

DAKAR 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
NOMINATION CRITERIA FOR SWIMMING EVENTS
SWIMMING NEW ZEALAND (SNZ)

1. Application of this Nomination Criteria

1.1 **Status:** This Nomination Criteria is issued by the Board and shall take effect from 13 January 2026. This Nomination Criteria supersedes any previous correspondence, discussions and representations (whether written or oral) by SNZ regarding nomination and selection for the Games.

1.2 **Scope:** This Nomination Criteria applies to:

- (a) all Athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games in a Swimming Event; and
- (b) SNZ including its Selectors, that wish to nominate Athletes to the NZOC to be considered for selection to the Games Team for the Games.

1.3 **Process:** Selection to the Games Team in a Swimming Event is a three step process:

- (a) each Athlete must be eligible in accordance with clause 3 of this Nomination Criteria;
- (b) SNZ nominates Athletes to the NZOC in accordance with this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation; and
- (c) the NZOC selects Athletes to the Games Team in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

2. Selectors

2.1 **Composition:** The Selectors have been appointed by the Board. The Selectors who will consider nomination of Athletes to NZOC to be considered for selection in the Games Team are:

- *Dr Brent Layton*
- *Phillip Rush*
- *Rebecca McDonald*
- *Nick Tongue*

2.2 The Board reserves the right to change a Selector at any time in its absolute discretion prior to the Nomination Date. In such case, it will publish the change of Selector on the SNZ website.

3. Eligibility

3.1 Athlete Eligibility: To be eligible to be nominated to the NZOC by SNZ, an Athlete must:

- (a) be aged 14 years or older on 31 October 2026 and must be 17 years or younger on 13 November 2026; and
- (b) have been listed on the World Aquatics Rankings at any time during the period from 1 February 2025 and 1 May 2026; and
- (c) have achieved a minimum of 700 points on the World Aquatics Rankings in the event in which New Zealand has been allocated a quota spot and the athlete is seeking nomination for; and
- (d) have returned a completed Athlete Application to the NZOC, in the form prescribed by the NZOC by the following dates ("Application Date"):
 - i. no later than 5.00pm, 30 April 2026; or
 - ii. in exceptional circumstances, such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board where SNZ provides the NZOC with evidence that demonstrates the Athlete could not have been reasonably in contemplation on 30 April 2026; and
- (e) have returned a completed Team Agreement in the manner prescribed by the NZOC to NZOC prior to the Nomination Date; and
- (f) be a member of SNZ or one of its affiliates; and
- (g) be a New Zealand citizen and have a New Zealand passport; and
- (h) have demonstrated to the satisfaction of SNZ they are not suffering any physical or psychological condition that would compromise the Athlete's ability to compete at the Games to the selection standard set out in the NZOC Selection Policy or which may compromise the health and safety of themselves, a Games Team member or another participant at the Games; and
- (i) have acted in such a manner so as not to bring the Athlete, the sport, SNZ or the NZOC into public disrepute; and
- (j) not be under investigation for any breach of any part of SNZ and World Aquatics' anti-doping regulations, the Sports Anti-Doping Rules and/or the NZOC Integrity Regulation; and
- (k) no later than 30 April 2026 (or such extended date as agreed by the NZOC Board), have provided their name and contact address details to NZOC for the purpose of out of competition drug testing with the Sport Integrity Commission

3.2 **Quota Allocation:** New Zealand must be allocated a quota place in a Swimming Event(s) by IOC invitation to the NZOC and in accordance with the IOC's sport specific and World Aquatics requirements for the Games. SNZ will be provided an allocation of quota places and may only nominate up that number in identified Swimming Events to the NZOC for consideration of Selection. Quota allocation for a place in any Swimming Event(s) by an Athlete does not guarantee that the Athletes will be nominated or selected to compete in the Swimming Event(s) at the Games.

3.3 **Nomination if Nomination Criteria Met:** Provided the requirements set out in clauses 3.1 and 3.2 are met, the Selectors shall nominate to NZOC for consideration of selection, those Athletes it considers meet the Nomination Criteria set out below.

3.4 **Reserve Athletes:** The Selectors may nominate Reserve Athletes to the NZOC for any Swimming Event.

4. Nomination Criteria

4.1 **Nomination Criteria:** In considering any Athlete for nomination to the NZOC, the Selectors shall consider:

- (a) the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria specified in clause 5.1; and
- (b) the evidence provided in accordance with clause 5.2; and
- (c) Specific Nomination Factors specified in clause 5.3; and
- (d) any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 6.

4.2 **Relevance and Weighting:** The Selectors may determine the relevance and weight they wish to place on any Specific Nomination Factor(s) and any Extenuating Circumstances(s) as they consider appropriate. No particular Specific Nomination Factor shall be weighted more or less significantly based on the order in which it appears in this Nomination Criteria unless expressly specified otherwise.

