



AUSTRALIAN BIATHLON

Athlete Categorisation

Nomination Guidelines

1. Background

These guidelines outline the minimum performance criteria established for the respective athlete categories for which athletes will be considered, together with the process for the allocation of athletes to these categories.

As prescribed by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), athlete categorisation is a national framework to identify athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia's high performance targets. Athlete categorisation will be used to inform the prioritisation of support to these athletes in support of these targets.

The support provided to an athlete as a result of the categorisation process enables athletes to pursue a commitment to performance excellence. Importantly, to be prioritised for support an athlete must demonstrate potential for future success – past results alone will not ensure support.

2. Overview of Athlete Categories

The Athlete Categories consist of seven levels as follows::

Category	Description
Podium	Athlete who either has IBU Qualifying Points (IBUQP) of no more than 30 OR has had a medal performance at a World Cup, World Championship or OWG event (BME) in the previous 24 months and is considered capable of a medal at the next BME.
Podium Ready	Athlete who either has IBU Qualifying Points (IBUQP) of no more than 80 OR has placed in the top half at the most recent World Cup, World Championship or OWG event (BME) AND is considered capable of progressing to Podium in the next two years
Podium Potential	Athlete who has IBU Qualifying Points (IBUQP) of no more than 150 AND earns quota places for and competes at BME* AND is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Ready in the next two years.
Developing	Athlete who either has IBU Qualifying Points (IBUQP) of no more than 200 OR Finishes in Top half at the most recent JWCH event AND is considered capable of progressing to at least Podium Potential in the next two years.
Emerging	Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Developing in the next two years.
Other Category	Description
International	Athlete who does not satisfy any of the <i>Podium Pathway</i> category criteria but has earned selection for the Australian Biathlon National Team.
Commonwealth Gold	Athlete who does not fit into the categories above but is considered capable of a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games. (Not applicable to Australian Biathlon)

3. Australian Biathlon Talent Pathway

Australian Biathlon's High Performance Talent Pathway approaches the talent pipeline with the objective to include all aspects of athlete development. The Pathway aims to ensure athletes and coaches are exposed to the full continuum of development along the Foundation-Talent-Emerging-Mastery (**FTEM**) Talent Pathway Model, as outlined below.

To ensure Pathway programs are tailored appropriately to the local environment, pathway programs are delivered through multiple mechanisms that are development focused and include the Branch/Region/School structure. The primary delivery mechanism for High Performance athletes is via Australian Biathlon's High Performance Camps in Australia and Europe.

Australian Biathlon National Talent Pathway - Athlete Categories and Criteria

FTEM	Category	Level	Description	Maximum IBUQP*	Alternative Criteria
Mastery	Podium	M1	ABNT* member, Podium at BME*	30	Finishes in Top half at BME* and has podiumed in the last 24 months
Elite	Podium ready	E2	ABNT* member, Finishes in Top half at BME*	80	Has Finished in Top half at BME* and is considered capable of a podium finish within the next 2 years
	Podium Potential	E1	ABNT* member competing at BME*	150	Earns quota places for and competes at BME* and is considered capable of progressing to 'podium ready' within the next 2 years
Talent	Developing	T4	ABNT* member OR ABDT* member Team)	200	Competes at IBU Cup races to achieve the IBUQP criteria OR Finishes in Top half at JWCH* and is considered capable of progressing to 'podium potential' within the next 2 years
	Emerging	T3	Junior (U22) ABDT Team		Finishes within 15% of the top 2 at Australian Selection Races
		T2	Youth (U19 and U17)		Finishes within 15% of the top 2 at Australian Selection Races
		T1	U17, U15 and U13		Enjoys the sport of Biathlon and participates at fun biathlon races, may compete at National and State Championships and may attend National Development Camps and ABA European training camps.
Foundation		F3	Laser: Any age Small-bore: over 12		Enjoys participation at ABA development programs and competition at fun biathlon races including laser biathlon at the AUS national and state championships.
		F2	Laser: Any age Small-bore: over 12		Introduction to laser biathlon and cross country skiing through ABA's Come-And-Try events, as well as developmentally appropriate programs within Branch/Regions and Schools.
		F1	Laser: Any age Small-bore: over 12		Learning and acquiring the basic foundations of biathlon through snow play, target games like archery, free cross country skiing and enjoys off-snow fundamental movement skills.

