

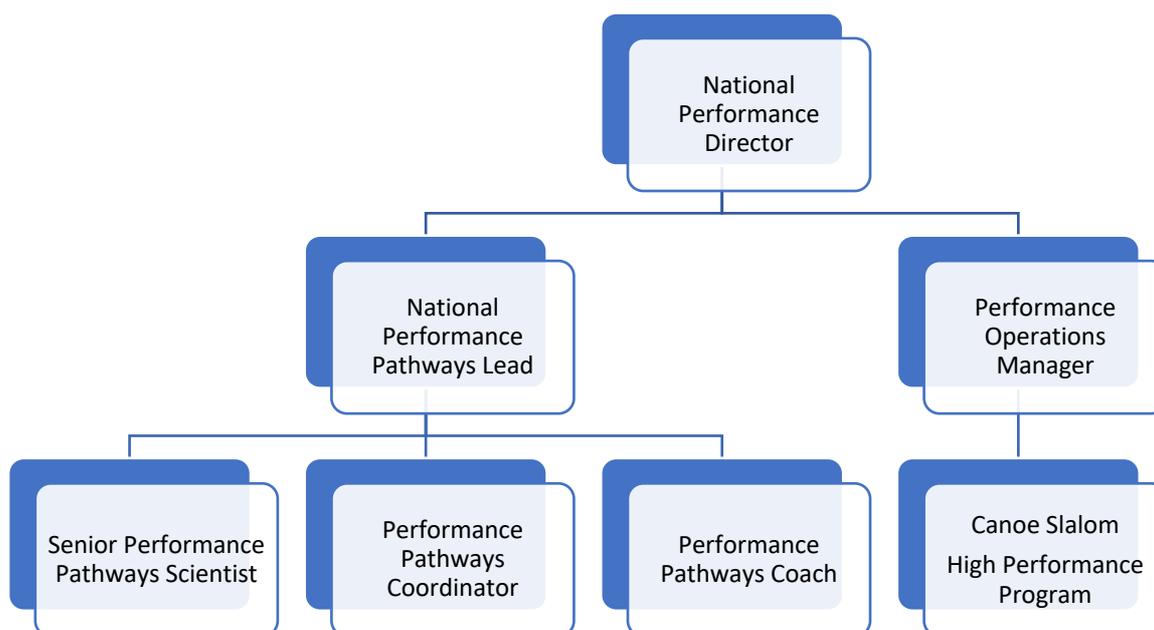
The Canoe Slalom Performance Pathway’s program continues to grow and evolve. Since 2018 the program has seen a significant increase in resources (both human and financial) invested into the pathway’s area. Nevertheless, funding is still tight and with increased investment comes increased accountability 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 is to provide some clarity on the staffing and national direction the Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Performance Pathway’s program is heading.

SLALOM PERFORMANCE PATHWAY’S ROLE CLARITY:

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



PERFORMANCE PATHWAY’S LEAD:

To provide overall leadership to the Performance Pathway’s program and Performance Pathway Hubs.

This position is largely hands on travelling the country assisting coaches within each Performance Hub’s identified activities.

- Focus strategic direction
- Work with stakeholders AIS/PWS/SIS/SAS
- Planning of international & domestic camps

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY'S COORDINATOR:

Jill Bassett will support the Performance Pathway's lead in providing administrative and coordination assistance to the pathway's program.

Jill will manage the logistics and communications for any NDS, NES & Academy camps activities while assisting the Performance Operations Manager with the coordination of the JNR/U23 World Championship Team Tour.

Jill will also be acting at the Team Manager for the JNR/U23 World Championships Tour.

The performance pathways coordinator will also work with the key pathway contacts in each state to assist the performance pathway lead and coach.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY COACH:

Titouan Dupras is principally responsible for the Academy program and athletes, while driving all performance pathway activities within Penrith.

He also has a role of assisting the National program in coaching any identified performance pathway athletes categorised as Developing or Emerging 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.

SENIOR PERFORMANCE PATHWAYS SCIENTIST

Based in Qld, Nicola Bullock is joining the Canoe Slalom Performance Pathways Program and work across both Canoe Slalom & Canoe Sprint.

Nicola will primarily be responsible for developing and implementing a world-leading talent ID, transfer and performance pathway for developing athletes.

Working with national performance pathway leads I will establish, implement and manage sport specific protocols for the purpose of identifying, monitoring and tracking developing pathways and talent transfer and ID athletes from across the country.

PERFORMANCE PATHWAY HUBS

Identified Performance Pathway Hubs are supported by the Performance Pathways Program to create activities that identify and develop canoe slalom paddlers for

It is an expectation that activities will support the national performance pathway's direction which promotes the identification and development of athletes committed to high performance.

The aims of the hubs is to provide quality coaching, training and competition opportunities to identified performance pathway athletes through establishing State Development Squads to increase participation at Junior Nationals.

