

# **Rowing New Zealand (RNZ) Elite Development Squad Policy**

## **Philosophy**

In keeping with Rowing New Zealand's purpose to 'Guide and support our people to achieve repeatable and sustainable medal winning performances on the world stage, which inspire New Zealand', RNZ may operate a training squad of athletes (the Elite Development Squad) during the domestic rowing season.

The purpose of the Elite Development Squad is to assist medallists (U23 World Championships events) and other high performing athletes to meet the objectives of RNZ as expressed in the purpose statement.

## **Process**

Invitations to join the Elite Development Squad will be issued by the 'Elite Development Squad Committee' (EDC) which is comprised of the Elite Selectors and the Convenor of the U23 Selection Panel. In determining which athletes shall be invited into the Elite Development Squad the EDC shall have due regard to the resources available to RNZ to provide a proper training regime including, but not limited to, its ability to provide financial, coaching and logistical support to those athletes.

The Elite Development Squad is not a New Zealand representative rowing team. An invitation to join the Elite Development Squad does not constitute national selection nor confer any such status on an athlete.

## **Priority**

Subject to adequate resources being available invitations to join the Elite Development Squad shall be issued (along with the Summer Squad selection), within 10 days (or as soon as is practical) after the Elite pinnacle international event (Elite World Championships or Olympics) each year in the following order:

**1<sup>st</sup> priority** - Athletes that have medalled in an Olympic event at the recent U23 World Championships

**2<sup>nd</sup> priority**- Such other athletes as the EDC shall determine having due regard to the Olympic and International aspirations of RNZ

As a pre-requisite to an invitation as a 2<sup>nd</sup> priority athlete, an athlete may be required to participate in, or complete certain selection tests as prescribed by RNZ from time to time.

In considering whether an athlete should be invited into the Elite Development Squad under the 2<sup>nd</sup> priority, the EDC shall have the right to make both objective and subjective assessments and to weight each assessment on a case-by-case basis without in any way creating any form of precedent relevant to the determination of any later case. The assessments or the criteria that may be taken into account by the EDC include those set out in clauses 13.1 and 13.2 of the RNZ Selection Policy (generally upon the same terms but with necessary alterations to fit the context hereof – i.e. "mutatis mutandi").

Decisions of the EDC shall be subject to review upon the same terms as those set out in clause 7 of the Terms of Reference for the Elite and U23 Selection Panel (mutatis mutandi).

## **Elite Development Squad Start Date ("the starting date")**

The starting date for the Elite Development Squad will be determined by the GM Performance and will be advertised not less than three (3) months in advance.

In exceptional circumstances, the GM Performance shall have authority to grant an athlete a variation to the starting date.

### **Training Venue**

Athletes shall be based at and undertake training out of the RNZ High Performance Centre at Lake Karapiro.

### **Athlete Support**

1. Athletes may be entitled to receive TAPs (from 1 January 2022) based on their results from U23 World Championships or by recommendation of RNZ in accordance with the HPSNZ Athlete entitlement or agreement.
2. Subject to availability of funding, athletes may be entitled to receive a Non-TAP training grant from RNZ (at a level to be determined by RNZ) from the starting date through to the end of the athlete's respective trial the following year.

### **General Terms**

1. Elite Development Squad athletes are not employees of RNZ and must sign an Athletes Agreement within a month of the starting date.
2. Elite Development Squad athletes shall at all times comply with the terms of their RNZ Athlete Agreement in order to maintain eligibility for inclusion in the Elite Development Squad and for support under this policy.
3. Elite Development Squad athletes shall be personally responsible for payment of any NZ Government Taxes or other levies for which they are liable.
4. The ability of RNZ to provide funding or other support in terms of this policy is dependent upon and therefore subject to the receipt of funding from external agencies such as HPSNZ.
5. RNZ reserves the right to amend this policy from time to time as circumstances may dictate. The current policy will be published on RNZ website at all times.
6. Failure to be invited into the Elite Development Squad does not preclude an athlete from being selected to attend an Elite or Under 23 trial provided the athlete has met the "Selection Guidelines".
7. Notwithstanding the starting date, an athlete in contention for invitation to the Elite Development Squad is expected to resume their own personal training approximately three weeks after the conclusion of the U23 World Championships, other pinnacle events, or at the direction of the GM Performance.
8. The granting by the GM Performance of any exception or variation as provided in this policy shall be on "a case by case basis "without creating any form of precedent relevant to the determination of any other case.

### **Appeals**

An athlete may lodge an appeal against a decision of the EDC with the GM Performance within twenty-four (24) hours of announcement of the Elite Development Squad. Any such appeal shall be on the same terms as those set out in clauses 18, 19 and 20 of the RNZ Selection Policy except that Grounds for Appeal, clause 19.2, shall not apply to this Policy, but otherwise mutatis mutandi.

---

Chairperson

---

Date