



## NZOC SELECTION POLICY – GLASGOW 2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

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### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to set out the principles and process which the New Zealand Olympic Committee (“NZOC”) will apply in selecting its team (“Games Team”) to represent New Zealand at the 2026 Commonwealth Games to be held in Glasgow, Scotland from 23 July to 2 August 2026 (“Games”).
- 1.2 **High Selection Standard:** The Games represents a pinnacle event for Commonwealth nations and the NZOC shall use this Policy to ensure a high selection standard to the Games Team is maintained.
- 1.3 **NF Nomination Criteria:** This Policy is to be reflected in the nomination criteria to be adopted by each National Federation (“NF Nomination Criteria”) for all athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games.

### 2 The Process

- 2.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** The process for nomination and selection for the Games Team is set out in the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation which is available on the NZOC website at [New Zealand Olympic Team](#).

### 3 Overarching Selection Criteria

- 3.1 **Eligibility:** Any nominated athlete who wishes to be considered for selection to the Games Team must meet all eligibility requirements set out in the Commonwealth Games Federation Constitution and rules applicable to the Games, this Policy, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NF Nomination Criteria for the Games and any requirements of the International Federation (“IF”) of the sport.
- 3.2 **Criteria:** The NZOC will consider all eligible nominated athletes for selection in the Games Team against the criteria set out in this Policy for Individual Events, Team Events and Team Sports respectively. The criteria for Individual Events, Team Events and Team Sports are set out below in addition to the Other Factors listed in clause 4.
- 3.3 **Quota:** The Commonwealth Games Federation has set athlete quota restrictions for the Games. The initial quota places allocated to New Zealand by the Commonwealth Games Federation is **77** (excluding Basketball, Netball, Para-Sports and Weightlifting athletes) but subject to additional quota places being allocated to the NZOC by the

Games Organising Committee. Para-athletes and Weightlifting athletes will have their own qualifying criteria (including quota restrictions) but are considered Individual Events for the purpose of this Policy. The NZOC has the sole right to determine the quota places allocated to each National Federation for the purpose of nominating athletes for selection consideration in accordance with this Policy. Such determination, may (but not be limited to) take into consideration such factors as follows:

- The opportunity for all sports to be represented, subject to athletes achieving performance standards;
- Medal success in the previous Commonwealth Games;
- Achievement of the over-riding selection criteria for athletes in the previous Commonwealth Games;
- How the sport operates (i.e. multi-disciplined, gender balance, ability to form a team); and
- How the sport is trending in its performance.

**3.4 Quota Reallocation:** Where an initial quota place is unable to be utilised by a National Federation or additional quotas are made available by the Games Organising Committee, the NZOC will have the sole discretion to reallocate the quota place. Where quota places are available for reallocation, the NZOC may call for athlete nominations from National Federations who have athletes or teams competing in Individual Events and Team Events on a date notified by the NZOC. To be eligible, the nominations must be received by the NZOC no later than the date specified by the NZOC. When considering reallocation of a quota place, the NZOC may in its sole discretion (but subject to clause 3.5 and 3.6) consider some or all of the following factors:

- Medal capability of the nominated athlete;
- Ability for the nominated athlete to form a pair or team (including relay team) with athletes already selected in the Games Team; and/or
- Potential to achieve a top 16 placing at the LA 2028 Olympic Games and/or potential to medal at the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

National Federations nominating multiple athletes and/or a team under a quota reallocation are required to make a submission for each athlete and to rank them in the National Federation's order of preference for selection by the NZOC.

### **3.5 Individual Events**

**3.5.1 Definition:** For the purpose of this Policy, an "Individual Event" means an event in the Games in which an athlete competes alone or with other athletes together in a race, heat or event up to a maximum of two (2) athletes (for example as a pair or a mixed doubles), and which is not a "Team Event" or a "Team Sport" as defined in this Policy.

