
Modern Pentathlon Australia

National Categorisation and Selection Criteria 2022

This purpose of this document is to outline all categorisation and selection requirements necessary for Modern Pentathlon Australia Categorisation, support and national representation for 2022, 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 (www.uipmworld.org). The domestic calendar of MPA endorsed events can be found on the MPA [website](#) or below Attachment D.

The objective of this Categorisation and Selection Criteria is to implement a framework of performance pathway to ultimately ensure that athletes are selected to represent Australia who have the best chance of producing podium performances at pinnacle events in the short and long term, with the primary target events being the 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games, 2026 Youth Olympic Games as well as the World Championships benchmark events (Senior, Junior and Youth) leading up to each of these Games.

The MPA Categorisation levels, built to lead into the AIS National Categorisation Levels, are designed to offer visibility of the elite pathway within our sport, from entry level through to Olympic representation. The AIS levels documented are consistent across all sports in Australia and applied to each individual sport. As a developing sport in Australia, the MPA levels have been developed in consultation with the AIS to show our members the performance pathway progression leading in to the AIS levels.

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

At all times, we want to create an ambitious, supportive performance culture and instil that selection to represent Australia is an honour and a privilege 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



SECTION 1: HIGH PERFORMANCE AND SELECTION COMMITTEES

High Performance Committee

In May 2020, a High-Performance Committee (HPC) was established, on the recommendation of our Pathways Program Funders - the AIS. 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 (3 years in case of Paris 2024 lead in).
- (b) to provide advice to the PPD on 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 as follows:

- Kitty Chiller (Chair)
- Hannah Every-Hall (PPD)
- Bernard Petruschinski (ICC)
- 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 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 (external)
- Hannah Every-Hall

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

Athlete categorisation is a national framework developed and utilised by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) to, “identify, monitor and prioritise athletes at each stage of the Performance Pathway”. The National Athlete Categorisation Framework outlines the five categorisation levels recognised by the AIS in determining the prioritisation of resources to athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia’s high-performance targets. Importantly, athletes identified within the performance pathway through AIS National, categorisation must demonstrate the potential to contribute to future medal success over the next 4yr, 8yr or 12yr Olympic cycles

Targets with the AIS categorisation levels are set to enable athletes to be assessed as to whether they have the potential to achieve podium results at future pinnacle and benchmark events (Olympic Games, World Championships). MPA has developed these criteria to identify athletes to the different categories and for nomination to the AIS for inclusion in the national list of Categorisation. 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, it is imperative we develop and apply 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 openness and willingness to participate in MPA pathways initiatives and advice to grow and develop as an athlete (and coach).

The Athlete Categorisation Levels, combined with the National Performance Benchmarks, outline the minimum and expected performances required for athletes to be considered for the respective Categorisation levels, and ultimately be considered for Selection onto National representative teams. Categorisation of athletes does not imply selection of those athletes to National representative teams. That said, MPA is aware that Modern Pentathletes can achieve the podium in a wide variety of ways across all 5 disciplines. Thus, the MPA SC reserves the right of discretion to assess and benchmark each athlete on a holistic individual basis in relation to their potential performance across all disciplines in reference to the Key performance indicators listed in Attachment A

Given that MPA has only a very small number of athletes who currently satisfy the AIS Categorisation Levels, MPA has added additional Categorisation levels ‘below’ that of the AIS categories. We hope that by including all Levels on the one sheet will provide visibility and motivation for athletes to continue to progress through the Pathway stream 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 and will require athletes and their coaches to actively participate in MPA high performance and pathways initiatives.



Categorisation Review Periods

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. An ongoing annual review will be considered following the National Championships of each year, (*postponed Nationals* - December 2021, TBC April 2022)

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: ELIGIBILITY 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 D).

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 read, be bound by, and fully comply with:
 - a. all MPA Policies and Standards, including but not restricted to the:
 - i. MPA Member Protection Policy,
 - ii. Athlete Safeguarding Policy,
 - iii. Anti-Doping Policy,
 - iv. Privacy Policy,
 - v. 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 a <https://elearning.sport.gov.au/>
4. All athletes must fully complete an MPA nomination form, including an acknowledgement that the athlete has read the Anti-Doping Declaration and agrees to all of the undertakings, acknowledgements and declarations therein.
5. 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. The online nomination form can be found on the MPA website at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O51BsQNm0LkdjYH-OspNyfXtWCJPxxL3B0bOkQRCfIU/edit>
6. 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
7. 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
8. All athletes selected in an official MPA National Team must sign the MPA Athlete Agreement and comply with all Team requirements
9. Maintain a high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia or seeking to represent Australia
10. Not bring the sport of Modern Pentathlon, MPA, UIPM or the AIS, AOC, Sport Australia into disrepute.



