

Athletics Australia



Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program 2018

A Para-athlete Development Pathway

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Aims

The aims of the 2018 Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program are:

- 1. To build identified para-athletes knowledge and understanding of the behaviors and commitment required to be an elite para-athlete.**
- 2. To provide an elite pathway opportunity promoting behaviors in the daily training environment that aids and enhances elite performance.**
- 3. To set up a network of support around identified para-athletes to assist in the transition from junior to senior para-athletics.**
- 4. To place junior para-athletes on the 2020 Paralympic Games & 2019 WPA Championships teams.**
- 5. To develop personal coaches' knowledge and understanding of an Elite Para-athletes training, pathway and daily training environment.**

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).

Contents

The remainder of this document is set out as follows:

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|------------|--------------------------|---|
| 1.0 | Eligibility | Eligibility requirements. |
| 2.0 | Selection | Criteria that will determine an athletes selection. |
| 3.0 | Membership | Conditions of membership to the program. |
| 4.0 | Program Framework | Outlines the program structure. |

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/event that will be contested at the 2020 Paralympic Games (and later at 2024).
- 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 WPA if internationally classified.

2.0 Selection

Identified athletes will 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 Classification/Event List
- Daily Training Environment
- Competition History
- Training & Sport Commitment
- Engagement With AA & SIS/SAS Network (Where Applicable) – Membership with SIS/SAS TTP
- Coaching Structure
- Classification Status
- WPA License Status
- World Rankings
- Strength & Depth Of Class
- International Representation Potential
- Previous involvement with Para-athletics Junior High Performance Program
- Personal Coaches availability

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 AMS (online athlete monitoring system), reporting of all competition performances and the submission of training/competition video analysis as requested by program coaches.
- 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 Steve Caddy (Para-athletics Junior High Performance Coordinator) at the following address;

Attention: Steve Caddy

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 2018

Since beginning the camp based development program in 2014, Athletics Australia, in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Sport and National Coaches, has invested in developing over thirty athletes in preparation for high performance para-athletics. Heading into its fifth consecutive year, the Para-athletic Junior High Performance program is looking to develop its newest cohort of young para-athletes to participate at the 2019 World Para Athletic Championships and 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games.

Para-athletes and their coaches selected for the 2018 squad will be invited to attend two camps focusing on a para-athletes' development and transition from junior to elite performance. Education and training will be provided for both athlete and personal coach by experienced staff and national coaches across a variety of faculties and disciplines. These camps will be an opportunity for the best young and developing para-athletes in the country to come together, train and learn in a high performance arena with access to high performance staff.

The program for 2018 will comprise of two squad training camps at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, ACT.

Dates for these camps are as follows:

Camp 1 – Thursday 19th to Sunday 22nd April (Personal Coaches invited)

Camp 2 – Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th October (Personal Coaches invited) - Tentative

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