



NEW ZEALAND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE SELECTION POLICY DOLOMITI VALTELLINA 2028 WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to set out the principles which the New Zealand Olympic Committee (“NZOC”) will apply in selecting its team (“Games Team”) to represent New Zealand at the 2028 Winter Youth Olympic Games to be held in Dolomiti Valtellina in the Italian Alps from the 15th to 29th January 2028 (“Games”).
- 1.2 **High Selection Standard:** Performance at the Games represents the pinnacle of youth achievement and this Policy reflects the need to ensure a high entry standard into 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 www.olympic.org.nz.

3 Over-Riding Selection Criteria

- 3.1 **Eligibility:** Any nominated athlete who wishes to be considered for selection to the Games Team must meet all eligibility requirements applicable to the Games, including but not limited to the International Olympic Committee Charter, this Policy, the Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NF Nomination Criteria and any requirements of the International Federation 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 and Teams Events respectively. The Criteria includes the criteria for Individual and Team Events set out below as well as the Other Factors listed in clause 4. The NZOC in its sole discretion shall decide whether an athlete or athletes satisfy the definition of an Individual Event or a Team Event.



3.3 Individual Events:

3.3.1 Definition: For the purpose of this Policy, an “Individual Event” means an event in the Games in which an athlete competes either alone or in which four (4) or fewer athletes competing together in a game, race, heat or event as a pair, doubles, or relay team, and which is not a “Team Event” as defined in this Policy.

3.3.2 Criteria: Any nominated athlete wishing to be selected for the Games Team in an Individual Event(s) must (in addition to the Other Factors set out in clause 4 of this Policy) demonstrate to the NZOC’s satisfaction that the nominated athlete or the nominated athletes collectively (in the case of a pair, crew or other game, race, heat or event where more than one athlete competes together):

- Has/have a high national ranking (e.g. top 3) or has/have placed in the top 3 at the most recent National age group championships (in the age group and discipline that the athlete is seeking nomination for); and
- Will perform with distinction at the Games; and
- Where applicable, has/have met the International Federation’s time, distance or other relevant qualification standard; and
- Whether the athlete has, or athletes have, competed at a recognised international event for their sport finishing with a competitive result;

3.3.3 Evidence: The evidence (some of which will be in the form of official starting lists and official results) to support this may include:

- Whether the athlete has, or athletes have, a programme developed and endorsed by the NF to prepare them for the Games, and whether they are progressing to the agreed plan; and
- Based on the factors in clause 3.3.2, the athlete’s likely ability to perform with distinction at the Games.

The NF shall be required to make a submission relating to their nominated athletes, outlining why the individual athlete would be a suitable candidate for the Games, the likelihood of the individual athlete performing with distinction and the benefit to be gained by attending the Games for the sport and the individual athlete.

3.4 Team Events:

3.4.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, a “Team Event” means an event in the Games where a team of athletes (including reserves or substitutes) (“Team”) compete together in the game, race, heat or event in the following events:



- Ice Hockey (6 person men's and women's teams, excluding substitutes)

3.4.2 Criteria: A Team wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC's satisfaction that the Team will perform with distinction at the Games.

3.4.3 Evidence: The evidence (some of which will be in the form of official starting lists and official results) to support this may include:

- Whether the Team is nationally competitive. It is expected that the NF will be nominating a Team that will be comprised of individually and collectively the best athletes available for selection in the applicable age group; and
- Whether each athlete and the Team has competed at a recognized international event for their sport finishing with a competitive result.

3.5 Key Events:

3.5.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, "Key Events" means an international, continental or national competition which is a major or pinnacle event for the sport for athletes in the youth age groups.

Examples of "Key Events" include Junior World Cups, Junior World Championships and Oceania Championships.

3.5.2 Determination: The Key Events must be agreed between the NF and NZOC and be listed in the NF Nomination Criteria. The Key Events must be held between 1 October 2026 to 30 November 2027, unless otherwise specified by the IOC and/or agreed by the NZOC.

4 Other Factors

4.1 **Conduct**: The selection of athletes or Teams into the Games Team will be primarily based on the sports performance of the nominated athletes or Teams. However, any actions of athletes or Teams that reflect badly upon or which bring the NZOC or any Games sport into disrepute (or which has the potential to do so) may also be taken into account when assessing the suitability of any athlete, Team, coach, or other person to be selected by the NZOC for the Games Team.

4.2 **Extenuating Circumstances**: In considering the performance of nominated athletes 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. NF's 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 or personal misfortune; and
- e. Such other circumstances as the selectors reasonably consider constitute "extenuating circumstances".

4.3 **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 a team environment.

4.4 **Anti-Doping:** 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 www.olympic.org.nz.

5 **Additional Matters**

5.1 **Qualification:** The mere fact that a nominated athlete or Team has qualified a placing for an event at the Games will not guarantee selection of the nominated athlete or the Team into the Games Team.

5.2 **Not Obligated:** The NZOC will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by the Winter Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (e.g. universality places, quota places or invitation places). Any such acceptance will be solely at the discretion of the NZOC and in accordance with this Policy.

5.3 **Selection Panel:** The NZOC has determined that the following individuals will act as selectors on its behalf under this Policy:

- Mike Kernaghan;
- Tim Slyfield; and
- Chantal Brunner

5.4 **Right to Amend:** 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.

Approved by the NZOC Board – 9th July 2026