**3.5.2 Criteria:** Any nominated athlete(s) wishing to be selected for the Games Team in an Individual Event(s) must demonstrate to the NZOC's satisfaction that nominated athlete(s)

### Top 6

- a. is or are capable of achieving a top 6 placing in the Games in that Individual Event; and
- b. has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in that Individual Event(s).

or

### Potential Top 16

- c. If clause 3.5.3 applies, has or have the potential capability to achieve a top 16 placing in the LA 2028 Olympic Games in that Individual Event; and
- d. has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates that the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in that Individual Event(s).

**3.5.3 Discretion:** The criteria in clause 3.5.2(c) and (d), shall only apply if the NZOC decides in its complete discretion that it can be included in an NF's Nomination Criteria. Such decision, may only be made in rare circumstances, where:

- a. the NZOC considers that the level of competitiveness of the expected field of competitors in an Individual Event at the Games is likely to be the same or higher than the level of competitiveness of the expected field of competitors in the same Individual Event at the LA 2028 Olympic Games, and
- b. that such disparity would otherwise exclude the athlete(s) from being selected to compete in the Games.

*Explanatory Note: The purpose of this discretionary clause is to enable the NZOC to consider an athlete for selection that would meet the LA 2028 Olympic Games criteria (top 16) but who would not meet the Games criteria (top 6), due to the difference in the fields of competition between the two events. This is based on the general principle that the NZOC would expect an athlete who is at a level to compete at an Olympic Games (which is a pinnacle world event) would also be at a level to compete at the Games.*

**3.5.4 Application:** A National Federation seeking to include the criteria in clause 3.5.2(c) and (d) in their NF Nomination Criteria must make an application to the NZOC with an explanation of the disparity that would arise, with detailed evidence of the expected fields of competitors, and their likely level of competitiveness, in an Individual Event at the Games compared to the same Individual Event at the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

**3.5.5 Evidence:** To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria by nominated athletes for Individual Events in clause 3.5.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the National Federation of the nominated athlete(s)' performances and results in Key Events (see clause 3.8) in the Individual Event(s) at which they seek to be

selected for the Games. This evidence shall include the performance and results of the likely competitors in the Individual Event at the Games. This evidence may also include an individual performance plan (“IPP”) approved by High Performance Sport New Zealand (“HPSNZ”) and/or the National Federation for the nominated athlete(s) and evidence on the progress of the nominated athlete(s) against that IPP.

### 3.6 Team Events

3.6.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, a “Team Event” means an event in the Games, in which a group of three (3) or more athletes compete together in a game, race, heat or event (i.e. Gymnastics team event, Athletics or Swimming Relay) but excludes Team Sports.

3.6.2 **Criteria:** A group of athletes competing in a Team Event wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC’s satisfaction that:

- a. the group of nominated athletes is capable of achieving a top 3 placing in the Games in that Team Event; and
- b. the group of nominated athletes have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the group of nominated athletes will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in that Team Event.

3.6.3 **Evidence:** To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria for a Team Event in clause 3.6.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the National Federation of the performances and results as part of the group of nominated athletes in Key Events (see clause 3.8) at which the group of nominated athletes seeks to be selected to compete at the Games. This evidence shall include the performance and results of the likely competitor groups of athletes in the Team Event at the Games. This evidence may include IPPs approved by HPSNZ and/or the National Federation for the group of nominated athletes and evidence on the progress of the group of nominated athletes against their IPPs.

### 3.7 Team Sports

3.7.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, a “Team Sport” means an event in the Games, where a team of athletes (including reserves or substitutes) compete together in a tournament in the following sports:

- 3x3 Basketball (men and women)
- Netball (women only)

3.7.2 **Criteria:** A Team Sport wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC’s satisfaction that:

- a. the team is capable of achieving a top 3 placing in the Games in that Team Sport; and

- b. the nominated athletes in the team have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the team will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in that Team Sport.

