

ATHLETE CATEGORISATION POLICY 2026-2028

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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 Athlete Categorisation Framework is shown at Appendix 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 athletes who are progressing towards podium outcomes at future Pinnacle Events as measured by:
    (i) Demonstration of the performance attributes and behaviours detailed in Shooting's What It Takes to Win (WITTW) Model;
    (ii) Improvement in their Average Performance Score (APS) (i.e. based on results in domestic and international competition) towards the levels required for qualification for finals at Benchmark and Pinnacle Events;
    (iii) Progression of their international competition results including the achievement of finals and podium performances at World Cups, Benchmark and Pinnacle Events.

3. CATEGORISATION PANEL

a) The SA Categorisation Panel shall be comprised of:
    (i) SA Chief Executive Officer (CEO - Chair);
    (ii) SA's Shotgun and Precision Program Managers;
    (iii) National Institute Network (NIN) Representatives; and
    (iv) Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Representative (Independent Observer).

4. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

a) Only athletes who compete in an Olympic or Paralympic event, as defined in clause 5 (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) Have signed a current SA Athlete Agreement or be willing to sign;
(iv) Have an Individual Performance Plan (IPP) approved by SA or be willing to complete;
(v) Comply with all relevant SA policies and rules (including anti-doping) as amended from time to time - www.shootingaustralia.org;
(vi) Be in good financial standing with SA;
(vii) Be actively training towards the next Pinnacle Event;
(viii) Be regularly competing in SA-endorsed domestic events and have a current APS;
(ix) Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence;
(x) Maintain the high standard of personal behaviours expected of an athlete representing Australia; and
(xi) 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. 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
	25m Rapid Fire	25m Pistol
RIFLE	10m Air Rifle	10m Air Rifle
	50m Rifle 3 Position	50m Rifle 3 Position
SHOTGUN	Trap	Trap
	Skeet	Skeet

	SENIOR MEN'S EVENTS	SENIOR WOMEN'S EVENTS
PARA	P1 Air Pistol - SH1	P2 Air Pistol - SH1
	P3 25m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed)	P3 25m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed)
	P4 50m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed)	P4 50m Pistol – SH1 (Mixed)
	R1 Air Rifle Standing - SH1	R2 Air Rifle Standing - SH1
	R3 Air Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed)	R3 Air Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed)
	R4 Air Rifle Standing – SH2 (Mixed)	R4 Air Rifle Standing – SH2 (Mixed)
	R5 Air Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed)	R5 Air Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed)
	R6 50m Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed)	R6 50m Rifle Prone – SH1 (Mixed)
	R7 50m 3 Position Rifle - SH1	R8 50m 3 Position Rifle - SH1
	R9 50m Rifle Prone – SH2 (Mixed)	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 by the International Shooting Sport federation (ISSF) or World Shooting Para Sport (WSPS).

6. NOMINATION PROCESS, CONSIDERATIONS AND TIMEFRAMES

a) The Categorisation Panel will meet in or around November each year (i.e. at the conclusion of the international competition season) to determine the athletes that should be nominated to the AIS for Categorisation.

b) The Panel will evaluate athletes against both the descriptive and performance criteria detailed in Appendix 1. Descriptive and performance criteria will be read concurrently and applied only to athletes that are genuinely developing as international competitors and progressing towards Olympic/Paralympic podium performances in 2028 or 2032.

c) Considerations for the Panel will include assessments of each athlete's current performance, potential for future elite performance, annual progress made against each athlete's Individual Performance Plan (IPP) and commitment made to the daily performance environment (DPE) and SA's High Performance Program. Consideration may also be given to athletes who meet the requirements of other relevant policies (e.g. for team selection, injury/illness, pregnancy, etc.) on the SA website: www.shootingaustralia.org.

d) Subject to this evaluation, athletes may be added or removed from Categorisation or moved to a different level of Categorisation.
e) The term of Categorisation will be twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) months and will be determined by the Categorisation Panel. In most cases, athletes that satisfy all descriptive and performance criteria will be categorised for 24 months. However, in some circumstances where athletes do not completely meet the criteria, they might only be categorised for 12 months and then reviewed at the next Panel meeting.
f) Categorisation recommendations must be endorsed by the AIS prior to announcement.
g) Categorisation of athletes does not imply selection of those athletes to SA National Teams. Team selection is 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 Teams.
h) Athletes may be excluded at any time from Athlete Categorisation at the absolute discretion of SA.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT

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

8. REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

a) Only athletes who have previously been Categorised may request reconsideration of the Panel's decision to change their level of or remove them from Categorisation.
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 criteria or standard.
d) The request for reconsideration must be made within seven (7) 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 its 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.

