

## MODERN PENTATHLON AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CATEGORISATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA 2021

The purpose of this document is to outline all categorisation and selection requirements necessary for Modern Pentathlon Australia Categorisation, support and national representation, including:

- all age categories, (senior, junior and youth),
- all sports (MP, Tetrathlon, Biathle/Triathle and Laser Run) and
- all levels, including World Cups, World Championships, Continental Championships, World University Championships and any other sanctioned International competition.

The international calendar of UIPM events can be found on the UIPM website, [uipmworld.org](http://uipmworld.org). The domestic calendar of MPA endorsed events can be found on the [MPA website](#).

The objective of this Categorisation and Selection Criteria is to implement a framework of performance pathway to ultimately ensure that the athletes who are selected to represent Australia have the best chance of producing podium performances at benchmark events in the short and long term.

The primary target events are the 2026 Youth Olympic Games, and the 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games, as well as the World Championships (Senior, Junior and Youth) leading up to each of these Games.

The MPA Categorisation levels, built to provide a framework beneath and integrated with the AIS Elite Categorisation Levels, are designed to offer visibility of the elite pathway within the sport, from entry level through to Olympic representation.

The AIS levels are consistent across all sports in Australia and are designed to inform AIS investment and support. As MPA has very limited athletes within the AIS levels, we have developed, in close consultation with AIS staff, a framework 'beneath' to capture our Pathways athletes.

The National Performance Benchmark Standards, one of the criteria to determine Categorisation Levels, have been developed based on international performance data, ensuring evidence-based decisions are made on an athlete's ideal progression through the Categorisation Levels.



It should be noted that selection to represent Australia is an honour, not a right and that categorisation and selection decisions are made with the best interests of the athlete's long-term development and of the sport's benchmark performance in mind.

It is the responsibility of every individual athlete and their coach/es, parents/guardians to familiarise themselves with the contents of this document.



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The Pathways and Performance Director (PPD), on the technical advice of the MPA International Coach Consultant (ICC), is responsible for updating the categorisation and selection documentation, which will be presented and approved by the MPA Board on an annual basis.

Any queries with regards to this selection document should be directed to the MPA Pathways and Performance Director, at  
[hannah@modernpentathlon.org.au](mailto:hannah@modernpentathlon.org.au)

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## SECTION 1: HIGH PERFORMANCE AND SELECTION COMMITTEES

### High Performance Committee

In May 2020, a new MPA High-Performance Committee (HPC) was established, on the recommendation of the AIS (our Pathways Program Funders). Chaired by the MPA President, this Committee is an advisory body to the Pathways and Performance Director (PPD); it includes experts from within and independent to the sport to bring a wide range of skills and experiences to the table.

The Committee is not a decision making or selection body however does have the following delegations:

- (a) to endorse the MPA Selection Committee members, as recommended by the PPD, which will be appointed for 4-year terms aligned to the Olympic cycle.
- (b) to provide advice to the PPD on changes or additions to the Categorisation and Selection Criteria;
- (c) to endorse, on the recommendation of the PPD, performance standards and/or benchmarks required for appropriate categorisation levels

After an open recruitment process, the HPC Committee members appointed for the 2021-24 cycle are:

- Kitty Chiller (Chair)
- Hannah Every-Hall (PPD)
- Bernard Petrushinski (International Coach Consultant)
- Tony Rice (external)
- Kate Thompson
- Hannah Crowther
- Ashlee Uren

### Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- a minimum of 3 and maximum of 4 members; 2 of whom should be from the HPC, including the HPC Chair who will also act as Chair of the Selection Committee (SC)
- at least 1 member external to MPA, with significant international selection experience in another sport

The mandate and delegation authority of the Selection Committee shall include:



- making all selection & athlete categorisations decisions
- upon submission, considering Extenuating Circumstances in any Categorisation / Selection decision
- engaging experts, including medical or health professionals to provide reports or conduct medical examinations of or time trials for an Athlete as required

SC members for the 2021 – 24 cycle are as follows:

- Kitty Chiller (Chair)
- Tracey Menzies Stegbauer
- Andrew Reid

Notes:

- At least one member from either, preferably both, Committees should attend every MPA event
- Parents, immediate family members or coaches of current athletes in consideration for selection cannot be a member of the High-Performance or Selection Committees



## SECTION 2: ATHLETE CATEGORISATION GUIDELINES

### Overview

Athlete categorisation is a national framework developed and utilised by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), to identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's high-performance targets.