3.7.3 **Evidence:** To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria for a Team Sport in clause 3.7.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the National Federation of the performances and results as part of a team in Key Events (see clause 3.8) at which the team seeks to be selected to compete at the Games. This evidence shall include the performance and results of the likely competitor teams in the Team Sport at the Games. This evidence may include IPPs approved by HPSNZ and/or the National Federation for the athletes in the Team and evidence on the progress of the athletes in the team against their IPPs.

### 3.8 Key Events

3.8.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, “Key Events” means international or Commonwealth competitions which have an equivalent or higher field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games.

*Examples of “Key Events” include World Cups, World Championships and Commonwealth Championships.*

3.8.2 **Key Events:** The Key Events must be agreed to between the National Federation and NZOC and be listed in the NF Nomination Criteria. Generally, Key Events must be held within the 18 month period prior to the commencement of the Games or as otherwise agreed between the NZOC and the National Federation in the NF Nomination Criteria.

## 4 Other Factors

4.1 **Conduct:** The selection of athletes or teams into the Games Team will primarily be based on the sports performance of the nominated athletes or teams but may also take into account the athlete’s or team’s ability to serve as an example to the sporting youth of New Zealand. Any actions of athletes or teams that reflect badly upon or which have brought the NZOC or any Games sport into disrepute (or which has the potential to do so) can be taken into account when assessing the suitability of any athlete, team, coach, or other person to be selected or appointed by the NZOC for the Games Team.

4.2 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the performance of nominated athletes or teams at Key Events, the NZOC may in its sole discretion take into account extenuating circumstances and therefore, waive or vary some or all of its criteria. National Federations must supply detailed evidence to support consideration of extenuating circumstances under this clause. For the purpose of this Policy, “extenuating circumstances” means the inability of an athlete or team to compete or perform to an optimum level due to factors such as:

- a. injury or illness of an athlete;
- b. equipment failure;

- c. travel delays;
  - d. bereavement; and
  - e. such other circumstances as the selectors, in their sole discretion, reasonably consider constitute “extenuating circumstances”.
- 4.3 **Additional Circumstances:** In considering the performance of nominated athlete(s) at Key Events, the NZOC may, in its sole discretion, waive or vary some or all of its criteria to take into account athletes who have demonstrated that they are capable of having a positive impact on another nominated athlete’s medal success at the Games (in other words where such nominated athlete’s primary role will be to support the other nominated athlete who is capable of medal success by employing a tactical racing approach during competition to enhance the chances of medal success).
- 4.4 **Team Environment:** The Games Team must operate as a harmonious and constructive unit and the NZOC may therefore also take into consideration any history of ability (or inability) of any athlete to function appropriately in the Games Team environment.
- 4.5 **Anti-Doping Compliance:** The NZOC will only select nominated athletes to the Games Team who have fully complied with the NZOC Integrity Regulation – Part A Anti-Doping which is available on the NZOC website at [New Zealand Olympic Team](#).

## 5 Additional Matters

- 5.1 **Qualification:** The mere fact that a nominated athlete, group of athletes or team has qualified a placing for an event at the Games or has been allocated a quota by the National Federation will not guarantee selection of the nominated athlete, group of athletes or the team into the Games Team.
- 5.2 **Acceptance of Quota Places:** For the sake of clarity, the NZOC will not be obliged to accept places (if any) in the Games offered by the Games Organising Committee (e.g. athlete allocation places, direct qualification invitation places or reallocations). Any such acceptance will be solely at the discretion of the NZOC and in accordance with this Policy.
- 5.3 **NZOC Selectors:** The NZOC has determined that the following individuals will act as selectors on its behalf under this Policy:
- Annette Purvis (Convener);
  - Lesley Nicol;
  - Tim Slyfield
- 5.4 **Amendment:** The Board of NZOC reserves the right to amend this Policy from time to time in its sole discretion, where it considers there is a genuine and reasonable need to do so.

5.5 **Variation:** Any variation to the adherence to this Policy is at the sole discretion of the Board of NZOC.

Approved by the NZOC Board – 18 February 2025