

Modern Pentathlon Australia (MPA) National Athlete Categorisation Criteria

The Modern Pentathlon Australia Athlete Categorisation 2021/22 has been developed to provide a consistent basis, both within and across sports, to:

- identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's high-performance targets
- inform the prioritisation of support for these athletes
- track their performance over time

Importantly, to be prioritised for support an athlete must demonstrate potential for future success. Past results alone are not considered to be sufficiently acceptable criteria.

Please note that the provision of services from MPA, the AIS and NINs is subject to available resources. The below table outlines how MPA will apply the athlete categorisation framework to its athletes. An athlete's category status will be reviewed annually in line with benchmark competitions, completion of the international season and AIS reporting timeframes.

Talent Pathway

Modern Pentathlon Australia's (MPA) Talent Pathway approaches the talent pipeline with a broad focus to include all aspects of athlete development. While Athlete Categorisation described the higher end of the Performance Pathway, the broader MPA Pathway aims to ensure athletes and coaches are exposed and supported through the full continuum of development along the Pathway.

To support our athletes within the Pathway, we want to tailor the assistance appropriately to the athlete's local environment and level of performance. The pathway programs are delivered through multiple mechanisms that are development focused. These include collaboration and education with local coaches, and the national head coach where appropriate. The primary delivery mechanism for athletes is via coordinated collaboration, with a blend of face-to-face and online delivery.

Modern Pentathlon Australia National Athlete Categorisation Criteria.

| | Category | National Athlete Categorisation Criteria | MPA's Categorisation Criteria |
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| National Categorisation Framework (AIS) | Podium | Athletes have won a medal at an Olympic Games, World Championships or agreed event in the previous 24 months AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to win a medal at the next Olympic Games | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Podium Finish at a Senior BME within the past 24 months AND 2. Meet all Senior Podium standards for swim and laser run for Senior outlined in the MPA Performance Benchmarks AND 3. Assessed by the MPA Selection Committee as 80% or more of the GOLD standards across multiple MPA Future Success Indicators across each category AND 4. Athletes must be considered capable of winning a medal at the next Olympic Games |
| | Podium Ready | Athletes have placed 4-8th at the most recent Olympic Games / World Championships OR by exception an agreed equivalent alternative (ie an objective, data verified performance or World Ranking) AND must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to PODIUM level, targeting a medal at the next Olympic Games | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placed 4th-8th at a Senior BME within the past 24 months AND 2. Meet all Senior Podium Ready standards for swim and laser run outlined in the MPA Performance Benchmarks AND 3. Assessed by the MPA Selection Committee as meeting 80% or more of the GOLD multiple MPA Future Success Indicators across each category AND 4. Athletes must be considered capable of winning a medal at the next Olympic Games |
| | Podium Potential | Athletes will have achieved agreed performance benchmarks which, alongside international competition performances, reliably indicate their future potential for podium success. Athletes must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to at least PODIUM READY level within the agreed sport-specific matrix timeframes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Top 20 Finish in a Senior BME Final within the past 24 months AND/OR 2. 2 top 20 finishes at individual World Cup Finals within the past 24 months AND/OR 3. Top 10 finish in a Junior BME Final within the past 24 months AND/OR 4. Meets all Senior Podium Potential or Junior Podium standards for swim and laser run outlined in the MPA Performance Benchmarks AND 5. Assessed by the MPA Selection Committee as meeting 75% or more of the GOLD standards across multiple MPA Future Success Indicators across each category AND 6. Athletes must be considered capable of progressing to Podium Ready within 4-6 years based on the age profile of the athletes and the performance trajectory |
| | Developing | Athletes have progressed through a reliable national talent confirmation phase and placed within a dedicated national development program. Athletes must be assessed against the sport-specific matrix as being capable to progress to at least PODIUM POTENTIAL level within the agreed sport-specific matrix timeframes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Placed in top 50% of Junior BME Final within the past 24 months OR Reached the final of a Senior World Cup AND 2. Meet all Senior Developing or Junior Podium Ready standards for swim and laser run outlined in the MPA Performance Benchmarks 3. Assessed by the MPA Selection Committee meeting 75% or more of the GREEN standards across multiple MPA Future Success Indicators across each category AND 4. Deemed capable to progress to Podium Potential within; 3-4 years for U15/U17; 2-3 years for U19/Junior; within 2-3 years Senior based on the age profile of the athletes and the performance trajectory |