These targets are set to enable athletes to be assessed as to whether they have the potential to achieve podium results at benchmark events (Olympic Games, World Championships).

Athlete Categorisation is used by the AIS, the state institute network and NSOs (including MPA) to inform the prioritisation of support to athletes in support of these targets. Having a consistent method of categorisation across all sectors of the Australian sport system is important to best support identified athletes.

For MPA to receive ongoing funding from the AIS, and to adhere to our funding guidelines, we must have developed and put in place a Categorisation process and continually monitor our identified athletes. This is one of the mandatory KPIs of our funding agreement.

The support provided to athletes as a result of the categorisation process enables athletes and their coaches to pursue a commitment to performance excellence. Importantly to be prioritised for support, an athlete must demonstrate potential for, and commitment to, future success. This involves a holistic approach to training and competing, including a willingness by athlete and coach to develop.

The Athlete Categorisation Levels, combined with the National Performance Benchmarks, (see Attachment A) outline the minimum and expected performances required for athletes to be considered for the respective Categorisation levels, and ultimately also for Selection onto National representative teams.

Given that MPA has a very limited number of athletes who currently satisfy the AIS pre-determined Categorisation Levels, MPA has added additional Categorisation levels 'below' that of the AIS categories as this is where the majority of our athletes currently sit.

This includes all Levels on one sheet should provide visibility and motivation for athletes to continue to progress through the Pathway streams with the ultimate aim of achieving standards necessary to fulfil the AIS Categorisation criteria.



### Athlete Support

The Categorisation Criteria also details the type and amount of support an Athlete may be eligible for within each of the Categories from MPA and external bodies. The provision of services is subject to the available resources and is not guaranteed. It should also be noted that categorisation at a particular level does not automatically entitle an athlete to receive support, and athletes within the same category may not receive the same level of support. Support will be determined on a case by case basis.

### Categorisation Review Periods

The 2020 inaugural Categorisation of Athletes will be based on known performances in major domestic / international events and/or official MPA time trials over the last 12 months. Following this initial review (to be conducted no later than the end of November 2020) an ongoing annual review will be considered following the National Championships of each year, commencing from 2021

It should be noted that categorisation of athletes will be subject to ongoing review, where athletes may be added, removed or moved to a different category based on continued demonstration (or lack of) required standards and adherence to eligibility requirements.



## SECTION 3: ELIGABILITY REQUIREMENTS

### Requirements

All athletes wishing to be considered for categorisation and selection must satisfy and continue to satisfy the conditions of the Categorisation Criteria and the relevant National Performance Benchmarks (see Attachment A) and also meet the required level of domestic competition activity (see Attachment C).

In addition to achieving these standards, all athletes must also comply with the following requirements:

1. Comply with the citizenship and eligibility requirements for the respective international event/s for which they are seeking selection.
2. All athletes must fully read, be bound by, and comply with:
  - a. all MPA Policies and Standards, including but not restricted to the:
    - i. MPA Constitution;
    - ii. MPA Member Protection Policy;
    - iii. Athlete Safeguarding Policy;
    - iv. Anti-Doping Policy;
    - v. Privacy Policy;
    - vi. Illicit Drugs in Sport Policy.
3. All athletes must complete all educational programs required by MPA, including:
  - a. ASADA Level 1 Anti-Doping Online Course available at  
<https://elearning.asada.gov.au/>
  - b. Keep Sport Honest Online Course available at  
<https://elearning.sport.gov.au/>
4. All athletes must complete an MPA nomination form, including an acknowledgement that the athlete has read all relevant documents mentioned in Section 3: points 2 and 3 above and agrees to all of the undertakings, acknowledgements and declarations therein.
5. All athletes must be a current financial member of their State Modern Pentathlon Association.
6. Athletes wishing to be considered for Selection (based on the level of events eligible to them under the Categorisation Criteria) must complete a Selection Nomination form (see Attachment B) and submit it by 1 November each year (NOTE: this date will not be relevant for 2021; a new date will be



