

SA ATHLETE CATEGORISATION PERFORMANCE CRITERIA 2020 - 2024

Athlete Category		Description
1	AIS	<i>Athletes have won a medal at an Olympic/Paralympic Games, World Championships or agreed BME in the previous 24 months and must be considered capable of winning a medal at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games</i>
	SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An athlete who medalled in an Olympic or Paralympic event (individual or as a relay team member), at a World Championships (Long Course), Olympics or Paralympics in the previous 18 months (inclusive of 2 benchmark events). <p>And has a demonstrated medal trajectory towards the next international benchmark event (Olympics, Paralympics, or World Long Course Championships)</p>
2	AIS	<i>Athlete who have placed 4-8th at the most recent Olympic/Paralympic Games, World Championships or agreed BME and must be considered capable of progression to PODIUM level and targeting a medal at the next Olympic/Paralympic Games.</i>
	SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Pool athlete (Individual or relay team member), who placed 4th – 8th in Olympic event, at a World Championships (Long Course) or Olympics in the previous 18 months (most recent benchmark event). An Open Water athlete that placed 4th – 10th in the 10km race at a World Championships or Olympics in the previous 18 months (most recent benchmark event) A Para athlete (Individual or relay team member), who placed 4th or 5th in a Paralympic event at a World Championships or Paralympics in the previous 18 months (most recent benchmark event). <p>And has demonstrated medal performance trajectory at the next BME</p>
	AIS	<i>Athlete who has achieved agreed performance benchmarks which, alongside international competition performances, reliably indicate their future potential for podium success. Athletes must be considered capable of progression to at least PODIUM READY level within the agreed sport specific matrix timeframes.</i>
3	AIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Olympic or Para athlete that could progress to a final or medal performance at the next Senior BME or has done so within the last 12 months. An Open Water athlete who finishes in the top 10 of the 5km Open Water Race at the most recent World Championships or 11th – 20th in the 10km Race at a World Championship or Olympics in the previous 18 Months (most recent Benchmark Event). <p>And demonstrated team qualification trajectory when it matters at designated competitions (not limited to but may include; Commonwealth Games, World Junior Championships and World University Games) within the last 12 months</p>
	SA	
4	AIS	<i>Athletes have progressed through a reliable confirmation phase and placed within a dedicated national development program. Athlete must be considered capable of progression to at least PODIUM POTENTIAL level within the agreed sport matrix timeframes.</i>
	SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Pool athlete who has not been selected onto the current senior BME but has demonstrated a team qualification trajectory in the last 24 months. A member of the SA Youth Transition Squad The highest placed male and female finishers in the 10km event at the annual Open Water benchmark qualifier event that did not qualify for the benchmark team and/or an Open Water Benchmark team member that doesn't meet the requirements of levels 1, 2 or 3 and has demonstrated a team qualification trajectory in the last 24 months. A Para athlete that is a member of current SA National Para Development Squad.
	AIS	
5	AIS	<i>Athletes that have been identified by an NSO via a valid and reliable TID profiling method (Agreed in advance and with future podium potential characteristics identified) and are going through a set time-limited period of talent confirmation.</i>
	SA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Junior pool Benchmark Team member who has swum a time at the Junior Benchmark Event that is equivalent of Top 8 in the World at the most recent senior Benchmark Event plus 5%, demonstrated individual assessment progression and favorable technical/tactical race analysis comparison against World best benchmarks. A Junior Open Water Benchmark Team Member who places in the top 20 at the Junior Benchmark Event