

***GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA for NEW ZEALAND
REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS TRACK and FIELD
INTERNATIONAL EVENTS
2010 CALENDAR YEAR***

General Statement

These General Criteria will be applied for the selection of athletes to compete for New Zealand in international events. Specific Selection Criteria will also be applied for particular events. The General Criteria provide for matters of general application and for explanation of the selection process. Where there is any conflict between the General Criteria and Specific Criteria for an event the Specific Criteria will prevail.

Paralympics New Zealand Athletics Programme has determined that athletes may be selected for two (2) categories of events: Black Singlet event / White Singlet events. The Paralympic Games, IPC Athletics World Championships, and Commonwealth Games are all Black Singlet events. All other international competitions are White Singlet events.

Performance Standards

Performance standards will be used as the basis for the consideration of athletes for selection for both Black Singlet and White Singlet events. The use of performance standards as the basis for selection to represent New Zealand has been adopted for the following reasons:

- A. It is an objective measurement of an athlete's performance.
- B. It provides a goal for the athlete and coach at the commencement of the athletic season and reaching the performance standard represents a level of commitment and performance commensurate with the standard required to perform with credit for the selected event.

Achieving a performance standard does not give an athlete any right to be nominated or selected for a Black or white Singlet event. Where an athlete has met the performance standard, the selectors will consider whether to nominate or select the athlete by reference to these Criteria and the Specific Selection Criteria for the event.

If an athlete does not achieve the performance standards for a specific event then that athlete will not be nominated or selected as a member of a New Zealand representative team for that event (subject to certain provisions for possible selection for team events).

Selection Process - Outline

The selection process is generally as follows:

- A. Determination of Performance Standards

The Athletics Programme Director will ensure the performance standards for all Black Singlet events over the next calendar year are published as soon as these are received from Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) via the international Paralympic Committee (IPC) or New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC). All White Singlet performance standards will be published when the information for that event(s) are available or applicable. These performance standards will be set taking into account PNZ Board selection philosophy for the each Black Singlet and White Singlet events, the standards set by the IPC, and after consultation with the Athletics Programme Director and PNZ High Performance Manager, and other processes as set out by the Selectors terms of reference (if applicable). The PNZ Board will approve the Performance Standards for inclusion in the relevant selection policies.
- B. Where an athlete meets or exceeds the performance standard for a Black Singlet or White Singlet event the Selectors will consider whether the athlete meets the applicable selection criteria in the Specific Event Selection Criteria and the General Selection Criteria.
- C. Where the Selectors decide that an athlete meets the relevant criteria, they will advise the Athletics Programme Director of their decision to nominate or select the athlete.
- D. The Athletics Programme Director will then refer the nominations or selections to the PNZ Board for approval.

Selection Process - Outline (continued...)

- E. Where a nomination or selection has been submitted to the PNZ Board for approval, the PNZ Board will consider the nomination or selection and decide whether to confirm the nomination/selection. Where the PNZ Board confirms the selection, the athletes selected will be informed of the selection by the Athletics Programme Director or his/her nominee and a formal announcement of the selection will be made by PNZ. The announcement made on behalf of the Board will be the selection decision by Paralympics New Zealand for the purpose of bringing any appeal under Clause 10 below.

GENERAL SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Expression of Interest

To be considered for nomination or selection for a Black Singlet or White Singlet event, athletes and coaches should, wherever possible, consult with the Athletics Programme Director and/or their nominated representative and confirm their Expression of Interest in writing (preferable by email).

2. Team Selection

To be nominated or selected in any New Zealand team to compete at a Black Singlet event, it is a requirement that the athlete will have participated in the following competitions:

- New Zealand National Championships relevant to the intended Black Singlet event (unless a competition exemption has been granted).
- Any other meetings designated by the relevant criteria policy and/or Selectors.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for nomination or selection for any New Zealand representative team, athletes must:

- Be a registered member of Athletics New Zealand in line with Athletics New Zealand By-Law A6.3.
- Satisfy all IAAF/IPC requirements (including citizenship requirements as outlined in IAAF Rule 5 and classifications as per Chapter 2 IPC Eligibility & Classification - IPC Rules & Regulations 2010-2011).
- Not currently be disqualified or suspended under the Rules.
- Be in good financial standing with Athletics New Zealand and Paralympics New Zealand.
- Sign a PNZ Athlete Agreement.

4. Age Limits

An athlete shall not be nominated or selected to represent New Zealand unless he/she will have attained the age of fourteen (14) years by the opening day of the competition (if in New Zealand) or departure date (if overseas). In the event of "the team", being nominated or selected by New Zealand Secondary Schools Association or New Zealand Children's Athletic Association, or a PNZ junior development team, then the above age limit will not apply. In addition, no athlete will be nominated or selected to represent New Zealand in any event over a distance greater than a half marathon, unless s/he has attained the age of eighteen years on the day of competition for the selected event.

5. Performances

Selectors shall only have regard to athletic performances that are verified properly and recorded (i.e. listed in the official Athletics New Zealand Ranking List by the Association's Statistician). Centres will forward relevant information to the Statistician for the performance(s) and this will include:

- The date of the competition.
- The weather conditions.
- Wind gauge readings where appropriate.
- The place of competition and the type of track.
- The date of birth of the athlete if not a senior athlete.
- The method of timekeeping used in running or walking events.

In furnishing material to the Selectors or Athletics Programme Director may provide them with performance data from overseas, if the information appears in journals or websites that are recognised by the Association of Track and Field Statisticians, or the controlling body of the meeting verifies information relevant to such performances. Centres are asked to ensure that wind gauges are available and used at all meetings where athletes likely to be considered for New Zealand teams are competing. If available, electronic photo or video timing should be used to record performances.

