no further avenue of appeal.

8. ANNOUNCEMENT

- a) Athletes will be advised in writing of their nomination and Categorisation, or non-nomination for Categorisation by the SA High Performance Manager.
- b) Only those athletes that are currently Categorised by the AIS shall be notified in writing of their non-categorisation.

9. AMENDMENTS TO CATEGORISATION POLICY

- a) SA may amend this Categorisation Policy from time to time. Amendments will be communicated by:
 - (i) Posting on the SA website: www.shootingaustralia.org; and
 - (ii) Email distribution to members of SA's National Squads.
- b) Any amendments to the Categorisation Policy shall take effect immediately on publication.

Table 1

AIS Performance Pathway Categorisation	Descriptive Criteria	Performance Criteria (<i>Past 24 months</i>)	Timeframe for Progression
PODIUM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Athletes who have won a medal at a BME, coupled with demonstrated International performance excellence. - Athletes must be considered capable of winning a medal at the next Pinnacle event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieved an individual podium performance at the Benchmark event. 	Next Pinnacle Event
PODIUM READY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Athletes who have demonstrated repeated ability to make finals at International level competition. - Athletes that have demonstrated the ability to win a medal at international level competition. - Athletes must also be considered capable of winning a medal at the next Pinnacle event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieve two or more Benchmark event and/or World Cup finals AND won a medal at a World Cup in an individual event. 	Next Pinnacle Event
PODIUM POTENTIAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Athletes will have achieved agreed performance criteria which reliably indicate an athlete's future potential for podium success. - Athletes must be considered capable of making an Individual or Mixed Team final at the next Pinnacle Event. - Included at the discretion of the Categorisation Panel (<i>see note 1</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieved one final placing at a World Cup or Benchmark event in an individual event. 	Next Pinnacle Event
DEVELOPING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Athletes have progressed through a reliable talent confirmation period and been placed within a dedicated national development program. - Athletes must be considered capable of progression to at least PODIUM POTENTIAL level categorisation within the agreed timeframe for progression. - Included at the discretion of the Categorisation Panel (<i>See Note 1</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Has an Average Performance Score (APS) which meets the World Cup Minimum Performance Standard (MPS – See Note 2). 	Up to 10 Years from first Categorisation
EMERGING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Athletes have been identified by the NSO via a valid and reliable TID profiling method (agreed in advance and with future podium potential characteristics identified) and are going through a set time-limited period of talent confirmation. - Included at the discretion of the Categorisation Panel (<i>See Note 1</i>). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Achieved one Junior World Championship final in an individual event. - Achieved the WSPS World Championships Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) at a World Cup event. 	4 Years from first Categorisation

Note 1: Considerations will include assessments of current performance, potential for future elite performance, annual progress made against an athlete's Individual Performance Plan and commitment to the Daily Training Environment and the Shooting Australia High Performance Program. Consideration may also be given to athletes who meets the requirements of Shooting Australia's Injury/Illness and/or Pregnancy Policies.

Note 2: *This criteria should be read in conjunction with the Descriptive Criteria and applies only to athletes that are genuinely developing as international competitors and are progressing towards Olympic/Paralympic podium performances in 2028 and/or 2032. This category is not for established athletes with steady or declining performance.*

Abbreviations and Definitions

Pinnacle Event	Olympic or Paralympic Games
BME	Benchmark Event (Senior World Championship or Olympic/Paralympic Games)
NSO	National Sporting Organisation (Shooting Australia)
TID	Talent Identification
WC	ISSF/WSPS World Cup and/or World Cup Final

Clarifications

1. All performances referred to are Senior performances except where Junior events have been listed specifically. For clarity, Senior performance may still be achieved by Junior athletes.
2. All performances must have been achieved within 24 months of the Categorisation Panel meeting.
3. Mixed Team performances at World Cups or World Championships have not been considered given SA will, from time to time, make strategic decisions on Mixed Team opportunities for the benefit of the program.