

## **2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games Nomination Criteria FAQ** **& Performance Standards Background**

*Please read in conjunction with the Athletics NZ Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Nomination Criteria. This FAQ is applicable to able-bodied athletes only.*

### **Why is there a quota system in place for the Commonwealth Games?**

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has allocated to each National Member Federation, (in our instance this is the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC)), quotas for individual sports for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The NZOC received 103 individual quota spots. The CGF have capped the total number of athletes for Games. Therefore, an allocation process is needed.

### **Why does Athletics NZ only have a maximum of 18 quota spots?**

The NZOC's methodology for deriving the quotas for each of the Individual Sports was based on the following:

- Average number of athletes participating in the previous three Commonwealth Games (Delhi 2010, Glasgow 2014 and Gold Coast);
- Medal success in the previous three CWG;
- Achievement of the over-riding selection criteria for athletes in the previous three CWG (eg Top 6 placing for an individual);
- The opportunity for all sports to be represented, subject to athletes achieving performance standards (i.e. universality which is a pillar of the Olympic Charter and the CGF Constitution);

### **Did Athletics NZ ask for more than 18 quota spots?**

Yes, we did. Our request has been noted by the NZOC.

### **What is the NZOC selection philosophy?**

The Games represents the pinnacle of athletic achievement within the Commonwealth nations and the NZOC uses this philosophy to ensure a high selection standard to the Games Team is maintained.

For individual events the NZOC stipulates a Top 6 Philosophy whereby competitors are only selected if there is a strong likelihood that they will place in the Top 6 in the event/s they are selected for. For relay events the NZOC stipulates a Top 3 Philosophy whereby teams are only selected if there is a strong likelihood that they will place in the Top 3 at the Games.

### **How were the performance standards generated?**

With the NZOC, Athletics NZ agreed to develop Nomination Criteria that were as objective as possible. That is, the performance standards have been set at a level that Athletics NZ has agreed with the NZOC is indicative of the Top 6 capability expectation. Additionally, requiring a standard to be achieved at least twice, is clear demonstration that an athlete can repeat their performance, another clear factor in establishing whether an athlete is Top 6 capable or not at the Games themselves.

The 2022 standards were established by firstly taking the 2018 standards and assessing those standards against performances of Commonwealth athletes over the past four years to identify any trends or major shifts in event depth.

Performances of athletes ranked 6<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> (and in some cases 10<sup>th</sup>) in the Commonwealth (max. 3 per nation) in each event for 2018, 2019 and year to date 2021 were analysed (Note: the 2020 performances were not analysed due to lack of data). The best two performances from each athlete made up the data set. Using the performance data, the B standards were then set at a level that is a best estimate of Top 6 capability. The A standards were then established at a level that is a notch more challenging again. The presence of A and B standards is to assist in ranking athletes for nomination should more than 18 athletes (the maximum quota spots allocated to athletics by the NZOC) meet the Nomination Criteria.

**Who decided on these performance standards?**

A number of people are involved in this process and once drafted, it went via coaches, Athletics NZ's High Performance Athletes' Commission, Athletics NZ's Selection Sub Committee and the NZOC.

**Will Athletics NZ nominate more athletes if 18 have not met the Criteria as there are more spots available?**

No. We can only nominate athletes that have met the requirements in the Criteria. See clause 4.3.

**Do you think a full complement of 18 athletes will meet the Criteria requirements for Birmingham?**

Top 6 capability is the overarching philosophy, a team size of 18 is not the target, it is athletes that are Top 6 capable. We currently have 15 athletes who have at least hit the B standard within the qualification period.

**Should more than 18 athletes achieve the performance standard and Athletics NZ is unable to secure further quota spots, how is the nomination process determined?**

There are a number of factors the Nomination Panel can take into account when assessing which athletes will be nominated. Firstly there are A and B performance standards and athletes with an A performance standard are prioritised. Then other factors such as certain targeted events, performances at the compulsory trials, head-to-head results against competitors and the like can all be considered. Clause 4.3, the "waterfall system", will only come into effect if more than 18 athletes meet the nomination criteria.

**Is a relay team part of the 18 quota allocations?**

Yes, it is. Please see clause 4.3d.

**Are Para Athletes included in the 18 quota allocations?**

No, they are not, refer clause 1.5.

**What does a 'non-travelling reserve' mean? (Clause 1.5e)**

If there are more than 18 athletes that have met the requirements of the Criteria, athletes will be nominated as a 'non travelling reserve' so that the NZOC are aware of how many re-allocation quota spots we need in order for all of our athletes to be selected. This does not mean we will be allocated the spots. Reallocation is at the sole discretion of the NZOC.

**Is the Commonwealth Games no longer a steppingstone competition?**

No, the quota system and Top 6 selection philosophy, as laid down by the NZOC, means the Commonwealth Games is no longer a development level event.

**Do I have to be on the long list to be able to be nominated or selected?**

Yes, you absolutely do. This is a non-negotiable legal requirement. Please see clause 3.1c.

**Dated 17/09/2021**