Performance Verification for overseas performances:

An athlete who resides outside New Zealand and wishes to be nominated or selected for a New Zealand team must provide to the Selectors, through the Athletics Programme Director, performances verified by the National Federation under whose jurisdiction the performances were achieved.

6. Selection Trials

Where a designated trial is to be conducted under the requirements of a specific selection criteria, all athletes wishing to be selected must compete in such a trial in the events for which they wish to be nominated or selected, unless they claim a competition exemption agreed by the Athletics Programme Director and/or the Selectors. Exemptions will usually be granted only where the athlete is a permanent resident outside of New Zealand, has a medical reason for not competing, or has a special compassionate reason. The athlete may be required to undergo a medical examination before the grant of any exemption with a medical officer nominated by the Association.

7. Competitive Readiness

For all Black Singlet events, during the period between the announcement of the team and the start of the competition for the event for which the nomination or selection has been made, athletes must demonstrate that they are physically fit, in good health, are performing well and likely to compete at a level appropriate to the event(s) for which they have been nominated or selected.

In the period between the naming of the team and departure for competition, assessments shall be made from time to time on an athlete's standard of fitness and their preparation for the event. Such assessments shall be directed and controlled by the Team Manager and Athletics Programme Director in conjunction with PNZ Medical Director and Selectors.

If, as a result of such assessment, the Team Manager and/or Athletics Programme Director decides that an athlete does not have the standard of fitness, or state of preparation, or is otherwise not in condition to perform to the standard required to retain his or her place in the selected team, the Team Manager and/or Athletics Programme Director will confer with the Selectors on the athlete's status. After the selectors have conferred with the Team Manager and/or Programme Director and considered the matter, the selectors will either confirm the athlete's place on the team or withdraw the athlete from the team. A decision to confirm the athlete's place on the team may be subject to such further assessment and consideration as the Selectors, Team Manager and/or Athletics Programme Director decide to require.

For White Singlet events, any requirement for the assessment of competitive readiness will be established on an event-by-event basis.

8. Team Events

Some events provide for both individual and team entries.

The nomination or selection of individual athletes for such events will be by reference to the applicable performance standards and the Specific Selection Criteria for the event. The Selectors may recommend to the Athletics Programme Director the nomination or selection of additional athletes to make up a team where, in their opinion, the performance of the team will be of the standard expected at the event.

If, in the opinion of the Selectors, the overall standard of available athletes does not warrant a team being nominated or selected then any athlete(s) who have achieved a nomination or selection under the Selection Criteria will be notified that the Association is only sending individual entries to the event.

If an event is a team only event, the Selectors may nominate or select a team provided the overall standard of the team is such that it will, in the opinion of the selectors, achieve the standard expected at the event based on the performances achieved at the last occasion the particular event was held.

If, after the date of selection of any team, an athlete withdraws for any reason and the Selectors decide that there are no suitably qualified replacements available, which will allow the team to achieve the standard of performance, required the team may be withdrawn and the previously selected athletes notified accordingly.

9. Contact Details

All carded athletes and any athlete who seeks or has achieved the required performance standard for a B or W Singlet event, must keep the Athletics Programme Director informed at all times of their contact address, email address, and telephone numbers. Any changes to these details, particularly if travelling overseas, must be advised to the Athletics Programme Director as soon as possible.

PNZ will assume that the most recent contact details in its records are correct and accept no responsibility for communication failures if an athlete changes those contact details and fails to advise the Athletics Programme Director.

10. Selection Appeals Process

An athlete who has not been nominated or selected for an event under these Criteria may appeal the decision by PNZ to the Sports Tribunal. An appeal will only lie from the decision of the Board under the Criteria provided notice of the appeal has been given in writing to the Chief Executive of Paralympics New Zealand or the Programme Director within 72 hours of the decision of the Board. Any appeal will be considered by the Sports Tribunal under its Rules and the grounds for an appeal will be as set out in those Rules. This provision will apply in relation to selection appeals. General provisions relating to appeals in the Constitution and By- Laws of the Association will not apply. Where athletes are nominated for selection in teams, which are the responsibility of the New Zealand Olympic Committee (i.e. Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games teams), the provisions relating to such selection will apply including the processes set out for appeals.

11. Conflict of Interest

The Board places great emphasis on making clear any existing or potential conflicts of interest for all Selectors. All such conflicts of interest shall be declared by the Selector(s) concerned at any discussion in which they are involved and which leads directly to the nomination of athletes for teams or discussion or reviews of the status of athletes.

All such disclosures of conflicts of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of any such discussion or meeting or, if the discussion or meeting is informal and no minutes are kept, shall be noted as having been made at the next formal meeting convened for the purposes referred to in the preceding paragraph.

Where a conflict of interest is identified, the Selector(s) concerned shall not vote on the issue of selection of the particular athlete(s). [Only with the unanimous agreement of the other Selectors and if necessary the Programme Director and/or the Chief Executive may the Selector concerned participate in any selection discussion affecting that athlete. Failing such agreement being reached, the affected Selector shall either refrain from participation or leave the room.]

Where the Convenor is aware of a real or potential conflict of interest involving one or more Selectors, the Convenor must take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the conflict is managed appropriately according to this policy.

A real or potential conflict of interest shall not prevent the Selector/s affected from providing written statistical information only about the athlete's performances to the other members of the selection panel prior to any meeting held for the purposes referred to herein, but such information may not extend to expressions of opinion of the merit of the athlete(s) concerned relative to their nomination or selection.

12. Policy Amendments

These criteria may be amended at any time by the PNZ Board, where PNZ is of the opinion that amendment is necessary in the best interests of PNZ or as a result of any change in IAAF or IPC participation rules and/or guidelines. Amendments to the criteria will be published on the PNZ website.

13. Selectors

ATHLETICS SELECTORS
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