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 athletes that are currently Categorised.

b) Any amendments to the Categorisation Policy shall take effect immediately on publication.

10. ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

APS	Average Performance Score for individual athletes
AIS	Australian Institute of Sport
BME	Benchmark Event means ISSF or WSPS World Championships
DPE	Daily performance environment
IPP	Individual Performance Plan developed and agreed between athletes and SA
IPS	Indicative Performance Standards for Athlete Categorisation
ISSF	International Shooting Sport Federation
MO	Member Organisation of SA
MPS	Minimum Performance Standard for National Team selection determined by SA
MQS	Minimum Qualification Standard determined by WSPS
NIN	National Institute Network including state institutes and academies of sport
PE	Pinnacle Event means Olympic or Paralympic Games
SA	Shooting Australia
WC	ISSF or WSPS World Cups
WITTW	What It Takes to Win Model for Shooting
WSPS	World Shooting Para Sport

APPENDIX 1 - SA NATIONAL ATHLETE CATEGORISATION FRAMEWORK

CURRENT CYCLE ATHLETES – LOS ANGELES 2028 FOCUS

CURRENT CYCLE ATHLETES		Podium	Podium Ready	Podium Potential	Developing	Representative*
Performance Criteria	***Primary***	Individual medal @ senior BME/PE	2 individual finals @ senior WC or BME/PE AND 1 individual medal	Individual final @ senior WC or BME/PE	Shotgun - Top 20 individual finish @ senior WC or BME. Pistol/Rifle/Para - Individual finish in top 40% of the field at senior WC or BME	[APS meets MPS] and/or selected to AUS Team for senior WC or BME
	Secondary	APS = IPS for Podium/Podium Ready		APS = IPS for Podium Potential	APS = IPS for Developing	APS = Olympic/Paralympic Minimum Qualification Score (MQS)
Descriptive Criteria		Podium athletes have demonstrated their ability to 'perform when it counts' by winning a medal at a Benchmark or Pinnacle Event (BME/PE) in the past 24 months	Podium Ready athletes have demonstrated their ability to 'convert finals into medals' by qualifying for 2 finals and winning 1 medal in the past 24 months	Podium Potential athletes have demonstrated their ability to 'progress from qualification to finals' at least once in the past 24 months	By achieving the Primary Performance Criteria (above) at least once in the past 12 months, Developing athletes have demonstrated that they are 'within range of finals' within the next: 24 months for senior and para athletes; or 48 months for junior athletes	By achieving senior WC/BME selection/standards in the past 12 months, Representative athletes have demonstrated their potential to: Compete for Olympic/Paralympic quotas through Oceania; and/or Achieve AUS Team nomination for LA 2028
		Individual Performance Plan (IPP) that clearly addresses gaps to Podium levels based on What It Takes to Win (WITTW). Prioritised time and engagement in high performance (HP) daily performance environment (DPE). Maintenance or progression of Average Performance Score (APS)				
Athletes by Category	***Reviewed***	12 months - Nov. annually	12 months - Nov. annually	12 months - Nov. annually	12 months - Nov. annually	12 months - Nov. annually
	Revised*	24 months - Nov. 2027	24 months - Nov. 2027	24 months - Nov. 2027	Senior - 24 months - Nov. 2027 Junior - 48 months - Nov. 2029	12 months - Nov. annually
	Regression	No PE/BME medal but final = Podium Ready. No final = Representative	No BME/WC medal but final = Podium Potential. No final = Representative	Progression = Improved finals and finals placings. No final = Representative	Progression = Regular AUS Team selection and improved placings at senior WC or BME	Progression = Meet criteria for Developing or higher

Notes:

- Representative* - Athlete in this category will be recognised by SA and included in its National Squad but not Categorised with the AIS/NIN.
- Revised** - The term of Categorisation will be twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) months and will be determined by the Categorisation Panel. In most cases, athletes that satisfy all descriptive and performance criteria will be categorised for 24 months. However, in some circumstances where athletes do not completely meet the criteria, they might only be categorised for 12 months and then reviewed at the next Panel meeting.
- All performances/standards referred to for current cycle athletes are senior performances. For clarity, senior performances may still be achieved by junior athletes.
- Mixed Team performances at WCs, BMEs and PEs have not been considered given that SA will, from time to time, make strategic decisions on Mixed Team opportunities for the benefit of its HP Program.

