

SWIMMING AUSTRALIA SELECTION GUIDELINES

1. Definitions and Interpretation

In these Selection Guidelines the following words have the corresponding meaning:

- (a) **Competition** means a sanctioned FINA, IOC or IPC competition for which a Team is selected to compete.
- (b) **CS, HP** means the SAL Chief Strategist, High Performance.
- (c) **Extenuating Circumstances** have the meaning outlined in **clause 6(c)** of these Selection Guidelines.
- (d) **FINA** means the Fédération Internationale de Natation.
- (e) **IOC** means the International Olympic Committee.
- (f) **IPC** means the International Paralympic Committee.
- (g) **NHC** means the SAL National Head Coach as appointed from time to time.
- (h) **Performance Requirements** mean the requirements to be met by an athlete in order to be considered for selection to a Team, as set out in the Selection Policy.
- (i) **Priority System** means the prioritisation system set out in **Appendix 1** of these Selection Guidelines.
- (j) **Qualifying Event** means the event referred to as such in the Selection Policy.
- (k) **Ranking System** means, where applicable, either the "FINA two-per-nation world-ranking system (excluding Australians)" or the "IPC three-per-nation world-ranking system (excluding Australians)" as set out in **Appendix 1** of these Selection Guidelines.
- (l) **Relay Athletes** mean, where applicable, those athletes selected to participate in relay events at a Competition in accordance with the Selection Policy.
- (m) **SAL** means Swimming Australia Limited.
- (n) **SAL Appeals Charter** means the SAL Appeals Charter, which documents the selection appeal process, as amended by SAL from time to time.
- (o) **SAL Qualifying Time** means the time for a particular event as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Selection Policy.
- (p) **SAL Selection Committee** means the selection Committee as appointed by SAL from time to time in accordance with the SAL Selection Committee Charter, which is available [here](#).
- (q) **Selection Guidelines** mean these Selection Guidelines as amended by SAL from time to time.
- (r) **Selection Policy** means the Selection Policy applicable for a specific Team adopted by SAL for selection of athletes as members of a particular Team.
- (s) **Swimmer** means the Swimmer Agreement to be signed by an athlete as provided by SAL.

- (t) **Team** means an Australian Swim Team selected by SAL to represent Australia at a Competition.
- (u) **Team Size** means the maximum permissible number of athletes entitled to be selected to a Team, as set out in the Selection Policy.

2. Background

- (a) SAL has established these Selection Guidelines to apply to the selection of athletes to all Teams, whether Able-Bodied, Paralympic or Open Water.
- (b) These Selection Guidelines are to be read and applied in conjunction with the applicable Selection Policy, which informs athletes as to specific eligibility criteria for that Team.
- (c) The Selection Guidelines and Selection Policy can each be amended at any time by SAL if SAL is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary for any of the following reasons:
 - (i) as a result of any change in Team eligibility criteria or rules;
 - (ii) as a result of any change in the rules governing the Competition or a particular event in the Competition;
 - (iii) to give effect to the Selection Guidelines or Selection Policy following a drafting error or oversight; or
 - (iv) to clarify any ambiguity or otherwise give effect to the intended meaning of the Selection Guidelines or Selection Policy.
- (d) SAL will publish amendments to the Selection Guidelines and/or Selection Policy, as the case may be, on its website, and those amendments shall take effect immediately. Otherwise, SAL shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

3. Team composition, size and rankings.

Team composition and size

- (a) The SAL Selection Committee will select the Team.
- (b) Neither these Selection Guidelines, the Selection Policy, nor SAL or FINA require SAL to select the maximum possible number of athletes to a Team.
- (c) Final Team members and composition of the Team are determined at the absolute discretion of the SAL Selection Committee as set out in these Selection Guidelines and the Selection Policy. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in these Selection Guidelines or the Selection Policy operate so as to require the SAL Selection Committee to select any athletes to the Team or fill all available positions on the Team.
- (d) For the avoidance of doubt, athletes selected to the Team in an individual event are also eligible to be, but are not automatically, selected for the Team for relay events in the Competition.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for selection in the Team for the Competition, an athlete must:

- (a) be an Australian citizen who is eligible to represent Australia at the Competition as per the FINA, IOC or IPC nationality requirements;
- (b) meet all eligibility rules, including any age requirements, imposed by FINA (if applicable);
- (c) meet the Performance Requirements applicable to the event in question;
- (d) be a registered member of, and in good standing with, SAL; and
- (e) for Para-specific events only, hold an active IPC Swimming Athlete License and eligible classification with 'Review' or 'Confirmed' sport class status for their selected class prior to the commencement of the Competition.

