

NZOC SELECTION POLICY

DAKAR 2026 YOUTH GAMES

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 when selecting its team ("Games Team") to represent New Zealand at the 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games to be held in Dakar, Senegal between 31 October – 13 November 2026 ("Games").
- 1.2 **High Selection Standard:** The Games is a pinnacle youth athletic event and the NZOC shall use this Policy to ensure a high selection standard into the Games Team is maintained.
- 1.3 **Consistency:** 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. 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 International Olympic Committee ("IOC") Charter and sport specific criteria 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 and Team Event 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 alone or together with other athletes together in the event (for example as a pair), and which is not a "Team Event" as defined in this Policy.

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

- a. is or are competing in an Individual Event where a quota place at the Games has been allocated to the NZOC by the IOC; and
- b. 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 eligible age group and discipline that the athlete is seeking nomination for); and
- c. will be competitive at the Games; and
- d. has/have met eligibility criteria set out in clause 3.1 of this Policy.

3.3.3 Evidence: To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria by nominated athletes for Individual Events in clause 3.3.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NF of:

- a. the nominated athlete's performances and results in Key Events (see clause 3.5) in the Individual Event(s) at which they seek to be selected for the Games; and
- b. whether the athlete has, or athletes have, competed at a recognised international event for their sport finishing with a competitive result; and
- c. why the athlete(s) would be a suitable candidate for the Games.

3.4 Team Events:

3.4.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, a "Team Event" means an event at the Games in which a group of athletes, including reserves or substitutes, if relevant ("Team"), compete together in the game or event in the following:

- Baseball
- 3x3 Basketball
- Futsal
- Beach Handball
- Rugby Sevens

3.4.2 Criteria: A Team wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC's satisfaction that:

- a. the nominated Team is competing in an event the NZOC has been allocated a quota place at the Games by the IOC; and

- b. 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
- c. the nominated Team will be competitive at the Games; and
- d. the athletes in the Team have met eligibility criteria set out in clause 3.1 of this Policy.

3.4.3 Evidence: To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria by nominated athletes for Team Events in clause 3.4.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NF of:

- a. the nominated athletes and/or Team's performances and results in Key Events (see clause 3.5) in the Team Event at which they seek to be selected for the Games; and
- b. whether the nominated Team has, and/or athletes in the nominated Team have, competed at a recognised international event for their sport finishing with a competitive result; and
- c. why the athletes in the nominated Team are suitable candidates for the Games.

3.5 Key Events:

3.5.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, "Key Events" means international events that have an equivalent field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games e.g. Junior/Youth World Cups or Junior/Youth World Championships.

3.5.2 Determination: The Key Events must be agreed to between the NF and NZOC and be listed in the NF Nomination Criteria. The Key Events must be held within the 18-month period prior to the commencement of the Games or as otherwise agreed in the NF Nomination Criteria.

4. Other Factors

- 4.1 **Behaviour**: The selection of athletes or Teams into the Games Team will primarily be based on the sports performance of the nominated athletes or Teams. However, the Selection Panel may also take into consideration any actions of athletes or Teams that may reflect badly upon or which have brought the NZOC or any Games' sport into disrepute (or which has the potential to do so) when assessing the suitability of any athlete or Teams 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. NFs 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; or
- 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's Integrity Regulation which is available on the NZOC website at www.olympic.org.nz.

5. Additional Matters

5.1 **Qualification:** The fact that the NZOC has been allocated a place for an event at the Games will not guarantee selection of a nominated athlete or Team into the Games Team.

5.2 **Not Obligated:** The NZOC will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by the IOC. Any such acceptance will be solely at the discretion of the NZOC and in accordance with this Policy.

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

- Mike Kernaghan
- Lesley Rumball
- 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.

- 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 – 6 May 2025