

Modern Pentathlon Australia (MPA) National Athlete Categorisation Criteria

The Modern Pentathlon Australia Athlete Categorisation 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
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 10+ 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 10+ 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 8 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	<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

		least PODIUM POTENTIAL level within the agreed sport-specific matrix timeframes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Assessed by the MPA Selection Committee meeting 8 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
	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 / Triathle / 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 10 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

Entry point to High Performance Olympic Pathway ↑		Modern Pentathlon Development Criteria
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, Biathle, Triathle 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		
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)
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 areas of technical development, 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 be best to 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

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