5. Athlete Selection Process and Criteria

The requirement or requirements to be met by an athlete in order to be considered for selection for different events at the Competition are as set out in the Selection Policy, and are subject at all times to adjustments to the Team due to:

- (a) the Team Size requirements as set out in the Selection Policy;
- (b) the Priority System and Ranking System; and
- (c) Extenuating Circumstances.

6. Extenuating Circumstances

- (a) Notwithstanding anything contained within the Selection Policy, the CS, HP may recommend to the SAL Selection Committee, and the SAL Selection Committee may make a change to the athletes selected to the Team for any event, due to Extenuating Circumstances preventing an athlete from otherwise meeting the Performance Requirements.
- (b) Only Extenuating Circumstances that prevent an athlete from meeting the Performance Requirements will be considered. In considering the performances of athletes at the Qualifying Event, the CS, HP at his/her absolute discretion, may recommend to the SAL Selection Committee that it gives weight to Extenuating Circumstances.
- (c) For the purposes of this Policy, "Extenuating Circumstances" means, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:
 - (i) injury or illness;
 - (ii) equipment failure;
 - (iii) travel delays;
 - (iv) bereavement or disability arising from death or serious illness of an immediate family member;
 - (v) an unanticipated event occurring at the Qualifying Event; or
 - (vi) any other factors reasonably considered by the CS, HP at his/her absolute discretion, to constitute Extenuating Circumstances.
- (d) A decision as to whether Extenuating Circumstances may apply to an athlete will be made by the SAL Selection Committee on an individual case by case basis.

7. Appeals

- (a) Subject to **clause 7(b)** of these Selection Guidelines, athletes may appeal their non-selection to the Team by the SAL Selection Committee. Appeals will be conducted in accordance with, and will be governed by, the procedures provided in the SAL Appeal Charter.
- (b) Decisions relating to the following under a Selection Policy are not subject to any right of appeal under the SAL Appeal Charter or otherwise:
 - (i) Relay Athletes;
 - (ii) Open Water Swim Individual 25km and mixed 5km team events;
 - (iii) athletes selected by the NHC to compete in an event at a Competition where only one or no athletes were selected to the Team for that individual event; and
 - (iv) athletes selected by the NHC to compete in non-Olympic events.

8. Withdrawal

Should an athlete withdraw from the Team following their selection to the Team, the CS, HP may, but is not required to, request that the SAL Selection Committee select a replacement athlete. The SAL Selection Committee may select any athlete at its absolute discretion provided the replacement athlete has met the relevant SAL Qualifying Time.

9. Team Membership

- (a) Athletes selected to a Team must sign a Swimmer Agreement to confirm their selection to that Team, and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of the Swimmer Agreement.
- (b) Athletes agree that the SAL Selection Committee may remove an athlete from the Team where one or more of the following occur:
 - (i) that athlete has not met SAL's requirements in relation to training and participation in training camps as required by SAL in its absolute discretion;
 - (ii) the SAL Selection Committee is not satisfied that the athlete is appropriately committed to training, and has both achieved and is maintaining an appropriate level of health and fitness to achieve their peak performance at the Competition;
 - (iii) that athlete has not completed, signed and returned to SAL the Swimmer Agreement, including any additional documents required to be completed under that agreement, as required by SAL; or
 - (iv) that athlete has not maintained the required level of compliance on the Athlete Management System in key categories determined and advised by SAL.

APPENDIX 1 - PRIORITY SYSTEM AND RANKING SYSTEM

PRIORITY SYSTEM

The Priority System operates as follows:

Introduction

1. During the relevant Qualifying Event, athletes who equal or beat:
 - (a) the SAL A Qualifying Time are to be **Priority 1 Athletes**; and
 - (b) the SAL B Qualifying Time but do not equal or beat the SAL A Qualifying Time are to be **Priority 2 Athletes**.
2. After the Qualifying Event, the number of Priority 1 Athletes and Priority 2 Athletes will be determined.
3. Where there is a reference to athletes being "ranked" in the Priority System, that ranking takes place in accordance with the priority ranking of the athletes as set out in the Ranking System section of this Appendix.

