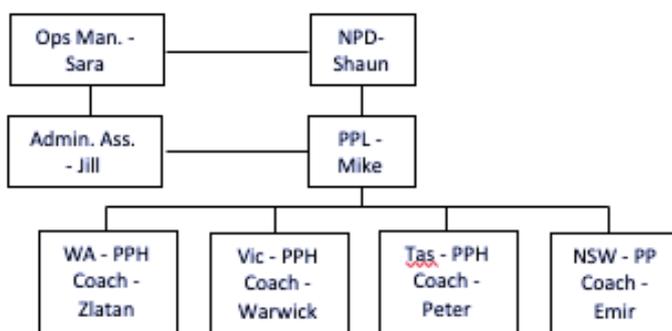


The Canoe Slalom Pathway's program continues to grow and evolve. 2018 has seen a significant increase in resources (both human and financial) invested in to the pathway's area. Nevertheless, funding is still tight and with increased investment comes increased accountability and we must ensure the investment is targeted towards areas that will have the biggest impact.

Coaching and access to a quality training environment are two areas that are worthy of increased investment. Moving forward we need to ensure our best developing athletes receive access to the best coaching on a regular basis. This pathway's update provides some clarity on the national direction the Paddle Australia Pathway's program is heading...

**1. SLALOM PATHWAY'S ROLE CLARITY:**

To support the Pathway's program achieve its objectives, the following structure will be implemented:



**Mike Druce: Performance Pathway's Lead:**

To provide overall leadership to the Pathway's program and Performance Pathway Hub Coaches. This position is part-time and is largely hands on travelling the country coaching the coaches and assisting coach within each Performance Hub's identified activities. Mike will lead the coaching at the NDS camps.

**Jill Bassett: Administration Assistant:**

Jill will support Sara in providing administrative assistance to the pathway's program and in particular any NDS camps activities.

**Emir Mujcinovic: Performance Pathway Coach:**

Emir is principally responsible for driving all pathway activities within Penrith. He also has a role of assisting the National program in coaching any identified Developing or Emerging athletes located and/or visiting Penrith. This role has the potential to become quite diverse and requires careful planning and communication for any athletes visiting Penrith who require coaching.

**Performance Pathway Hub Coaches: (Warwick Draper, Zlatan Ibrahimbegovic and Peter Eckhardt):**

To support all development activities within an identified performance hub area. It is an expectation that activities will support the national pathway's direction which promotes the identification and development of athletes committed to high performance. Whilst one of the aims of the role is to increase participation at Junior Nationals, the principle objective is towards high performance outcomes and not solely on participation. There is an expectation to identify local talent through innovative local initiatives as well as provide local coaching within the daily training environment as well as during state and national development camps and nationals events.

## **2. IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE PATHWAY HUB COACHES WITHIN WA, VIC, TAS AND NSW.**

Effective immediately, Paddle Australia have identified and contracted one coach within each identified performance hub area to become the Performance Pathway's Hub Coach for that region. That coach will be directly engaged by Paddle Australia and be responsible for implementing coach activities within their area as well as supporting athletes from their State at National events.

Each coach will have key performance indicators that ongoing funding will be determined by. These will include but not limited to:

- i) Increasing participation levels at Junior Nationals
- ii) Representation of athletes on the National Development Squad (NDS) and Junior Teams
- iii) Key person to communicate with for all development related enquiries (Athletes, coaches and parents within each state to communicate through the performance pathway hub coach).

Paddle Australia will provide additional funding to the State Sporting Organisation and/or Club to support the coordination of Development activities within each State. Such activities may include: additional coaching, coordination of the program, state development camps, equipment requirements and/or assistance with transport to National Development camps.

## **3. REALIGN THE NATIONAL TALENT SQUAD (NTS)**

The National Talent Squad will be renamed the National Development Squad (NDS) for the purpose of aligning to our objective of 'developing' athletes as opposed to relying on talent individuals. Hence, with this name change, comes a shift to the program.

First, the selection process to enter the program will incorporate a skills assessment. Hence, we will no longer rely on athlete's performance at a single competition but will also require athletes to perform a skills assessment to be part of the program. Importantly, this highlights the importance of skills within their development. Individual feedback will be provided to each athlete. Performance Pathway Hub coaches will play a critical role in identifying suitable athletes as well as ensure they are continuing to develop the necessary skills.

Second, a national calendar of NDS camps and activities will be published well in advance. These camps will be supported by National Coaches and identified Performance Pathway Hub coaches. Camps (approx. 3-4 per year) will run at various locations and will all be coordinated and organised by Paddle Australia high performance program and locally supported by the Performance Pathway Hub coach if located within their State. These camps will be subsidised by the national program.

Finally, the expectations and requirements of the NDS will increase to focus on athletes who demonstrate the commitment and willingness to train towards the goal of being a high performance athlete. Athletes who fail to commit to these minimum requirements will not receive the benefits associated with being a member of the program.

## **4. INCREASED WATER ACCESS IN PENRITH**

With the assistance of NSWIS we are fortunate to receive increased access to whitewater in Penrith. We will be offering access to 'Development sessions' in Penrith for identified developing athletes. There should be no expectation for developing athletes to access 'NCE' sessions. In addition to this additional water, we are looking at creating opportunities for 'Club Development' water access during identified weekends throughout the year.

***If any developing athletes, coaches, parents or interested parties have any queries, please contact your identified Pathway's Hub Coach.***