



## NZOC SELECTION POLICY

### THE BAHAMAS 2017 COMMONWEALTH YOUTH GAMES

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to set out the principles which the NZOC will apply in selecting its team (“Games Team”) to represent New Zealand at the Commonwealth Youth Games to be held in The Bahamas from 18 – 23 July 2017 (“Games”).
- 1.2 **High Entry Maintained:** Performance at the Games represents the pinnacle of youth achievement and this Policy reflects the need to ensure a high entry standard into the Games Team is maintained.
- 1.3 **NF Nomination Criteria:** 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](http://www.olympic.org.nz).

#### 3 Over-Riding 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 Commonwealth Games Federation Constitution and rules applicable to the Games, this Policy, the Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NF Nomination Criteria and any requirements 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 Teams Events respectively. This includes the criteria for Individual 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 **Quota:** The NZOC quota for individual athletes is 28, excluding Team Events and Beach Volleyball.
- 3.4 **Individual Events:**
- 3.4.1 **Definition:** For the purpose of this Policy, an “Individual Event” means an event in the Games in which an athlete competes either alone or in which up to a maximum of 5

athletes compete together in a game, race, heat or event, and which is not a “Team Event” as defined in this Policy.

3.4.2 Criteria: Any nominated athlete wishing to be selected for the Games Team in an Individual Event(s) must (in addition to the Other Factors set out in clause 4 of this Policy) demonstrate to the NZOC’s satisfaction that the nominated athlete or the nominated athletes collectively (in the case of a pair or other game, race, heat or event where more than one athlete competes together), will:

- have a high national ranking (e.g. top 3) or will have placed in the top 3 at the most recent National age group championships (in the age group and discipline that the athlete is seeking nomination for); and
- perform with distinction at the Games.

3.4.3 Evidence: The evidence (some of which will be in the form of official entry lists, starting lists and official results) to support this may include:

- whether the athlete has competed at a recognized international event for their sport finishing with a competitive result; and
- where applicable, whether the athlete has met the International Federation’s time or distance qualification; and
- whether the athlete has a programme developed and endorsed by the National Federation and/or HPSNZ to prepare them for the Games, and whether they are progressing to the agreed plan; and
- based on the above factors, the athlete’s likely ability to perform with distinction at the Games.

The National Federation shall be required to make a submission relating to their nominated athletes, outlining why the individual athlete would be a suitable candidate for the Games, the likelihood of the athlete to perform with distinction and the benefit to be gained by attending the Games for the sport and the athlete. National Federations nominating multiple athletes are required to make a submission for each athlete and to rank them in the National Federation’s order of preference for selection by the NZOC.

3.4.4 Quota: Should the total number of athlete nominations from National Federations for Individual Events exceed the allocated quota of 28 athletes, the NZOC Selection Panel will have the sole right to determine which athletes will be selected. The NZOC Selection Panel will take into consideration such factors as the National Federation’s ranking, universality for all NZ sports, gender balance, the likelihood of the athlete to perform with distinction and the benefit to be gained by attending the Games for the sport and athlete. Such determination will be at the sole discretion of the NZOC Selection Panel and may include input from, but not limited to, the National Federations, Sport NZ and/or HPSNZ.

### 3.5 Team Events:

3.5.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, a “Team Event” means an event in the Games in which a group of 6 or more athletes (including reserves or substitutes) (“Team”) compete together in the game, race, heat or event and where the Team can only win one medal in that Team Event (e.g. Beach Soccer, Rugby 7s).

3.5.2 **Criteria:** A Team wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC’s satisfaction that the Team will perform with distinction at the Games.

3.5.3 **Evidence:** The evidence (some of which will be in the form of official entry lists, starting lists and official results) to support this may include:

- whether the Team is nationally competitive. It is expected that the National Federation will be nominating a Team that will be comprised of individually and collectively the best athletes available for nomination in the applicable age group; and
- whether the Team has competed at a recognized international event for their sport finishing with a competitive result; and
- whether the Team’s National Federation has a well-developed High Performance Program with a senior team that is on track to reach the NZOC team performance criteria for the Commonwealth Games.

Where an National Federation is nominating both a men’s and women’s team, the National Federation shall rank the order in which the National Federation would like the teams to be selected – should only one team be selected by the NZOC.

### 3.6 Key Events

3.6.1 **Definition:** For the purposes of this Policy, “Key Events” means an international, continental or national competition which is a major or pinnacle event for the sport for athletes in the youth age groups and have an equivalent or higher field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games.

*Examples of “Key Events” include Youth World Cups, Youth World Championships, Youth Oceania Championships and Trans-Tasman Youth Championships.*

3.6.2 **Key Events:** The Key Events must be agreed between the National Federation and NZOC and be listed in the NF Nomination Criteria. Generally, the Key Events must be held within the 12 month period prior to the commencement of the Games or as otherwise agreed between the NZOC and the National Federation in the NF Nomination Criteria.

#### **4 Other Factors**

- 4.1 **Considerations:** 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 or Teams 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. National Federations 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 **Conduct:** 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 the Games Team environment.
- 4.4 **Anti-Doping Compliance:** The NZOC will only select nominated athletes to the Games Team who have fully complied with the NZOC Integrity Regulation – Part A Anti-Doping which is available on the NZOC website at [www.olympic.org.nz](http://www.olympic.org.nz).

#### **5 Additional Matters**

- 5.1 **Qualification:** The mere fact that a nominated athlete, group of athletes or Team has qualified a placing for an event at the Games or has been allocated a ranking by the National Federation will not guarantee selection of the nominated athlete, group of athletes or the Team into the Games Team.
- 5.2 **Acceptance of Quota Places:** The NZOC will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by the Commonwealth Games Federation (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.
- 5.3 **NZOC Selection Panel:** The NZOC have determined that the following individuals will act as selectors on its behalf under this Policy:
- **Tony Hall;**

- **Lesley Rumball; and**
- **Mike Kernaghan**

5.4 **Variation:** 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 – 21 July 2015**