4.3 **Own Enquiries:** In considering the Specific Nomination Factors, the Selectors may make such enquiries of the Athlete, or other persons, as they see fit.

4.4 **Conditions:** In considering any results and performances of an Athlete at any Key Events, the Selectors may, but do not have to, take into account the conditions in which the results and performances were obtained such as, but not limited to, the field of competition.

4.5 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In any decision regarding the nomination of Athletes to the Games Team, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, take into account any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with clause 6 below.

4.6 Permission to Start: At the sole discretion of the NZOC, Nominated Athletes may, on SNZ's request to the NZOC, if selected to the Games Team by the NZOC, request permission to start in another Swimming Event where competing in this Swimming Event will not have any detrimental effect on the Swimming Event the Nomination Athlete has already been selected to the Games Team for.

5. Over-Riding Nomination Criteria and Specific Nomination Factors

5.1 Over-Riding Nomination Criteria:

(a) In determining whether or not to nominate an Athlete to a Swimming Event, the Selectors must be satisfied overall that the Athlete:

- i. is competing in a Swimming Event where a quota place has been allocated to the NZOC by the IOC;
- ii. has a high national ranking (e.g. top 3) or has placed in the top 3 of the most recent National age group championships (in the eligible age group and discipline the Athlete is seeking nomination for);
- iii. will be competitive at the Games; and
- iv. has met the eligibility criteria set out in clause 3.1 of this Nomination Criteria.

5.2 Evidence: In determining whether or not the Athlete satisfies the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria for Swimming Events in clause 5.1 above, the Selectors shall no later than 30 May 2026, examine the credentials of all Athletes for Swimming Events, taking into account the following:

(a) **The Results and Performances** in the Swimming Event at the following Key Events:

- i. NZ Age Group Championships 8th to 12th April 2026
- ii. Australian Age Championships 11th to 18th April 2026
- iii. NZ Championships 13th to 17th May 2026

(b) **Ranking:** At the completion of the above Key Events, athletes who have competed in the events in which SNZ have been provided Quota spots for shall be ranked using World Aquatics Points on the World Aquatics Ranking from highest to lowest and Selectors may only nominate up to the maximum number of quota allocated and any Reserve Athletes.

5.3 Specific Nomination Factors: When considering the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria above, the Selectors may also take into account any one or more of the following factors about an Athlete within the Qualification Period:

(a) any other performances or results in competitions / events in addition to the Key Events;

- (b) adequate fitness and a commitment to maintain a fitness and training programme as agreed with the applicable coach(es);
- (c) demonstrated good behaviour, including a commitment to training and attendance at training camps;
- (d) demonstrated compatibility with others in a team environment;
- (e) demonstrated compliance with the rules of events and competitions;
- (f) understanding and respect for the obligations that accompany being a member of a New Zealand team when competing at the Games, including respect for Games Team members;
- (g) willingness to promote SNZ in a positive manner;
- (h) demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for self and their results;
- (i) proven ability to be reliable; and
- (j) any other factor(s) the Selectors consider relevant.

6. Extenuating Circumstances

- 6.1 **Extenuating Circumstances:** In considering the nomination of Athletes in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, give weight to any Extenuating Circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) injury or illness;
 - (b) travel delays;
 - (c) equipment failure;
 - (d) bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or
 - (e) any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.

- 6.2 **Athlete to Advise:** Athletes unable to compete at Key Events or other attendances required under this Nomination Criteria, must advise the CEO of the Extenuating Circumstances and reasons, in writing, with as much advance notice as possible and ideally seven (7) days prior to the commencement of the Key Event or other attendance. If the CEO is not notified of any Extenuating Circumstances in accordance with this Nomination Criteria, then the Selectors have no obligation to rely on such circumstances.

- 6.3 **Medical Certificate:** In the case of injury or illness, Athletes may be required by the CEO to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the CEO, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the Selectors. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the Selectors being unable to consider the injury or illness as an Extenuating Circumstance.
- 6.4 **Case by Case:** In the case of any Extenuating Circumstance/s, the Selectors will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

7. Nomination and Selection

- 7.1 **Nomination to NZOC:** SNZ will nominate Athletes (“Nominated Athletes”) and any Reserve Athletes to the NZOC by the Nomination Date.
- 7.2 **Nomination with Conditions:** SNZ may nominate an Athlete with any conditions, for example, conditions relating to recovery from injury or continuing to meet specified performance levels. If the conditions are not met to the satisfaction of the Selectors, they will not be eligible for selection, unless the NZOC decides to select the Nominated Athlete subject to those or other conditions.
- 7.3 **Selection by NZOC:** Selection to the Games Team by the NZOC will be made in accordance with the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

