



Shooting Australia

2025 Athlete Categorisation

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Athlete Categorisation and why is it required by the Australian Institute of Sport?

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) uses the National Athlete Categorisation Framework to provide a clear and consistent basis, both within the Sport System and across sports, to:

- Identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's performance targets at the Olympic and Paralympic Games (i.e. Pinnacle events);
- Inform the prioritisation of Sport System support to these athletes; and
- Track athlete progression based on their performances over time.

When and how is Athlete Categorisation determined for Shooting?

SA is required to review and revise its list of categorised athletes at the end of each year (e.g. in December 2024) for the following year (e.g. 2025). This review is undertaken by a Categorisation Panel that is comprised of:

- SA's High Performance Manager (Chair);
- SA Pistol and Rifle National Coaches, Shotgun Olympic Athlete Coach and Para Technical Lead;
- Representatives from the National Institute Network (NIN - e.g. Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS)); and
- An AIS representative (Independent observer).

The Categorisation Panel (above) considers whether eligible athletes satisfy a range of **Descriptive** and **Performance Criteria**, which are detailed in SA's 2021-2024 [Athlete Categorisation Policy](#). At this time, athletes may be added, removed, or moved to a different level of categorisation.

SA then submits the Categorisation Panel's recommendations to the AIS for its review and approval prior to the relevant athletes being notified.

What are the benefits of being a Categorised Athlete in Shooting?

The benefits of being a Categorised Athlete in Shooting include:

- Development, implementation and monitoring of the athlete's annual Individual Performance Plan (IPP);
- Possible access to performance support provided through NIN scholarships;
- Direct athlete funding provided through SA's Categorised Athlete Support Program (i.e. including dAIS);



- Provision of important information regarding SA's High Performance Program including National Team Selection Criteria;
- Invitations to engage in National Squad and other camps;
- Priority access to targeted international competition(s) identified and agreed in the athlete's IPP;
- Funding towards the cost(s) of the athlete's engagement in international competition; and
- National Team uniform.

What is the Shooting Australia Categorised Athlete Support Program?

In addition to the direct athlete funding (dAIS) the AIS provides to categorised athletes, SA also provides athletes with direct financial payments depending on their level of Categorisation, through the Categorised Athlete Support (CAS) program. This funding is in addition to SA's significant investment in athletes through access to coaching and performance support, and travel to national camps and international competitions.

The primary purpose of CAS is to enable athletes to commit their time and cover costs associated with their shooting training and competition in the lead up to benchmark and pinnacle events such as World Championships and/or the Olympic/Paralympic Games.

In 2025 SA will contribute a total of \$390,000 in CAS to categorised athletes, including \$156,000 of dAIS funding. This will be allocated to athletes based on the following:

Level of AIS Athlete Categorisation	Categorised Athlete Support
Podium	\$70,000
Podium Ready	\$50,000
Podium Potential	\$20,000
Developing	\$10,000
Emerging	\$5,000

Can I apply to be a Categorised Athlete?

There is no application process for Athlete Categorisation.

Why is the 2021-2024 Athlete Categorisation Policy still being used?

2025 will be the last year that the 2021-2024 Athlete Categorisation Policy will be used before it is revised for 2026. The AIS is working with all sports, including Shooting, to align their Athlete Categorisation frameworks with new standards and criteria for this LA 2028 Olympic and Paralympic cycle. Shooting's new Athlete Categorisation Policy will be available in the second half of 2025 and implemented for 2026.

Who can I speak with if I have any questions about Athlete Categorisation?

Questions regarding Athlete Categorisation in Shooting can be directed to:

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