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| Emerging | Athletes have been identified by an NSO via a valid and reliable talent identification profiling method (agreed in advance and with future podium potential characteristics identified) and are going through a set, time-limited talent confirmation period | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finished in the top 50% of the field in World Age Group Championships, Asian Championships confirming Talent in underpinning events Tetrathlon / Triathlon / Laser Run AND/OR 2. Meets all Senior/Junior/U19/17/15 Emerging standards for swim and laser run outlined in the MPA Performance Benchmarks 3. Assessed as meeting 75% or more of the AMBER standards across MPA Future Success Indicators across each category with the athletes age / time in the sport factored in by the MPA Selection Committee AND 4. Deemed capable to progress to Developing within; 4 years U15/U17; 3 years 19/Junior; 1 year Senior |
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| Entry point to High Performance Olympic Pathway ↑ | | Modern Pentathlon Development Criteria |
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| State & MPA Categories | Pre- Performance Pathway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has met (within previous 12 months) and continues to meet (in MPA Time Trials) the Swim and Laser Run - Pre Performance Pathway Standards within the National Performance Benchmarks • Athlete who has shown dedicated commitment to MP training, including regular riding & fencing training and competition • Has competed in a National Championships in the previous 12 months in Modern Pentathlon • Has fulfilled required Domestic Calendar Activity Requirements (Attachment C in National Categorisation and Selection Criteria 2021 document) • Athletes who show the potential to qualify for a future Olympic Games (beyond current cycle) |
| | Prospective Performance Pathway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has met (within previous 12 months) and continues to meet (in MPA Time Trials) the Swim and Laser Run - Prospective Performance Pathway Standards within the National Performance Benchmarks • Athlete shows potential to reach Pre-Performance Pathway Swim and Laser Run Standards within the next 12 months • Athlete who has shown dedicated commitment to MP training, including regular fencing training and competition. • Athlete who either has a Pony Club background or who has started regular Ride training • Has competed in a National Championships in the previous 12 months in Tetrathlon • Has fulfilled required Domestic Calendar Activity Requirements (Attachment C in National Categorisation and Selection Criteria 2021 document) • Athlete who demonstrates potential to be selected for next Youth Olympic Games |
| | MPA Foundations – National | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has met (within previous 12 months) and continues to meet (in MPA Time Trials) the Swim and Laser Run Foundation Standards within the National Performance Benchmarks • Domestic level athletes showing commitment to MP training across all disciplines with demonstrated potential to succeed at a higher level • Has competed in a National Championships in last 2 years (Pentathlon, Biathlon, Triathlon and/or Laser Run) • Has fulfilled Domestic Calendar Activity Requirements (Attachment C in National Categorisation and Selection Criteria 2021 document) |

| Entry point to International Competitions ↑ | | Modern Pentathlon Development Criteria | |
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| MPA Categories | MPA Foundations – State | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has met (within previous 12 months) and continues to meet (in MPA Time Trials) the Swim or Laser Run Foundation Standards within the National Performance Benchmarks • Competition background in one or more of the MP sports and/or from a Pony Club background • Identified by State and/or school talent ID program • Committed to commencing MP specific training and domestic competition • Member of a State Association | State Based |

