Rowing New Zealand Incorporated (RNZ)

Summer Squad Policy

Philosophy

Rowing New Zealand (RNZ) wishes to ensure that at every Olympic Games, New Zealand is "A World Leading Rowing Nation – on and off the water". To support this, RNZ may operate a training squad of athletes (the Summer Squad) during the domestic rowing season.

The purpose of the Summer Squad is to assist medallists (Olympic events) and other high performing athletes to meet the objectives of RNZ as expressed in the purpose statement.

Process

Invitations to join the Summer Squad will be issued by the Elite Selection Panel (ESP). In determining which athletes shall be invited into the Summer Squad, the ESP 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 Summer Squad is not a New Zealand representative rowing team. An invitation to join the Summer 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 Summer Squad shall be issued within 15 days of the conclusion of the U23 World Championships/Pathway Assessment Regatta (whichever is later).

1st priority -

Elite – High Performance	Evidence
Athletes who have demonstrated realistic medal-winning capabilities and are refining performances for podium success at the pinnacle event/s in this cycle	The athlete has achieved multiple podium performances at Olympic Games /Paralympic Games / World Championships AND shows evidence of progression against RNZ's Picture of Performance towards a podium at the Olympic Games/ Paralympic Games in this cycle

2nd priority- Potential – High Performance	Evidence
Athletes who have demonstrated performance progression, showing high potential of a Top 6 placing at the Pinnacle Event/s in this cycle and/or potential to medal at the pinnacle event/s in the next cycle	The athlete has demonstrated performance progression (at agreed international events and against RNZ's Picture of Performance) tracking towards a Top 6 placing at the Olympic Games/Paralympic Games this cycle AND tracking towards a podium at the Olympic Games/Paralympic Games next cycle

3rd priority - Athletes who have demonstrated the attributes, ambition, and attitude required to achieve a Top 8 placing at the pinnacle event/s this cycle and such other athletes as the ESP shall determine having due regard to the Olympic and International aspirations of RNZ

As a prerequisite to an invitation as a 3rd 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 Summer Squad under the 3rd priority, the ESP 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 ESP 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 ESP shall be subject to review upon the same terms as those set out in clause 7 of the Terms of Reference for the Elite Selection Panel (mutatis mutandi).

Summer Squad Start Date ("the starting date")

The official starting date for the Summer Squad will be determined by the General Manager Performance (GMP) and will normally be approximately four weeks after the conclusion of the Elite World Championship, although this date may vary in an Olympic year. In any event, the GMP will advise the starting date not less than three (3) months in advance.

In exceptional circumstances, the GMP shall have the 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.

The GMP may grant an exception to this requirement in the year immediately post an Olympic Games. Such an exception would most likely be available to athletes that have competed at 2 or more Olympic Games and a minimum medal performance at the latest.

Athlete Support

1. Athletes will receive financial support as per their Athlete Agreement based on their results from World Championships or Olympic Games in accordance with the HPSNZ Tailored Athlete Pathway Support (TAPS) Programme.
2. Subject to availability of funding, athletes may be entitled to receive a RNZ training grant (at a level to be determined by RNZ) from the starting date as per their Athlete Agreement.

3. Summer Squad athletes are not employees of RNZ and must sign an Athletes Agreement within a month of the starting date.
4. Summer Squad athletes shall at all times comply with the terms of their RNZ Athlete Agreement in order to maintain eligibility for inclusion in the Summer Squad and for support under this policy.
5. 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
6. 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.
7. Failure to be invited into the Summer 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".
8. The granting by the GMP 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.