

Rowing New Zealand (RNZ) Summer 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 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 'Summer Squad Committee' (SSC) which is comprised of the Elite Selection Panel. In determining which athletes shall be invited into the Summer Squad the SSC 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 10 days (or as soon as practical) after the Elite pinnacle international event (World Championships or Olympics) each year in the following order:

1st priority - Athletes that have medalled in an Olympic event at the recent Elite World Championship or Olympic Games

2nd priority- Athletes that have made the 'A' final in an Olympic event at the recent Elite World Championships or Olympic Games

3rd priority - Such other athletes as the SSC shall determine having due regard to the Olympic and International aspirations of RNZ

As a pre-requisite 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 SSC 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 SSC include those set out in clauses 14.1 and 14.2 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 SSC 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 starting date for the Summer Squad will be determined by the GM Performance and will normally be approximately three weeks after the conclusion of the Elite World Championship, although this date may vary in an Olympic year. In any event, the starting date will be advertised not less than three (3) months in advance.

RNZ Summer Squad Policy - September 2023 - changes to update clauses and dates – September 2023 updated clauses to reflect changes to other policies.

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.

The GM Performance 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 had 7 or more continuous years of training at the RNZ High Performance Centre.

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 Athlete entitlement or agreement.
2. Subject to availability of funding, athletes may be entitled to receive a 'Non-TAPs' training grant from RNZ (at a level to be determined by RNZ) from the starting date through to the end of the Elite trial the following year.

General Terms

1. Summer Squad athletes are not employees of RNZ and must sign an Athletes Agreement within a month of the starting date.
2. 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.
3. Summer 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 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".
7. 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 SSC with the GM Performance within twenty-four (24) hours of announcement of the Summer Squad. Any such appeal shall be on the same terms as those set out in clauses 19, 20 and 21 of the RNZ Selection Policy except that Grounds for Appeal, clause 20.2, shall not apply to this Policy, but otherwise mutatis mutandi.

Chairperson

Date