MPA Future Success Indicators – Selection Committee Profiling Tool

| Trait | Blue (1) | Amber (2) | Green (3) | Gold (4) |
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| Performance Profile | Has stayed at the same performance level for 2+ years | Has not progressed performance in the last season, but engagement has been good | Minimal progression, but performance limiting reasons cited | Decent upwards progression to next categorisation level |
| Performance Stability | Athlete has a one-off good performance, outside of the BME, with a big drop-off to average top-5 results | Athlete has 1-2 very good performances, often outside of major BME, with a moderate drop off towards average of top-5 results | Athlete's performances typically improve substantially at major championships | Athlete's performances show stability and clustering around average top-5 results |
| Performance Under Pressure | Generally, considerably underperforms at major championships | Inconsistent benchmark performance | Generally, performs well under pressure | Consistently performs at, or close to, their best at major championships |
| DTE (currently categorised) | No engagement with MPA program | Minimal engagement with MPA program | Solid engagement with MPA (limited by work/study and/or geography) | Fully integrated/engaged with MPA program, with use of wide range of services |
| DTE (New categorised) | Athlete and coach show no engagement with MPA program | Athlete and coach demonstrate minimal engagement with MPA program | Athlete is strongly engaged in MPA program, but coach is not | Athlete and coach have been heavily involved in MPA program and aligned to MPA performance pathway strategies |
| Physiological capability | Performance benchmarks have dropped off in the past 12-months | Performance benchmarks have stagnated in the past 12-months | Performance benchmarks are showing small improvements in the past 12-months | Significant progress across performance benchmarks in the past 12-months |
| Technical capability | Athlete is exceptionally technically refined, with little scope for improvement | Athlete has technical flaws that do not appear to be performance limiting | Athlete is overall technically sound, with some small areas for improvement | Athlete has some large technical flaws, with an established plan in place to develop their technique |
| Coach | Poorly engaged coach, who is unable to deliver an annual plan and is uninterested in personal development | Coach demonstrates minimal engagement, but is able to offer an annual plan and gaps to podium analysis | Engaged coach with willingness to learn and develop and provides detailed and evidence-based plan | Highly engaged coach with willingness to learn and develop and provides detailed and evidence-based plan with strong track record of developing athletes |
| Robustness | Athlete is regularly ill/injured, frequently missing training and/or competitions | Athlete has recently suffered a major injury, with question marks remaining over their capacity to return to performance | Athlete has recently suffered a major injury but is progressing rehabilitation well. Athlete is otherwise rarely ill/injured | Athlete is rarely ill/injured, and rarely suffers injury recurrences |
| Training History | Athlete has a long and well-established training history and has minimal room to improve | Athlete has a sporadic training history and may struggle to train at the required frequencies and volumes required for elite performance. | Athlete has a decent training history, with sufficient evidence that they can tolerate the loads required for HP training | Athlete has a relatively short training history when compared to their current performance level |
| National Coach Appraisal | National Coach does not believe athlete is demonstrating performance levels indicative of future performance potential | National Coach believes that, whilst the athlete's performance is currently impressive, there is limited scope for improvement. | National Coach believes athlete has potential to succeed, but is unsure about coach | National Coach believes athlete has potential to succeed, and believes current coach is able to best develop this potential |
| Performance Lifestyle | Athlete is unsettled, has major transition periods coming up, and is struggling to balance work/study and sport. | Athlete is in a fairly settled routine, but generally struggles to balance work/study with sport. | Athlete is in a fairly settled routine but has some major transition periods coming up. Generally appropriate balance between work/study and sport | Athlete is in a settled routine, with minimal upcoming disruptions, and appropriate balance with work/study |
| Performance Disposition | Athlete appears to have low levels of motivation, and tends to prioritise non-performance orientated behaviours causing preparation / training to be deprioritised | Question marks remain over athletes' motivation and engagement, without any obvious negative incidents. | Athlete is generally well motivated, but has periods of disengagement and/or laziness | Athlete is highly motivated, hungry to learn, and seeks out challenges |

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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| AIS | Australian Institute of Sport |
| BME | Benchmark Event (Senior World Championship) |
| dAIS | Direct Athlete Incentive Scheme |
| PPD | Pathways & Performance Director |
| MPA | Modern Pentathlon Australia |
| NSO | National Sporting Organisation |
| Pinnacle Event | Olympic Games |
| SIA | Sport Integrity Australia |
| TID | Talent Identification |
| WCH | World Championships |
| WCE | World Cup Event |