Note*: refer Glossary

4. Eligibility

In order to be considered for categorisation, and in turn receive support, athletes must comply with the following criteria:

- Satisfy the following eligibility requirements from Section 1.1 of the Australian Biathlon Selection Policy:
 - a. be an Australian citizen;
 - b. be a current financial member of AB;
 - c. be a member of AB in good standing;
 - d. own their own rifle;
 - e. (not applicable)
 - f. have observed and continue to observe the provisions of the ABA Constitution, its by-laws and all resolutions made by the AB Board;
 - g. at all times have acted in such a manner so as not to bring the athlete, the sport of biathlon or AB into disrepute
 - h. be at least 16 years of age as at 31 December 2021;
 - i. have undergone medical assessment in accordance with AB requirements;
 - j. have signed the current AB Athlete Agreement;
 - k. have completed ASADA on-line e-learning courses in compliance with AB's Anti-Doping Education Plan and provide a 2020 ASADA certificate of completion;
- Be bound by Australian Biathlon's Athlete Agreement which, inter alia, includes agreement to comply with:
 - Australian Biathlon's Code of Conduct;
 - Australian Biathlon's Policies, including:
 - Member Protection Policy;
 - Child Safe Policy; and
 - Anti-Doping Policy.
- Maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia or seeking to represent Australia;
- Complete all medical screening requirements;
- Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence;
- Be actively training towards and seeking selection for the relevant BME;
- Be available to represent Australia in international competition.

5. Athlete Support

In order to ensure appropriate support to categorised athletes, as well as ensuring maximisation of performances at BME's, consideration has been given to the number of athletes that can be supported within the Athlete Categorisation process.

The number of athletes who may receive funding support is generally limited. Priority will be determined based upon athletes' current performance level and/or assessed future potential.

Again, note that the provision of services is subject to available resources. The membership of a particular category does not automatically entitle an athlete to receive support, and athletes within the same category may not receive the same level of support.

6. Categorisation Review Periods

The categorisation of athletes will be subject to ongoing reviews. Membership of the program will be formally reviewed twice per year, at which time athletes may be added, removed or moved to a different category.

System Wide Semi Annual Review – the complete athlete list will be reviewed on two occasions throughout the year. The first review is conducted prior to the domestic winter season. This review is based on performance in a BME.

The second system wide review is considered following the selection of National Teams and prior to the commencement of the Northern Hemisphere Winter. This review refers to both performances at BME's and at the Selection Races in the domestic Winter.

7. Process

Athlete categorisation shall be determined by Australian Biathlon's Selection Committee appointed in accordance with Australian Biathlon's Selection Policy.

8. Glossary of Terms

Benchmark Events (BME)	<p>In the case of M1, E2 and E1 athletes, means in any year the IBU World Cup, IBU World Championships and Olympic Winter Games events.</p> <p>In the case of Junior (U22) T4 Athletes, means in any year the Junior World Championships (JWCH) events (not Youth World Championships).</p>
IBU Qualifying Points (IBUQP)	<p>IBU Q Points awarded to an athlete in a race at IBU World Cup (WC), IBU World Championships (WCH), Olympic Winter Games (OWG). Open European Championships (OECH) or IBU Cup level race.</p> <p>The IBU publishes to the National Federations at the end of each Trimester a list of athletes and their IBU Cup Points calculated as the average the athletes best three race results achieved over the last three Trimesters, refer to the IBU Event and Competition Rules section 1.5.3.5 for the complete description of how this is determined. This is the primary reference for personal qualification criteria for entry into World Cup, World Championships and Olympic Winter Games events as described in the IBU Event and Competition Rules section 1.5.3.1 to 1.5.3.3 and is the basis of IBU Q Points referred to in these guidelines</p>
ABNT	Australian Biathlon National Team, generally over 22
ABDT	Australian Biathlon Development Team, generally under 22
AB or ABA	Australian Biathlon Association Inc
Quota Places	<p>To be able to compete at a World Cup, World Championships and Olympic Winter Games events athletes have to meet the personal qualification standard as well as the National Federation having a quota place to allocate to them.</p> <p>The IBU makes available a number of 'wildcard' quota places for those nations who do not already have a quota allocation by virtue of their World Cup Nations Cup ranking.</p>

	<p>The IBU specifies the allocation of 'wildcard' quota places for World Cup and World Championships in the IBU Event and Competition Rules sections 15.6.1 and 12.6.1.1.1 respectively. For the Olympic Winter Games the IOC and IBU jointly publish a 'Qualification system' prior to the Games that specifies the detail of the quota place allocation method.</p> <p>Australia does not have a quota allocation for either Men or Women in World Cup or World Championships and is unlikely to have one for the 2022 Beijing OWG, accordingly no athlete will be able to compete at World Cup, Olympic Winter Games or World Championships without first earning a quota place for Australia, this requires a significantly higher standard of performance than just meeting the personal qualification standard.</p>
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