Selection

4. Where the number of Priority 1 Athletes is less than the Team Size:
 - (a) all Priority 1 Athletes are selected to the Team;
 - (b) the number of unfilled positions in the Team is determined (**Remaining Positions**), and the Remaining Positions are filled by the number of top-ranked Priority 2 Athletes which is equal to the Remaining Positions; and
 - (c) any remaining Priority 2 Athletes not selected in accordance with **item 4(b)** are not selected to the Team.
5. Where the number of Priority 1 Athletes is equal to the Team Size:
 - (a) all Priority 1 Athletes are selected to the Team; and
 - (b) no Priority 2 Athletes are selected to the Team.
6. Where the number of Priority 1 Athletes is greater than the Team Size:
 - (a) the number of top-ranked Priority 1 Athletes which is equal to the Team Size are selected to the Team; and
 - (b) no Priority 2 Athletes are selected to the Team.

Examples

7. **Example 1:** If the Team Size is 10 and there are 6 Priority 1 Athletes and 7 Priority 2 Athletes then:
 - (a) the 6 Priority 1 Athletes are selected to the Team;
 - (b) the Priority 2 Athletes are all ranked in accordance with the Ranking System; and
 - (c) the top 4-ranked Priority 2 Athletes are selected to the Team. The remaining 3 Priority 2 Athletes are not selected to the Team.

8. **Example 2:** If the Team Size is 10 and there are 12 Priority 1 Athletes and 7 Priority 2 Athletes then:
- (a) the Priority 1 Athletes are all ranked in accordance with the Ranking System;
 - (b) the top 10-ranked Priority 1 Athletes are selected to the Team. The remaining 2 Priority 1 Athletes are not selected to the Team; and
 - (c) the 7 Priority 2 Athletes are not selected to the Team.

RANKING SYSTEM

The "Swim Vortex" 2 per nation or IPC three-per-nation world-ranking system (excluding Australians) operate as follows. For the avoidance of doubt, the Ranking System does not apply to Open Water.

- 9. The Ranking System is used to give each Priority 1 Athlete and Priority 2 Athlete a ranking against each other athlete in that Priority. It allows athletes who compete in different events to be compared by determining who has a higher ranking in their particular event.
- 10. When ranking athletes, their time swum in the final of the applicable individual event at the Qualifying Event is used.
- 11. That athlete's time is ranked against everyone in the world (except Australians) for the previous full calendar year for that event.
- 12. The three-per-nation limit means that a maximum of three from a country can be ranked ahead of an athlete. For example, if an athlete is ranked 5th in the world based on the times considered at **item 11** above, but athletes 1-4 are all from the USA, that athlete's ranking will be 4 (not 5). That athlete will then have their world ranking for that event (**Event Rank**).
- 13. Where material to a selection (for example under **items 7(c)** and **8(a)** above), each athlete in the relevant Priority (ie either 1 or 2) is ranked in this manner and given their Event Rank.
- 14. The Event Rank of each athlete in the relevant Priority (ie either 1 or 2) is then compared with all athletes in the Priority (with the lower number for an Event Rank being the best) so that each athlete has a ranking in their priority (**Priority Ranking**).
- 15. The athletes selected to the Team will be the number of athletes, in order of Priority Ranking, that are equal to the number of positions to be filled. For example, if there were six positions to be filled, the top six-ranked athletes by Priority Ranking are selected to the Team.
- 16. Where two or more athletes have the same Event Rank, and that Event Rank is material to selection to the Team (for example if the number of positions to be filled is 10 and athletes with a Priority Ranking of 9-11 had the same Event Rank), then:
 - (a) for Able-Bodied athletes, the FINA Points Score; and
 - (b) for Paralympic athletes, the Multi-Class Point Score, is used to separate them in accordance with the Selection Policy.
- 17. If the tied athletes remain tied, then the tie will be broken in accordance with the procedure set down in the Selection Policy.