



NZOC SELECTION POLICY

MILANO CORTINA 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

1. Introduction

- 1.1 **Purpose:** The purpose of this Policy is to set out the principles and process which the New Zealand Olympic Committee (“NZOC”) will apply when selecting its team (“Games Team”) to represent New Zealand at the XXV Olympic Winter Games to be held in Milano and Cortina, Italy between 6 to 22 February 2026 (“Games”).
- 1.2 **High Selection Standard:** The Games represents the pinnacle of athletic achievement and the NZOC shall use this Policy to ensure a high selection standard into the Games Team is maintained.
- 1.3 **Consistency:** This Policy is to be reflected in the nomination criteria to be adopted by each National Federation (“NF Nomination Criteria”) for all athletes wishing to be considered for nomination to the Games Team to compete in the Games.

2. The Process

- 2.1 **NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation:** The process for nomination and selection for the Games Team is set out in the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation which is available on the NZOC website at www.olympic.org.nz.

3. Overarching Selection Criteria

- 3.1 **Eligibility:** Any nominated athlete who wishes to be considered for selection to the Games Team must meet all eligibility requirements set out in the International Olympic Committee Charter applicable to the Games, this Policy, the NZOC Nomination and Selection Regulation, the NF Nomination Criteria for the Games and any requirements of the International Federation (“IF”) of the sport.
- 3.2 **Criteria:** The NZOC will consider all eligible nominated athletes for selection in the Games Team against the criteria set out in this Policy for Individual Events and Team Event set out below as well as the Other Factors listed in clause 4. The NZOC in its sole discretion shall decide whether an athlete or athletes satisfy the definition of an Individual Event or a Team Event.
- 3.3 **Individual Events:**
 - 3.3.1 **Definition:** For the purpose of this Policy, an “Individual Event” means an event in the Games in which an athlete competes alone or together with other athletes together in the event (for example as a pair), and which is not a “Team Event” as defined in this Policy.

3.3.2 Criteria: Any nominated athlete(s) seeking to be selected for the Games Team in an Individual Event(s) must demonstrate to the NZOC's satisfaction that the nominated athlete(s):

- a. is or are competing in an Individual Event where a quota place at the Games has been qualified in accordance with the IF Qualification System; and
- b. is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing in the Games in that Individual Event, with the potential to win an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing); and
- c. has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive at the Games and will perform to the level specified in clause 3.3.2.b. in that Individual Event(s).

3.3.3 Additional Circumstances: In considering the performance of nominated athlete(s) at Key Events, the NZOC may, in its sole discretion, waive its criteria in clause 3.3.2.b and 3.3.2.c, where a quota place has been qualified at the Games in accordance with the IF Qualification System, but where no athlete has met the criteria in clause 3.3.2.b and 3.3.2.c, to take into account athletes who have demonstrated to the NZOC's satisfaction, they are capable of achieving an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing) in an Individual Event at the 2030 Olympic Winter Games, provided they have a strong record of international competition of such quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated athlete(s) will be competitive in the Individual Event at the Games.

3.3.4 Evidence: To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria by nominated athletes for Individual Events in clause 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NF of the nominated athlete's performances and results in Key Events (see clause 3.5) in the Individual Event(s) at which they seek to be selected for the Games. This evidence shall include the performance and results of the likely competitors in the Individual Event at the Games.

3.3.5 Performance Plan: In addition to the criteria set out in clause 3.3.2 and 3.3.3, whichever is relevant, the athlete must have a defined performance plan outlining how the athlete will prepare to have a creditable performance at the Games or be competitive at the Games, as relevant.

