



# BADMINTON AUSTRALIA POLICY

<b>Title:</b>	Badminton Australia Para Badminton Athlete Framework Policy
<b>Type of Policy</b>	Operational Policy
<b>Last Review Date:</b>	February 2024
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	June 2025
<b>Responsible Person:</b>	CEO
<b>Authority</b>	This Policy is approved by the Badminton Australia CEO
<b>Related Policies Documents:</b>	Badminton Australia Selection Policy

## INTRODUCTION

Badminton Australia (**BA**) is committed to supporting athletes through the performance pathway and this document provides a framework aligned with the AIS development pathway.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the arrangements for assessing athletes on the pathway and implementing aligned support.

## ATHLETE CATEGORISATION

The National Athlete Categorisation Framework (NACF) has been developed to provide a consistent basis, both within and across sports to:

- Identify the athletes with the greatest potential to contribute to Australia consistently winning medals at major international events;
- Inform the prioritization of support to these athletes; and
- Track their performance over time.

THE NACF will be used by the National Institute Network (NIN) and National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) to inform planning and prioritise support to Australian athletes to consistently win medals at major international events, in line with the [2023+ HP Sport Strategy](#).

## 2024

### EMERGING

#### Entry Criteria – Player Profile

- Age band: 23 years of age or younger, and
- Capable of progression to Developing Level generally within 3 years aligned with the 'Badminton Future Success Indicators' Framework.

#### AND

#### Entry Criteria – Performance

- Have been selected for the Australian World Junior Team Championships and/or Oceania Junior Team Championships.

#### OR

- In contention for World Junior Team Selection. Athletes named as 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> reserves and capable of being selected for World Junior Championships and/or Oceania Junior Championships within the next 12 months.

#### OR

- Athletes aged 18-23 that are part of the Senior Falcons program and who have shown significant results and progress at National level and against their Individual Performance Plan.
- Athlete ages 18-23 averaging a world ranking of top 175 in singles or top 125 in doubles over the categorisation period.

Performances at International tournaments, National Championships, and Open State Title events will be considered holistically by the Badminton Australia Selectors Panel, including progress against individual performance plans, and evaluated when categorizing athletes.

### DEVELOPING

#### Entry Criteria – Player Profile

- Age band: 26 years of age or younger for singles and average age of 26 years or younger for doubles.
- Capable of progression to Podium Potential Level within the next 2 years aligned with the 'Badminton Future Success Indicators' Framework.

#### AND

#### Entry Criteria – Performance

- Averaging a World ranking of Top 80 in singles or Top 50 in doubles over the categorisation period.

Performance will be considered holistically, including progress against individual performance plans, and evaluated when categorizing athletes.

## PODIUM POTENTIAL

### Entry Criteria - Player Profile

- Age band: 28 years of age or younger for singles and average age of 28 years or younger for doubles.
- Capable of progression to Podium Ready Level within the next 2 years aligned with the 'Badminton Future Success Indicators' Framework.

**AND**

### Entry Criteria - Performance

- Averaging a World ranking of Top 35 in singles or Top 25 in doubles over the categorisation period.

Performance will be considered holistically, including progress against individual performance plans, and evaluated when categorizing athletes.

## PODIUM- READY

### Entry Criteria - Player Profile

- Athletes have placed 4-8th at the most recent Olympic Games/World Championships OR by exception an agreed equivalent alternative (ie an objective, data verified performance or World Ranking) AND must be assessed against the 'Badminton Future Success Indicators' Framework'.

**AND**

- Capable of progression to Podium Level, targeting a medal at the next Olympic Games.

### Entry Criteria – Performance

- Averaging a World ranking of Top 20 in singles or doubles over the categorisation period.

Performance will be considered holistically, including progress against individual performance plans, and evaluated when categorizing athletes.

## PODIUM

### Entry Criteria - Player Profile / Performance

- Athletes have won a medal at an Olympic, World Championships or by exception an agreed alternative event in the previous 24 months AND must be assessed against the 'Badminton Future Success Indicators' Framework'.

**AND**

- as being capable to win a medal at the next Olympic Games.

Performance will be considered holistically, including progress against individual performance plans, and evaluated when categorizing athletes.