The main 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.

IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE PATHWAY HUBS WA, VIC, TAS, NSW AND QLD.

Effective immediately, Paddle Australia have identified key persons within each identified performance hub area to become the Performance Pathway's Hub contact for that region. That contact will be directly engaged with their State Canoe Slalom Technical committee, Slalom clubs and coaches and be responsible for implementing coached training and competition activities within their area as well as providing coaching supporting for their identified athletes from their State at National events.

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

- i) Improve Athlete Recruitment and Talent Identification & Retention
- ii) Increased Coach Development & Recruitment
- iii) High quality coached, development opportunities of identified state performance pathway athletes

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.

THE NATIONAL SQUADS PROGRAM

Athletes, identified within the performance pathway through categorisation must demonstrate the potential to contribute to future medal success over the next 8yr or 12yr Olympic cycles.

NATIONAL PERFORMANCE ACADEMY (NPA)

The primary aim of the newly established National Performance Academy squad is to support young developing athletes between 17 and 23 years who have demonstrated high performance potential to reach international performance levels that would make them eligible for selection to the NCE.

The Squad will be selected based on the Athlete Categorisation criteria (Developing level) which is largely determined through a combination of International and Domestic results with consideration of performance standard percentages, demonstrable talent, commitment, physical and mental aptitude.

The Academy is largely a camps-based program providing domestic and international training and competition opportunities with high quality coaching. The Academy will create a learning environment and exposure to higher levels of training and competition to assist the transition into the NCE squad.

With a 6-9 year (LA28 Cycle) horizon, the NPA Squad will largely be for U23 athletes categorised as Developing who demonstrate the potential to contribute to medal success. The squad will have exposure to both NCE and Development training sessions (including whitewater and coaching), whilst in Penrith. Extended domestic and international camp opportunities will also be supported to provide identified athletes with increased exposure to high level training and competition.

NATIONAL EMERGING SQUAD

The aim of the NES is to provide targeted training camps with high level coaches to improve technique and experience of identified development level athletes aged U21.

The Squad will be selected based on the Athlete Categorisation criteria (Emerging level) which is largely determined through a combination of International and Domestic results with consideration of performance standard percentages, demonstrable talent, potential, commitment, physical and mental aptitude.

The Squad is a camps-based program with monitoring of training throughout the year. The objective is to enhance the foundations for skills, attitude, and physical development to move up to the NPA.

The NES Squad, which has a 9-12 year horizon and is focussed on athletes who are U21, will have access to domestic camps, along with a Performance Pathway Coach whilst in Penrith during prearranged times in the season.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD (NDS)

The aim of the NDS is to identify U21 athletes who narrowly miss being categorised but are identified as having the potential to progress to NES. It will largely be a self-funded squad who will be provided some development opportunities focussed on building the required foundation skills, experience and education towards being a high performance athlete.

The State performance pathway coaches will be principally responsible for supporting these athletes in their daily training environments as well as during domestic camps and competitions.

Domestic camps as well as access to Development sessions in Penrith during prearranged times in the season will be made available.

Selection will be largely based on domestic performances, standardised physical assessment, along with coach assessment of potential, skills, commitment and attitude.

CANOE SLALOM RECOVERY PLAN

The purpose of this Canoe Slalom Recovery Plan (Plan) is to highlight some the challenges faced in the development of canoe slalom in Australia and to identify initiatives that may assist in overcoming some of the challenges faced by the discipline.

The development of the Plan, to date, is the result of consultation between the Paddle Australia Canoe Slalom Technical Committee (PACSLTC), the Paddle Australia High Performance Team (HP), the Paddle Australia Executive and feedback from the broader Australian canoe slalom community.

INCREASED WATER ACCESS IN PENRITH

Penrith Whitewater Stadium (PWS) is the only Olympic standard whitewater facility in Australia. There is frustration and discontent within the community stemming from the difficulties in accessing water at PWS.

ACCESS TO OTHER WHITEWATER VENUES

Whilst PWS is recognised as being an important whitewater facility for the performance pathway athletes, the sport should and needs to encourage access to alternate whitewater venues for all levels of participants. Development camps will still be held at various whitewater venues across Australia and Age Nationals and Nationals will continue to include suitable alternate venues across Australia.

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE OF HIGH PERFORMANCE

With high performance having a large 'footprint' within the sport and access to whitewater being extremely limited, especially for those athletes who do not fall within the current performance pathway, there is a cohort of paddlers who wish to be actively involved in the sport but are unable to access whitewater and coaching.

The 'All States Program' (ASP) is an initiative established to address this problem and provide valuable opportunities for new paddlers as well as older paddlers who sit outside of the performance pathway. It is largely a self-funded program for athletes, administered through volunteers with an interest in this area.

If any Performance Pathway athletes, coaches, parents or interested parties have any queries, please contact the Performance Operations Manager at this time.