



## NZOC SELECTION POLICY

### 2018 PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPIC 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 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games (“Games”).
- 1.2 **High Standard Maintained:** Performance in an Olympic Team represents the pinnacle of athletic achievement and the NZOC shall use this policy to ensure a high entry standard into the Games is maintained.
- 1.3 **Consistency:** This Policy is to be reflected in the nomination criteria to be adopted by each National Sports Organisation (“NSO 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 **NSO Agreement:** The process for nomination and selection for the Games Team is set out in the Agreement between the NSO and the NZOC (“NSO Agreement”) which will be available on the NZOC website at [www.olympic.org.nz](http://www.olympic.org.nz) prior to 30 September 2015. The NSO Agreement refers to and incorporates the NSO Nomination Criteria for the Games, to be agreed by the NZOC.

#### 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 Charter applicable to the Games, this Policy, the NSO Agreement, the NSO 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 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 alone or an event in which athletes compete

together in the event (for example as a pair, crew, or relay team), and which is not a "Team Event" as defined in this Policy.

- 3.3.2 Criteria: Any nominated athlete (or athletes in the case of a pair, crew or relay team) 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):

**Top 16**

- a. is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing in the Games in that Individual Event; and
- b. has have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games and will perform to the level specified in clause 3.3.2.a. in that Individual Event(s).

**or**

**Potential Top 16**

- c. If clause 3.3.3 applies, has or have the potential capability to achieve a top 16 placing in the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in that Individual Event; and
- d. has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates that the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in that Individual Event(s).

- 3.3.3 Discretion: The criteria in clause 3.3.2(c) and (d), shall only apply if the NZOC decides in its sole discretion that it can be included in an NSO's Nomination Criteria. Such decision, may only be made in rare circumstances, where:

- a. the NZOC considers that the level of competitiveness of the expected field of competitors in an Individual Event at the Games is likely to be the same or higher than the level of competitiveness of the expected field of competitors in the same Individual Event at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, and
- b. that such disparity would otherwise exclude the athlete(s) from being selected to compete in the Games.

- 3.3.4 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 NSO of 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. This evidence shall include the performance and results of the likely competitors in the Individual Event at the Games. An NSO seeking to apply the criteria in clause 3.3.2(c) and (d) in their NSO Nomination Criteria must make a written application to the NZOC with an explanation of the disparity that would arise, with detailed evidence of the expected fields of competitors, and their likely level of competitiveness, in an Individual Event at the Games compared to the same Individual Event at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

- 3.3.5 Performance Plan: In addition to the criteria set out in clause 3.3.2, the athlete must have a must have a defined performance plan outlining how the athlete will prepare to have a creditable performance at the Games and a track record

of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes, in its sole discretion, demonstrates the athlete will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably.

### 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) (“Team”) compete together in the game, race, heat or event of the following sports:

- Ice Hockey; or
- Curling.

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 capable of advancing beyond the first round of competition, or is capable of achieving a quarter-final placing; and
- b. the athletes in the nominated Team have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated Team will be competitive at the Games and will perform to the level specified in clause 3.4.2.a. in that Team Event.

3.4.3 **Evidence:** To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria for a Team Event(s) in clause 3.4.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NSO of the performances and results of the nominated Team, in the Key Events (see clause 3.5). This evidence shall include the performances and results of the likely competitor teams in the Team Event at the Games. This evidence may include, at the NZOC’s request, a performance plan and evidence on the progress of the athletes in the Team against their performance plans.

### 3.5 Key Events:

3.5.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, “Key Events” means international or continental events that have an equivalent field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games e.g. World Cups, World Championships and Oceania Championships (where the Oceania Championships form part of the IF qualification events). Where applicable, world rankings may be included as a benchmark performance indicator for selection.

3.5.2 **Determination:** The Key Events must be agreed to between the NSO and NZOC and be listed in the NSO Nomination Criteria. The Key Events must be held in within the 24 month period prior to the commencement of the Games or as otherwise agreed in the NSO Nomination Criteria.

## 4. Other Factors

4.1 **Good Example:** The selection of athletes or Teams into the Games Team may be based on not only the sports performance of the nominated athletes or Teams, but also on the athlete’s or Team’s ability to serve as an example to other sporting youth of New Zealand. Any actions of athletes or Teams that reflect badly upon or which have brought the NZOC or any Games sport into disrepute (or which has the potential to do so) can 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. NSO'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 Anti-Doping By-Law.

## **5. Additional Matters**

- 5.1 **Performance Programmes:** NSOs, in association with the Winter Performance Programme, must accept responsibility for ensuring that all athletes selected for the Games Team have clearly outlined and agreed programmes of preparation leading up to the Games and the NZOC may require evidence that these programmes are in place. It is a continuing condition of selection that all athletes selected for the Games team must adhere to their agreed programmes of preparation and must continue to seek to enhance their performance above their sport specific standards.
- 5.2 **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.
- 5.3 **Not Obligated:** The NZOC will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by the Olympic Winter 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.
- 5.4 **Selection Panel:** The NZOC have determined that the following individuals will act as selectors on its behalf under this Policy:
- Simon Wickham;
  - Tony Hall; and
  - Mike Kernaghan

- 5.5 **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 – 11 December 2014**