advised once event dates are confirmed by UIPM and travel restrictions relaxed). The online nomination form can be found on the MPA website at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O51BsQNm0LkdjYH-OspNyfXtWCJPxxL3B0bOkQRCflU/edit>

7. Late nominations and consideration of Extenuating Circumstances will only be accepted after discussion with the Performance and Pathways Director, with approval required from the SC.
8. All athletes must agree to comply with all International Event requirements (Section 4) including pre-payment in full of any travel and accommodation costs and agreement to wear only the designated Australian Team uniform
9. All Athletes selected in an official MPA National Team must sign the MPA Athlete Agreement and comply with all Team requirements
10. All Athletes and coaches must maintain a high standard of personal behaviour expected of anyone person representing Australia or seeking to represent Australia
11. All Athletes and coaches must not bring the sport of Modern Pentathlon, MPA or the AIS, AOC, or Sport Australia into disrepute.



## SECTION 4: EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES AND FITNESS TRIALS

### Extenuating Circumstances

In considering the performances of Athletes at events, trials, training camps or other attendances required under the Categorisation and/or Selection Criteria, the SC may, in its sole discretion, give weight to Extenuating Circumstances.

Any Athlete unable to compete at events, trials, training camps or satisfy other attendances required, must advise the Pathways and Performance Director of this fact in writing, including all relevant reasons. The written advice must be as soon as possible after becoming aware of the failure to meet the requirement.

In the case of illness or injury, Athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a medical practitioner and must consent to the provision of information from any such practitioner or professional to the Selectors and MPA.

Where any Athlete seeks consideration of Extenuating Circumstances, a decision will be made by the SC on an individual case by case basis, with no recourse for Appeal by the Athlete.

### Fitness Trial

Athletes who have qualified for an International competition may be asked to undergo a fitness trial if deemed necessary by the Selection Committee for any of the following reasons:

- The athlete has missed a competition due to illness or injury after selection
- The athlete has not competed for a period of 3 months in the lead up to the international event
- Any other justifiable reason that gives the SC cause for concern about the athlete's ability to perform
- The SC must notify the athlete in writing that a fitness trial is required, detailing the reasons why. The notification must be at least 2 weeks prior to the trial date
- The fitness trial must be conducted no less than 2 weeks prior to departure for international competition, at a mutually agreed date by the athlete concerned and the SC.
- The fitness trial will consist of a 200-metre swim (long course) and a Laser Run on the same day
- At least one member of the MPA High Performance Committee or SC must be present at both trials.



- The athlete must organise (and pay if required) for the venues for the trials.
- No other competitors may pace the athlete; both trials will be organised as solo time trials.
- To 'pass' the fitness trial the athlete must record a time in both the Swim and the Laser Run which equals or betters the relevant standard required for the event
- If an athlete fails to satisfy the criteria for either or both events (swim and Laser Run), the SC may choose any of the following options:
  - Withdraw the athlete's entry to the international event/s
  - Allow the athlete to undergo a second fitness trial
  - Allow the athlete to compete in the international event but withdraw any funding which may have been forthcoming



