

Athletics Australia



Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program

A progressive learning pathway

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Aims

The aims of the Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program are:

To build identified athletes knowledge and understanding of the behaviors and commitment required to be an elite athlete.

To provide a progressive learning pathway that promotes behaviors in the daily training environment that enhance elite performance.

To set up a network of support around identified athletes to assist in the transition from junior to senior athletics.

To place junior athletes on Paralympic Games & IPC World Athletics Championships teams.

Philosophy

Membership of the Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program is offered by Athletics Australia (AA) as an investment in an athlete to help them meet the aims of the program.

Partners

The Athletics Australia Para-athletics program is funded and supported by the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC).

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| 3.0 | Membership | Conditions of membership to the program. |
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1.0 Eligibility

In order to be considered for membership of the Para-athletics Junior High Performance program athletes must:

- Satisfy all relevant International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) eligibility & nationality rules.
- Hold Australian citizenship at the time of offer to join the program.
- Be a registered member of Athletics Australia through their Member Association.
- Hold a national level classification of "review" or "confirmed" status.
- Be in a classification that will be contested at the 2016 Paralympic Games (and later at 2020).
- Complete and sign AA paperwork as required. Such paperwork may include an AA Athlete Contract, an AA Athlete Agreement and/or an AA Code of Conduct. The required paperwork will be made clear in the letter offering program membership.
- Be and remain in 'good standing' with AA and at all times comply with AA's Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves or their sport into disrepute. AA may consider past and present behavioral conduct in determining whether an athlete is in 'good standing'. If AA determines that an athlete is not in 'good standing' with AA, in its absolute discretion AA may choose not to offer that athlete membership of the program.
- If an athlete's eligibility for the program changes Athletics Australia may end their membership at their sole discretion as soon as practical after the athlete's status has changed. Example of how an athlete's eligibility might change include, but are not limited to, a change of nationality, a change to an athlete's classification or the classifications to be contested at the next Paralympic Games, an anti-doping violation, a violation of AA's Code of Conduct, etc.
- Be licensed with the IPC if internationally classified.

2.0 Selection

Identified athletes will only be selected by the Para-athletics Junior High Performance selection panel, which will consist of Athletics Australia staff and program coaches.

The total number of athletes offered membership to the program will depend on the resources available to Athletics Australia and is at the absolute discretion of the selection panel.

The following may be considered at the absolute discretion of the selection panel.

- Paralympic Games Event List
- Daily Training Environment
- Competition History
- Training & Sport Commitment
- Engagement With AA & SIS/SAS Network (Where Applicable)
- Coaching Structure
- Classification Status
- IPC License Status
- World Rankings
- Strength & Depth Of Class
- International Representation Potential

3.0 Membership

In order to receive and maintain membership of the Para-athletics Junior High Performance program, athletes must adhere to the following conditions:

- Demonstrate a high level of commitment to the program and the sport.
- Be a registered member of their member association or affiliated club and be shown to compete in competition offered to members on a regular basis.
- Compete at both the Australian Junior Championships (age permitting) and the Australian Open National Championships.
- Work with a personal coach; the coach must be a current accredited athletics coach with Athletics Australia.
- Have coach provide a training and/or competition plan for review and discussion with the Para-athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator and/or specific event group program coach upon request.
- Complete daily training environment & result reporting requirements as communicated by the Para-athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator. This may include but is not limited to weekly engagement with AMP Sport (online athlete monitoring system), reporting of all competition performances and the submission of training/competition video analysis as requested by program coaches.
- Successfully implement and/or complete competency tasks, demonstrating a constant progression through the learning modules.
- Attend international classification as instructed to by Para-athletics Junior High Performance staff.
- Attend and partake in all program activities organized by program staff and/or coaches.

3.1 Review Process

At the absolute discretion of Para-athletics Junior High Performance staff and program coaches, continuation of an athlete's membership is subject to review and termination at any point in time.

Where an athlete is failing to progress through the modules and/or meet conditions of membership, the athlete's position in the program will be subject to review.

Due to the nature of Paralympic sport, it is anticipated that athletes will enter the program at various stages of development. It is expected that certain athletes will make the transition to senior athletics at a faster rate than others, this may be due to a number of reasons such as international depth of class. Athletics Australia staff and program coaches may deem at any time that an athlete will no longer benefit from membership to the program (ready for senior transition) and at this point the athlete's position in the program may be suspended or cancelled.

Athletes will at maximum be offered three years of membership to the program. In line with the National Athlete Support Structure (NASS) it is believed that at this point in time any athlete who has progressed through the program should have the necessary knowledge and skills required for transition to an international team.

3.2 Exemption Process

In the case that an athlete seeks exemption from any of the above stated conditions of membership, the following process must be followed.

- The athlete must write a letter outlining the reasons as to why they believe they are eligible for exemption.
- The letter must be sent to Amy Hibbert (Para-athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator) at the following address;

Attention: Amy Hibbert

Athletics Australia, Athletics House,
Level 2, 31 Aughtie Drive,
Albert Park, Melbourne,
Victoria, 3206

- The Para-athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator in conjunction with other AA staff and program coaches where appropriate, will review the application.
- A decision will be made and the athlete will receive written communication of the decision via their nominated email account (to be detailed when completing athlete agreement).

In the case that exemption is not granted and the athlete fails to meet the condition in question, then the athlete may have their membership to the program revoked.

4.0 Program Framework for 2016

With the Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program now moving into its fourth year, one of our priorities is to ensure that we continue to develop the athletes that have come through the program from the start, as well as establish good foundations with athletes who are new to the squad.

The program for 2016 will include two squad training camps at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, ACT.

Dates include;

Camp 1 – Thursday 14th to Sunday 17th April (Junior Performance – Group 1)

Camp 2 – Thursday 12th to Sunday 15th May (Junior Development – Group 2)

The continuation of this program is dependent on the resources available to Athletics Australia.