SECTION 4: EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES & FITNESS TRIAL

Extenuating Circumstances

In considering athletes' performances 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.

For the purposes of this Criteria, "Extenuating Circumstances" means:

- a) an injury or illness*
- b) an athlete having an extended break from the sport, with a commitment to return
- c) pregnancy
- d) Covid-related circumstances (assessed on a case-by-case basis)
- e) an unanticipated event occurring at a Selection Competition(s) or BME event.

*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.

For circumstances a, b and c above, the AIS has provided further guidance on continuing the AIS categorisation level of an athlete, please see **Attachment C** – associated policies for injury or illness, break from competition, or break for pregnancy

Where any Athlete seeks consideration of Extenuating Circumstances, the SC will make a decision on an individual case by case basis.

Appeals Process

If an Athlete does not agree with their AIS National categorisation, they may seek a review of the categorisation decision in the following manner:

- a. The Athlete must submit to the MPA PPD within 7 days of the categorisation decision being published on the MPA website, or the athlete being notified directly of the MPA categorisation (whichever is the earlier) (Review Period) a written request for a review (Review Request). A Review Request must set out the reasons why the Athlete feels that the Panel's decision is incorrect. The Review Request must specifically address the criteria in the MPA Athlete Categorisation Guidelines.
- b. The Review Request must be accompanied by a deposit of \$500 payable to MPA as contribution towards the costs of the appeal ("Appeal Fee"). MPA will bear all other costs of the Appeal Panel but each party will bear their own costs of the appeal. The Appeal Fee is non-refundable, unless the appeal is successful.
- c. The Appeal Panel will consider all Review Requests within 21 days of being appointed and shall inform the athlete/PPD of its decision(s) as soon as practical after that.



- d. The PPD will assist the Appeal Panel by providing relevant reasoning for its categorisation decision.
- e. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final. There shall be no further right of review or appeal.

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 (short or 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 better 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 not be allowed to enter any 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 or <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1O51BsQNm0LkdjYH-QspNyfXtWCJPxxL3B0bOkQRCfIU/edit>
- The MPA Selection Committee will notify athletes of their selection or otherwise, 2 weeks after the MPA National Championships (or sooner depending on event dates)
MPA Executive Officer to complete the relevant International Competition Entry Form, that includes travel dates and modes 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 in advance
- 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 athletes must hold a valid riding licence (assessed by a Level 2 EA coach), along with a video of competency that can be submitted to MPA

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 (and coaches) 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.



***ATTACHMENT A: CATEGORISATION CRITERIA AND NATIONAL
PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS***

<https://modernpentathlon.org.au/athlete-categorisation-5052-13112020>

ATTACHMENT B: SELECTION NOMINATION FORM

Closing date for Nominations - 5:00pm AEST Tuesday 1st November 2021

Access [Nomination Form](#) here.

***ATTACHMENT C: AIS POLICY FOR INJURY, ILLNESS, BREAK FROM
COMPETITION OR BREAK FOR PREGNANCY***

Access [policy here](#)



ATTACHMENT D: DOMESTIC CALENDAR ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

In order to show commitment to training and progression through the Categorisation Pathway, and in order for MPA's pool of experts across all sports to offer assistance and advice, 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 2021/22 outlined below, document the activities that an Athlete seeking to be Categorised and Selected should complete.

It is required that all athletes wishing to be categorised must **participate in at least 3 trials / competitions** of those listed below with only 1 fencing competition included. The **National MP Championships are a mandatory requirement.**

Where it is not possible, athletes are required to write and contact the PPD, and request an exemption upon grounds of special consideration.

ACTIVITY	Date
AFF – AFC#3 – WA	27-30 August 2021
Domestic Time Trial #1	18/19 or 25/26 September 2021
AFF U23 / Junior Fencing Championships – Victoria	24-29 September 2021
Domestic Time Trial #2	16/17 or 23/24 October 2021
AFF – AFC#4 – NSW	29-31 October 2021
Domestic Time Trial #3	13/14 or 20/21 November 2021
AFF - Open/ Veteran Fencing Championships - VIC	30 November – 5 December 2021
2021 MPA National Championships	17-19 December 2021
Domestic Time Trial #4	15/16 or 22/23 January 2022
State MP Championships	Various February 2022
Domestic Time Trial if no State Championships	19/20 February 2022
2022 MPA National Championships	8-10 April 2022
MPA Laser Run & Triathlon Championships	TBC

AFF – Australian Fencing Federation

These dates are pending the world events, travel restrictions and other COVID associated variables, thus are all subject to change. MPA will give as much notice as possible to any changes made.