**TABLE A: Badminton Future Success Indicators – Selection Committee Profiling Tool**

Trait	Red (1)	Amber (2)	Green (3)	Gold (4)
<b>Performance Profile</b>	Has stayed at the same performance level for 2+ years	Has not progressed performance in the last season, but engagement has been good	Some progression has been made and outlook is positive,	Good, consistent progression which will support movement to next categorisation level
<b>Performance Under Pressure</b>	Can perform well in localised events	Performs below expected levels at key events	Performs well under pressure in key events	Consistently performs at, or close to, their best at major championships
<b>Daily Performance Environment</b>	Athlete and coach show no engagement with BA or PA programs	Athlete and coach demonstrate minimal engagement with BA or PA programs	Athlete is strongly engaged in BA or PA programs, but coach is not.	Athlete and coach have been heavily involved in BA or PA programs program and aligned to BA performance pathway strategies
<b>Physiological capability</b>	Physical performance benchmarks have dropped off in the past 12-months	Physical performance benchmarks have stagnated in the past 12-months	Physical performance benchmarks are showing small improvements in the past 12-months	Significant progress across physical performance benchmarks in the past 12-months
<b>Technical capability</b>	Displays poor technical and tactical skills	Developing better technical, tactical skills and is open to personal development	Noticeable improvement in outcome of technical skills and tactics	Technically, tactically strong being able to consistently perform shots when under pressure
<b>Coach</b>	Poorly engaged coach, who is unable to deliver an annual plan and is uninterested in personal development	Coach demonstrates minimal engagement, but is able to offer an annual plan and gaps to podium analysis	Engaged coach with willingness to learn and develop and provides detailed and evidence-based plan	Highly engaged coach with willingness to learn and develop and provides detailed and evidence-based plan with strong track record of developing athletes
<b>Physical and mental well being</b>	Athlete is regularly ill/injured, frequently missing training and/or competitions	Athlete has recently suffered a major injury, with question marks remaining over their capacity to return to performance	Athlete has recently suffered a major injury but is progressing rehabilitation well. Athlete is otherwise rarely ill/injured	Athlete is rarely ill/injured, and rarely suffers injury recurrences
<b>Training History</b>	Athlete has a long and well-established training history and has minimal room to improve	Athlete has a sporadic training history and may struggle to train at the required frequencies and volumes required for elite performance.	Athlete has a decent training history, with sufficient evidence that they can tolerate the loads required for HP training	Athlete has a consistent training history which is evident in the level of fitness and performance in key matches
<b>National Coach Appraisal</b>	National Coach does not believe athlete is demonstrating performance levels indicative of future performance potential	National Coach believes that, whilst the athlete's performance is currently impressive, there is limited scope for improvement.	National Coach believes athlete has potential to succeed, but is unsure about coach	National Coach believes athlete has potential to succeed, and believes current coach is able to best develop this potential
<b>Performance Lifestyle</b>	Athlete is unsettled, has major transition periods coming up, and is struggling to balance work/study and sport.	Athlete is in a fairly settled routine, but generally struggles to balance work/study with sport.	Athlete is in a fairly settled routine but has some major transition periods coming up. Generally appropriate balance between work/study and sport	Athlete is in a settled routine, with minimal upcoming disruptions, and appropriate balance with work/study

## CATEGORISATION PANEL

The panel for athlete categorisation will consist of:

- BA National Head Coach
- BA National Performance Manager
- BA National Assistant Head Coach
- BA Independent Selectors x 2
- BA Independent Chair of the Selectors Panel

The selection panel may consider any matter in relation to any athlete under consideration for discretionary nomination.

## REVIEW DATES

### Process and timeframes

- a) The panel will meet annually at the beginning of June.
- b) At this time, athletes may be added, removed, or moved to a different category.
- c) Athletes will remain in an Athlete Category until such time as they are moved or removed.
- d) Athletes must continue to demonstrate progression and improvement in areas of performance that shall be identified in their IPP. Athletes who fail to progress may be removed from the Athlete Categories at the sole discretion of the selection panel.
- e) The panel may at its discretion, request a review of an athlete at other times (e.g. following an event or if an athlete is not actively training or demonstrating the required commitment levels as determined by BA.
- f) Athletes will be informed in writing if they have been removed from the pathway and/or re- categorised.

## APPEALS

If a player does not agree with the Selection Panel decision, they may seek a review by the following means:

- a) Appeals must be lodged in writing with the Selection Panel within 48 hours of the official announcement of the selection.
- b) Appeals must be accompanied by an endorsement letter on an official club letterhead by a Club Owner/President/General Manager. The cost to appeal is \$100.00 payable in advance (refunded if appeal is successful)
- c) Appeals can only be lodged if athlete feels they have been overlooked for selection according to the selection requirements.
- d) A review decision will be made within 7 days.
- e) If still not satisfied with the processes of selection, an appeal can be made in writing to the CEO. The CEO will consider the information provided by the appellant and the Selection panel and respond within 7 days.
- f) If still not satisfied, an independent appeals body will be formed consisting of any three from the following: past BA Presidents (past); or past BA Board Members; or other person approved by the BA CEO
- g) The cost to appeal to an independent body is \$200.00 (refunded if appeal is successful). The Appeals Committee will make a decision as soon as possible.
- h) The decision of the Appeals Committee is final.
- i) Note: All members of this appeals committee must be independent of the issue at hand.

