
Paddle Australia's (PA) - Canoe Sprint **National Talent Squad (NTS)** aims to provide ongoing support for athletes selected as members of the 2019, Under 16 and Junior (U18) National Teams.

The NTS initiative aims to assist in athlete preparation towards a higher international performance, through provision of coaching expertise, training opportunities, performance support, athlete education, and exposure to high performance environments and practices.

Canoe Sprint NTS athletes may at times benefit from a range of activities including:

- Paddling sessions/clinics/camps with State Institute and Academy of Sport coaches and squads, National Centre of Excellence (NCE) coaches and squads + National Team Coaches.
- International competition and tour support.
- Domestic camp support – athletes identified in national teams and squads.
- Personal Excellence athlete development workshops.
- Introduction and access to Strength and Conditioning and ongoing support which may include programs and lifting technique reviews and evaluation.
- Introduction and exposure to high performance training procedures and additional sports science and sports medicine (SSSM) support.

Squad members:

All under 18 and under 16 athletes selected as members of the 2019 Asia Pacific Sprint Cup Team will automatically qualify as members of the NTS. (*refer to 2019 Canoe Sprint Asia Pacific Sprint Cup Team Policy*)

- 2019, U18 National Team athletes (born 2001) are supported as NTS athletes up to and including completion of their final international event as an U18 athlete (Junior World Championships or Asia Pacific Sprint Cup). At this point it is expected these athletes will transition into PA's High-Performance Pathway.
- Any U18/U16 team athlete still eligible for U18/U16 competition in the following year (2020) will remain as members of the NTS until the 2020 Canoe Sprint National Championships, at which point the new NTS squad will be announced.

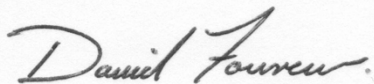
Discretionary Squad members:

PA's Canoe Sprint, National Pathways Lead (NPL), at their absolute discretion, may include additional athletes to the NTS.

- There is no obligation to include additional Athletes

- In considering Athletes for inclusion, the NPL, may without limitation consider any factor, or combination of factors that is, in their opinion, relevant for consideration when determining whether to include an athlete. The NPL may consider, but is not required to consider, any one or combination of the following factors (in no specific order of importance or weighting):
 - performances in the most recent domestic season, including 2019 Grand Prix 2 and National Championships;
 - demonstrated continual performance improvement over the last 12 months;
 - recent performances in relation to the Junior International Performance Standards.
 - demonstrated commitment to training over the past 12 months and be aiming towards National Junior Team selection in the future.
 - current athlete injury/illness or condition which may impair an Athlete's performance.

ANNOUNCEMENT of the National Talent Squad will be made as soon as practicable after the conclusion of the 2019 Canoe Sprint National Championships.



David Foureur
National Pathways Lead - Canoe Sprint