3.4 **Team Events:**

3.4.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, a "Team Event" means an event at the Games in which a group of athletes, including reserves or substitutes, if relevant ("Team") compete together in the game or event in the following:

- Men's Curling
- Women's Curling
- Men's Ice Hockey
- Women's Ice Hockey
- Mixed Team Parallel, Alpine Skiing

3.4.2 Criteria: A Team wishing to be selected for the Games Team must demonstrate to the NZOC's satisfaction that:

- a. the nominated Team has qualified a team place at the Games in accordance with the IF Qualification System; and
- b. the nominated Team is capable of advancing beyond the first round of competition or is capable of achieving a top eight placing where there are no quarter finals; and
- c. all athletes available and eligible to compete in the nominated Team at the Games are an equal or higher standard and quality to the athletes who comprised the Team during qualification; and
- d. the athletes in the nominated Team have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that the NZOC believes demonstrates the nominated Team will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably.

3.4.3 Evidence: To demonstrate satisfaction of the criteria for a Team Event in clause 3.4.2 above, satisfactory evidence must be produced to the NZOC by the NF of the performances and results of the nominated Team, in the Key Events (see clause 3.5). This evidence shall include the performances and results of the likely competitor teams in the Team Event at the Games. This evidence may include, at the NZOC's request, a performance plan and evidence on the progress of the athletes in the Team against their performance plans.

3.5 **Key Events:**

3.5.1 Definition: For the purposes of this Policy, "Key Events" means international events that have an equivalent field of competitors to that which is likely to occur at the Games e.g. World Cups or World Championships. Where applicable, world rankings may be included as a benchmark performance indicator for selection.

3.5.2 Determination: The Key Events must be agreed to between the NF and NZOC and be listed in the NF Nomination Criteria. The Key Events must be held within the 24-month period prior to the commencement of the Games or as otherwise agreed in the NF Nomination Criteria.

4. Other Factors

4.1 **Behaviour**: The selection of athletes or Teams into the Games Team will primarily be based on the sports performance of the nominated athletes or Teams. However, the Selection Panel may also take into consideration any actions of athletes or Teams that may reflect badly upon or which have brought the NZOC or any Games' sport into disrepute (or which has the potential to do so) when assessing the suitability of any athlete or Teams to be selected by the NZOC for the Games Team.

4.2 **Extenuating Circumstances**: In considering the performance of nominated athletes at Key

Events, the NZOC may in its sole discretion take into account extenuating circumstances and therefore waive or vary some or all of its criteria. NFs must supply detailed evidence to support consideration of extenuating circumstances under this clause. For the purpose of this Policy, "extenuating circumstances" means the inability of an athlete or Team to compete or perform to an optimum level due to factors such as:

- a. injury or illness of an athlete;
- b. equipment failure;
- c. travel delays;
- d. bereavement or personal misfortune; or
- e. such other circumstances as the selectors reasonably consider constitute "extenuating circumstances".

4.3 **Team Environment:** The Games Team must operate as a harmonious and constructive unit and the NZOC may therefore also take into consideration any history of ability (or inability) of any athlete to function appropriately in a team environment.

4.4 **Anti-Doping:** The NZOC will only select nominated athletes to the Games Team who have fully complied with the NZOC's Integrity Regulation which is available on the NZOC website at www.olympic.org.nz.

5. Additional Matters

5.1 **Qualification:** Notwithstanding clauses 3.3.2.a, 3.3.3 and 3.4.2.a, the fact that a nominated athlete or Team has qualified a placing for an event at the Games will not guarantee selection of the nominated athlete or the Team into the Games Team.

5.2 **Not Obligated:** The NZOC will not be obliged to accept places in the Games offered by an IF and/or Olympic Winter Games Organising Committee (e.g. universality places, quota places or invitation places). Any such acceptance will be solely at the discretion of the NZOC and in accordance with this Policy.

5.3 **Selection Panel:** The NZOC have determined that the following individuals will act as selectors on its behalf under this Policy:

- Annette Purvis
- Mike Kernaghan
- Tim Slyfield

5.4 **Right to Amend:** The Board of NZOC reserves the right to amend this Policy from time to time in its sole discretion, where it considers there is a genuine and reasonable need to do so.

5.5 **Variation:** Any variation to the adherence to this Policy is at the sole discretion of the Board of NZOC.

Approved by the NZOC Board – 16 February 2023