

## Athletics NZ Statement 2019 White Singlet Opportunities for Track & Field Athletes

There will be two white singlet opportunities for track & field athletes in 2019. They are:

- 1) Oceania Area Championships, Townsville, Australia, 25-28 June
- 2) Pacific Games, Apia, Samoa, 15-20 July

Below are the key facts and supplementary information about both competitions to help athletes make an informed decision about whether to apply for one or both.

### **2019 Pacific Games (“2019 PGs”)**

- The 2019 PGs provides an opportunity for Senior age group athletes, or emerging U18 and U20 athletes who wish to compete at a senior level. It will also provide an opportunity for Para athletes (albeit in only 4 events).
- The New Zealand Olympic Committee (“NZOC”) will manage the New Zealand team to the 2018 PGs in Samoa.
- Athletes who apply for this team will be bound by an Athletics NZ Selection Policy. This is different to previous NZOC-managed teams, which were bound by an Athletics NZ Nomination Criteria. While athletes will still have to follow the usual NZOC process by joining a long list and completing tasks, there won’t be a nomination process prior to selection.
- The Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”) have set a maximum of 20 athletics entries from New Zealand.
- The compulsory trial is the Athletics NZ Track and Field Championships, 8 – 10 March in Christchurch.
- Athletes need to complete an “Application for NZOC Long List” by **Wednesday 5 December** to be eligible for selection. There will be no extensions to this date. **If you are not on the Long List, you will not be eligible.**
- NZ has only been invited to a restricted number of events. These are outlined in the Selection Policy.

### **2019 Oceania Area and Combined Events Championships (“2019 OACs”)**

- The 2019 OACs provides an opportunity for U18, U20 and Senior age groups, as well as Para athletes.
- There will be a compulsory trial held at both the Athletics NZ Track and Field Championships, 8 – 10 March, in Christchurch and the Athletics NZ Combined Event Championships.
- Performance Standards for U18 and U20 athletes will not be set for the 2019 OACs. Rather, a team of up to eight (8) Men and eight (8) Women for each age group will be selected to compete in individual events. Priority consideration for selection will be given to those U18 and U20 athletes that win the relevant age group individual event at the compulsory trial/s.
- We acknowledge that the standard of competition at the 2019 OACs will be higher than that of the 2019 PGs and therefore have reflected this in the Athletics NZ Performance Standards.

### **Things to Consider**

- **Priority Selection for HP Athletes Targeting the 2019 IAAF World Championships.** Athletics NZ will be using both the OACs and the PGs as an opportunity for athletes identified by the High Performance Director to qualify for this World Championships and these athletes will be given priority consideration for selection, thereby reducing the number of quota slots available for other athletes in these two competitions.
- **The Difference in Performance Standards.** The Performance Standards outlined in the 2019 PGs Selection Policy are more lenient than those in the 2019 OACs Selection Policy. Thereby, the PGs offers a “back-up” opportunity to make a team for those athletes who either don’t make the Oceania Area Champs team, or don’t meet those higher standards.

If you have any questions, please contact [Teams@athletics.org.nz](mailto:Teams@athletics.org.nz).