## **ASSOCIATED POLICIES**

BA and the AIS recognise athletes who are identified as contributing to the performance outcomes of the sport at the next pinnacle event (Olympic & Paralympic Games) where one of the following may apply:

- a) An athlete is recovering from major injury or illness.
- b) An athlete is taking time away from competition.
- c) An athlete is transitioning into a sport from another;
- d) An athlete is pregnant; or
- e) An athlete is transitioning out of competitive sport (retirement or non-selection resulting in non- categorisation)

### **a) Athletes recovering from major injury or illness**

BA and the AIS recognise that an athlete may still be a contributor to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event despite suffering/recovering from a major injury or illness.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, and therefore eligible for dAIS (Direct Athlete Investment Scheme) nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Pre-injury/illness the athlete is categorised AND was receiving dAIS support;
- Has an individual athlete performance plan with a return to competition focus and timeframes outlined – including working with the AW&E team member (BA National Performance Pathway Manager).
- Is meeting the requirements of the agreed rehabilitation plan; and
- Is tracking against rehabilitation benchmarks to achieve pre-injury/illness performance outcomes.

### **b) Athletes taking time away from competition**

BA and the AIS recognise that on occasion, to contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event, an athlete may require some time away from competition for family, health and/or wellbeing reasons.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to taking some time away, the athlete is categorised AND was receiving dAIS support in the past 12 months.
- Has an individual athlete performance plan focusing on maintaining physical and mental wellbeing as it aligns to the sports needs and performance standards.
- Has an agreed return to sport and competition plan including timeframes and regular pre-determined meetings scheduled with the sport PD (or equivalent); and
- Maintains contact with BA National Performance Pathway Manager on a regular basis to ensure athletes are focussed on maintaining their wellbeing.

### **c) Athlete transitioning into a sport from another**

BA and the AIS recognise that on occasion, high performing athletes may transition into a sport from another with the expectation they will contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event of the new sport. Usually, a high performing athlete would only transition into a new sport if there was a strong likelihood of success.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should be identified within the NEW sport, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- The athlete was categorised in the previous sport in the past 24 months.
- Has an individual athlete performance plan focusing on contributing to the national performance targets at the pinnacle event within a 4-year period; and
- The athlete has an individual performance plan with the new sport, agreed milestones and is meeting progression targets.

#### **d) Athletes who are pregnant**

BA and the AIS recognise that athletes may take some time away from intense training and competition when they become pregnant or have recently given birth. These athletes may still be on track to contribute to national performance targets at the next pinnacle event.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category should still be identified, and therefore eligible for dAIS nomination, if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to becoming pregnant, the athlete was categorised AND was receiving dAIS support in the past 12 months.
- Has an individual athlete performance plan focusing on maintaining physical and mental wellbeing as it aligns to the sports needs and informed by specific medical advice as it relates to pregnancy.
- Has an agreed return to sport and competition plan including timeframes and regular pre-determined meetings scheduled with the sport PD (or equivalent); and
- Maintains contact with BA National Performance Pathway Manager on a regular basis to ensure athletes are focussed on maintaining their overall wellbeing.

#### **e) Athletes who are transitioning out of competitive sport (retirement or non-selection resulting in non-categorisation).**

Athletes in this category, with a history of contributing to sport outcomes, may be eligible for half an allocation of dAIS on the recommendation of BA.

It is recommended that athletes who fall into this category may still be eligible for dAIS for a period of 6 months if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- Prior to transitioning out of competitive sport, the athlete was categorised as podium, podium ready or podium potential AND be receiving dAIS support in the past 12 months.
- The athlete has developed a transition plan with a member of the sport specific AW&E team (or equivalent) and meets regularly focusing on maintaining their wellbeing during the transition; and
- BA may require that the athlete contributes to the sport in a specific way as part of being nominated for dAIS e.g., speaking at camps, promo material for upcoming events, inclusion in formal or informal mentoring programs, developing a plan to transition to sport specific coaching/administration/support services etc.