FUTURE CYCLE ATHLETES – BRISBANE 2032 FOCUS

FUTURE CYCLE ATHLETES		Emerging	Future Emerging*
Performance Criteria	***Primary***	APS = IPS for Emerging	APS = IPS for Future Emerging
	Secondary	Junior Able - Selected to AUS Team for junior WC or BME. Para Talent Transfer - Regular engagement in SA-endorsed domestic competitions	Regular engagement in SA-endorsed domestic competitions
Descriptive Criteria		Focussing on Junior Able and Para Talent Transfer, Emerging athletes have demonstrated improvement in their APS in the past 12 months and are considered capable of AUS Team selection for [Junior - Senior WC or BME within the next 24 months] and [Para Talent Transfer - WSPS WC or BME within the next 12 months]	Focussing on Junior Able and Para Talent Transfer, Future Emerging athletes have demonstrated improvement in their APS in the past 12 months and are considered capable of AUS Team selection for [Junior or WSPS respectively] WC or BME within the next 24 months
		IPP that clearly addresses gaps to Developing based on WITTW. Prioritised time and engagement in HP DPE. Progression of APS	
Athletes by Category	***Reviewed***	12 months - Nov. annually	12 months - Nov. annually
	Revised*	24 months - Nov. 2027	12 months - Nov. annually
	Regression	Progression = Improved APS; AUS Team selection for senior/WSPS WC or BME	Progression = Improved APS; AUS Team selection for junior/WSPS WC and BME

Notes:

- Future Emerging* - Athlete in this category will be recognised by SA and included in its National Squad but NOT Categorised with the AIS/NIN.
- Revised** - The term of Categorisation will be twelve (12) or twenty-four (24) months and will be determined by the Categorisation Panel. In most cases, athletes that satisfy all descriptive and performance criteria will be categorised for 24 months. However, in some circumstances where athletes do not completely meet the criteria, they might only be categorised for 12 months and then reviewed and the next Panel meeting.

APPENDIX 2 – INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	Event	Podium	*Podium Ready*	Podium Potential	Developing	Representative	Emerging	Future Emerging
Indicative Performance Standard (IPS)	***10m ARM***	630.7	630.7	630.7	627.9		623.7	617.3
	10m ARW	631.1	631.1	631.1	627.7		625.6	618.1
	50m 3PM	589.2	589.2	589.2	585.1		579.5	572.5
	50m 3PW	588.7	588.7	588.7	584.7		581	573
	10m APM	581	581	581	575.7		567	554.5
	10m APW	577.2	577.2	577.2	571.1		565.5	550.5
	25m RFM	583.1	583.1	583.1	576.9		567.5	544
	25m SPW	584	584	584	578.4		567.5	556.5
	TM	121.5	121.5	120.4	118		115.7	110.1
	TW	119.5	119.5	115.2	110.2		106.8	100
	SM	122	122	121.2	119.1		116	111.4
	SW	119.5	119.5	117.6	112.8		109.8	107.8
	R1	620.7	620.7	620.7	617.7		612.3	608.7
	R2	621.1	621.1	621.1	617.4		614.8	608.1
	R3	632.3	632.3	632.3	629.9		627.4	625.1
	R4	628.1	628.1	628.1	627.3		623.8	620.5
	R5	634.8	634.8	634.8	633.8		631.8	628.5
	R6	617	617	617	614.7		611.3	608.6
	R7	577.2	577.2	577.2	575		570.2	564.8
	R8	578	578	578	575.8		570.4	566.8
	R9	619.8	619.8	619.8	618.4		615.4	613.1
	P1	563.4	563.4	563.4	559.8		551.8	548.4
	P2	556.2	556.2	556.2	553.6		547	537
	P3	567.2	567.2	567.2	562.6		553.4	547.8
	P4	527.6	527.6	527.6	524.8		518.8	505.4

Notes:

- IPS' may be reviewed and updated each year at the conclusion of the international competition season.