



This document sets out the guiding principles upon which selection decisions will be made for all Senior squads and teams between 2018 and 2020.

This document is not included in, nor does it form part of the documents governing selection to any PA team, namely the Selection Procedures Bylaw and applicable Selection Criteria Supplement.

Whilst it is designed to provide long term understanding of Paddle Australia's philosophy by which it will select its teams, there may be circumstances whereby the philosophy may need to be changed. These changes will be communicated.

Overall philosophy:

Paddle Australia has ambitious goals of winning medals at major International competitions, including the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. The selection of athletes who have demonstrated the ability to perform on the International stage and to ensure those Athletes compete in events that provide Australia with the best chance of achieving success in Tokyo is an important part of the high performance strategy. The intention is to provide a clear, transparent and consistent selection process that allows Athletes and Coaches to optimise their preparation to perform when it matters. Essentially the objective of selection is to ensure we select the right Athletes, to the right Events, to allow them to perform at the right Time.

Guiding Principles:

1. The World Championships and Olympic Games are the benchmark events (**BME**) to be contested in each year. These events are the pinnacle of the sport and will be used to benchmark Australia's performance against the rest of the World.
2. Minimum Performance Standards (**MPS**) have been recognised as important by PA and will form part of the selection process.
3. The principle objective of the High Performance Program is to win medals at major BME events.
4. Dependant on the ICF Olympic Qualification system for Tokyo, athletes may be selected for an Olympic qualification event in order to qualify a boat for the Olympic Games. This will only apply if an Australian Athlete has demonstrated the ability to reach the required Minimum Performance Standard at the Olympic Games.
5. World Cup competitions are second tier events with two main purposes:
 - (a) Competition Preparation: competition used to adequately prepare athletes to peak for BMEs each year. They may be used to improve the competition specific conditioning of athletes through racing and assess an athlete's progress against international competitors.

- (b) Competition Experience: competition used to adequately prepare 'performing' but lesser experienced athletes to higher competition levels (particularly in the first two years of the quadrennial cycle)
6. To be clear, the distinguishing factor between BME events and World Cups events are that athletes selected to compete in BME events should be aiming to be at their peak physical and mental condition, whilst World Cups are an opportunity to improve competition readiness and/or competition experience.
 7. Prioritisation of resources and funding will be directed towards Olympic discipline events and through the AWE Athlete categorisation criteria.
 8. Paddle Australia is not obliged to fill the required number of quota positions for BME or World Cup events if, according to the principles above, there is no valid or required reason to do so.
 9. All athletes should be exposed to an appropriate standard and quantity of competition that is commensurate with their athletic maturation. Whilst it is important and beneficial to expose developing athletes to a certain amount of high level competition, athletes will be required to meet minimum performance standards at domestic selection events to ensure they are internationally competitive.
 10. Paddle Australia will be aiming to fill all available Olympic Games quota positions. Nevertheless, all selections will be subject to the achievement of Minimum Performance Standards.
 11. Athletes may be selected to compete in more than one event.
 12. PA is of the belief that outstanding results in major international competition is a strong determinant for future success and will be recognised as important by PA and will form part of the selection process.
 13. PA recognises that there may be extenuating circumstances that may prevent an athlete from meeting the selection requirements, and PA reserves the right to recognise specific instances where this may be taken into account.
 14. The requirement for excellent planning and commitment by athletes and their coaches is paramount to achieving the programs outcomes. To be eligible for selection and funding, athletes will need to have an IPP in place each year.
 15. Athletes, and all stakeholders, should understand that this Philosophy Statement does not form part of the selection criteria for the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cups or any other selection event. It has been produced as a guide to understanding the rationale behind selection decisions.