## SECTION 5: SELECTION NOMINATION

- Unless prior approval has been given by MPA President, no athlete, coach, state association or parent may contact an international event organiser themselves or enter an international event directly themselves. If this happens, that athlete will be banned from all international competitions for the remainder of that season
- The MPA national office is solely responsible for entering athletes into international events (following the UIPM process)
- To be selected for National Representation, athletes must submit nominations forms by 01 November as per the Eligibility Requirements found in Section 3 of this document and using the Selection Nomination Form found at Attachment B of this document. year (NOTE: this date will not be relevant for 2021; a new date will be advised once event dates are confirmed by UIPM and travel restrictions relaxed).
- The MPA Selection Committee will notify Athletes of their selection or otherwise, 2 weeks after the MPA National Championships (or earlier if the requested international event is before the National Championships).
- Upon selection, successful athletes will be contacted by the MPA Secretary (Melanie Zimmermann) to complete the relevant International Competition Entry Form, that includes travel dates and mode and accommodation requirements.
- When Athletes are self-funding for an international event but MPA needs to pay up front to secure the entry, the athlete will not be entered, or permitted to travel, until all relevant costs have been paid in full to MPA. To be clear MPA does not have the ability to cover costs up front.
- It is the athlete's responsibility to ensure all details are filled in accurately on all forms. MPA takes no responsibility for incorrect information e.g. travel dates, pistol details including serial number
- If the athlete does not submit the forms in time, MPA cannot guarantee entry to the competition
- If any athlete owes MPA money, they will not be entered into any future events until the debt is fully cleared



- All nominating athletes must be current financial members of their State Modern Pentathlon Association.

Refer to Attachment B of this document for the Selection Nomination Form.



## SECTION 6: OLYMPIC AND YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES CRITERIA

The Australian Olympic Committee is the sole body authorised to select athletes, coaches and other officials to an Olympic or Youth Olympic Games Team. The National Federation (MPA) is responsible for nominating athletes to the AOC for selection.

There will be a separate nomination criteria document that is approved by the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) for Olympic and Youth Olympic Games. These documents will be based on the official nomination Criteria developed and published by the UIPM, usually approximately 18 months prior to each Games.

Only athletes who have achieved the Pre-Elite National Performance Benchmarks will be considered for selection to attend the Oceania Olympic Games qualifying event and only those athletes who have achieved the Prospective Elite National Performance Benchmarks will be considered for selection to attend the Oceania Youth Olympic Games qualifying event

Both these Oceania Qualifier Events are usually held alongside the Asian Qualifier, usually 12 – 18 months prior to the Games, with the first Oceania athlete over the line eligible for nomination to the AOC.



## ATTACHMENTS

### **ATTACHMENT A: Categorisation criteria and national performance benchmarks**

Refer to separate excel spreadsheet or visit:

<https://modernpentathlon.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/FINAL-MPA-2020-2021-Athlete-Categorisation-and-National-Performance-Benchmarks-OCT-2020.pdf>

and

<https://modernpentathlon.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Categorisation-Guidelines.pdf>

### **ATTACHMENT B: selection nomination form**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O51BsQNm0LkdjYH-OspNyfXtWCJPxxL3B0bOkQRCflU/edit>

### **ATTACHMENT C: Domestic calendar activity requirements**

In order to show commitment to training and progression through the Categorisation Pathway, Athletes are expected to take part in state and national competitions and MPA endorsed time trials.

The distances and other requirements of MPA endorsed Time Trials must be adhered to in order for the result to be valid.

The Domestic Activities for season 2020/21 outlined below, document the activities that an Athlete seeking to be Categorised and Selected should complete.

Note that all 2020/21 events have been and may still be affected by COVID restrictions.

**The National Championships are a mandatory requirement.**

Where it is not possible to adhere to Event Activity requirements and/or participate in the National Championships, athletes are required to contact the Modern Pentathlon Australia Pathways and Performance Director and request an exemption upon grounds of special consideration.



ACTIVITY	Date
MPA Time Trial #1	Within week begin 24 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
MPA Time Trial #2	Within week begin 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
MPA Time Trial #3	Within week begin 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
MPA Time Trial #4	Within week begin 23/24 of 30/31 January 2021
State Championships (hopefully multiple events in various states)	TBC with state February 2021
MPA Time Trial #5 (if no State Championships)	If no State Champs Within week begin 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021
Mandatory MPA National Championships	Melbourne 27/28 March 2021
MPA Time Trial #6	Within week begin 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
MPA National Tetrathlon & Triathle Championships	TBC 28-30 May 2021