8. Appeal Procedure

- 8.1 **Non-Nomination Appeals:** An Athlete may appeal to SNZ against their non-nomination to the NZOC by the SNZ provided the Athlete:
 - (a) is on the SNZ long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clause 3 of this Criteria.
- 8.2 **Procedures for Non-Nomination Appeals:** Any appeal under criteria 8.1 of this Criteria must be made in accordance with the procedures set out in clause 13 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.
- 8.3 **Procedures for Non-Selection Appeals:** If a Nominated Athlete is not selected by the NZOC, the Nominated Athlete may appeal the non-selection in accordance with the procedures set out in clause 14 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation provided the Nominated Athlete:
 - (a) is on the SNZ long list for the Games; and
 - (b) meets the eligibility criteria under clause 3 of this Criteria.

9. Inconsistencies

9.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** In the event there is any inconsistency between this Nomination Criteria and the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation shall prevail.

10. Amendments to this Nomination Criteria

10.1 **Prior to Nomination Date:** This Nomination Criteria may be amended or supplemented from time to time by the Board, before the Nomination Date, provided NZOC has approved the amendment/s and supplement/s.

10.2 **Notice:** The Board will give as much notice as possible of any amendment/s or supplement/s made under clause 10.1 to this Nomination Criteria, to persons it considers may be affected by any such amendment/s or supplement/s.

11. Definitions

11.1 **Application Date** means the dates set out in clause 3.1(d) of this Criteria, by which Athletes must submit to NZOC a completed Athlete Application in accordance with clause 8.3 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

11.2 **Athlete** means a person who wishes to be considered for nomination to the Games Team.

11.3 **Athlete Application** means the form set by the NZOC that must be completed by any Athlete applying to be nominated and selected to the Games Team.

11.4 **Board** means the Board of SNZ as constituted under the Constitution.

11.5 **CEO** means the Chief Executive Officer of SNZ and includes his / her nominee.

11.6 **Constitution** means the Constitution of SNZ.

11.7 **Extenuating Circumstances** means the inability to perform at an optimum level arising from one or more of the reasons set out in clause 6.1.

11.8 **Games** means the Youth Olympic Games held in Dakar, Senegal between 31 October and 13 November 2026.

11.9 **Games Team** means the New Zealand Team at the Games selected in accordance with the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games.

11.10 **Key Events** means the competitions listed in clause 5.2.

11.11 **Nominated Athlete** means an Athlete who has been nominated by SNZ to the NZOC for consideration of selection to the Games Team.

11.12 **Nomination Criteria** means the criteria and is also referred to as “this Criteria”.

11.13 **Nomination Date** means on or before 9th June 2026 (and includes any alternative date as agreed between NZOC and SNZ, by which SNZ must submit any Nominated Athletes to the NZOC).

11.14 NZOC means the New Zealand Olympic Committee Incorporated.

11.15 NZOC Integrity Regulation means the NZOC Integrity Regulation available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.

11.16 NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation means the regulation of NZOC in relation to the nomination and selection process for all Olympic and Commonwealth Games, including the Games, available at <http://www.olympic.org.nz/about-the-nzoc/governance-documents/>.

11.17 NZOC Selection Policy means the NZOC Selection Policy for the Games, available at [NZOC Selection Policy Dakar 2026](#).

11.18 Over-Riding Nomination Criteria means the criteria set out in clause 5.1.

11.19 Qualification Period means the period between 1 April 2026 and 20 May 2026.

11.20 Reserve Athletes means a non-travelling reserve, as designated by the Selectors and in accordance with the Dakar 2026 Sport Entry Manual.

11.21 Specific Nomination Factors means the factors listed in clause 5.3 which the Selectors may take into account when applying the Over-Riding Nomination Criteria.

11.22 Selectors means the selectors appointed by SNZ in accordance with clause 2 of this Nomination Criteria.

11.23 Swimming Event means one of the following events at the Games at which an Athlete competes:

Male	Female
50m Freestyle	50m Freestyle
100m Freestyle	100m Freestyle
200m Freestyle	200m Freestyle
400m Freestyle	400m Freestyle
800m Freestyle	800m Freestyle
50m Backstroke	50m Backstroke
100m Backstroke	100m Backstroke
200m Backstroke	200m Backstroke
50m Breaststroke	50m Breaststroke
100m Breaststroke	100m Breaststroke
200m Breaststroke	200m Breaststroke
50m Butterfly	50m Butterfly
100m Butterfly	100m Butterfly
200m Butterfly	200m Butterfly
200m Individual Medley	200m Individual Medley

11.24 **SNZ** means Swimming New Zealand Incorporated.

11.25 **Team Agreement** means the agreement that must be completed by any Athlete wishing to be considered for nomination and selection to the Games Team in accordance with clause 8.4 of the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation.

11.26 **World Aquatics** means World Aquatics, the international federation for swimming.