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	INTRODUCTION. IMPORTANT DATES. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA. SCOPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. APPLICATION INFORMATION. How to apply Utilising the SmartyGrants platform. Late Applications. Enquiries NOMINATION ASSESMENT AND APPROVAL. FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Sport and Recreation, positioned within Chief Ministers, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, is the lead government agency for sport and active recreation in the ACT.

The 2024 ACT Olympic and Paralympic Training Assistance athlete support program is administered by Sport and Recreation via the ACT Academy of Sport (ACTAS). The program will provide financial assistance towards the costs associated with preparing for Australian Olympic and Paralympic team selection to eligible ACT athletes.

The program aims to provide financial support where possible to ACT Athletes who have been identified by their respective National Sporting Organisation (NSO) as a prospective member of the 2024 Australian Olympic or Paralympic Team.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

The timeline for the selection process is outlined below:

\not	Applications Open	8 April 2024
$\not \!$	Closing date for NSO athlete nomination	28 April 2024
$\not \!$	Assessment of NSO nominations	May 2024
₽	Distribution of funds to athlete via NSO	May/June 2024

3. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

ACT athletes eligible for support are those who:

- are competing for the ACT or ACTAS at national events;
- are registered with their recognised ACT State Sporting Organisation (SSO)/peak body, or identified as an ACT representative through their NSO registration or as an ACTAS scholarship holder;
- have been identified by their respective NSO or Paralympics Australia as a prospective member of the 2024 Australian Olympic or Paralympic Team.

4. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Each nomination will be assessed on its merits. The financial support for successful applicants will depend on the number of successful nominations, however the program will be managed to maximise participation. In assessing nominations, the following criteria will be considered:

 The athlete must be in contention for selection at the period of the nomination as a member of the 2024 Australian Olympic or Paralympic Team as determined by the NSO.

- The athlete must incur out-of-pocket expenses in the 2023/2024 financial year related to their selection and preparation for the 2024 Paris Games that is equal to or greater than the financial support they will receive.
- The NSO must agree to the terms and conditions of the program, including agreeing to direct funds to successful applicants in a timely manner.

5. SCOPE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is given towards the costs associated with preparing for the 2024 Australian Olympic or Paralympic Team selection. This includes, but is not limited to; travel, relocating to a national team training base, coaching fees, purchase of specialised equipment, training and competition expenses.

The level of funding for successful applicants will be dependent on the number of successful applicants, support may range between \$2,000-\$3,000.

Successful athletes may be asked to provide evidence of their relevant expenses through an audit process, including receipts that are equal to or greater than the financial assistance received.

6. APPLICATION INFORMATION

6.1 How to apply

Applications for the 2024 ACT Olympic and Paralympic Training Assistance athlete support program must be submitted online via the SmartyGrants Application Form by an NSO. A link will be available through the Sport and Recreation website: https://www.sport.act.gov.au/grants.

Multiple athlete nominations can be made on the one NSO application form and can include both para and able-bodied athlete nominations. NSOs are required to have a single point of nomination for their sport and should consult across the relevant programs and disciplines as required.

NSO officials completing the nomination form must ensure they have current information from the relevant National Head Coach, High Performance Manager, Team selectors, regarding athlete's qualification and selection status.

To complete an application, NSOs will need:

- name and email for:
 - o organisation contact officer for the nomination;
 - organisation contact officer for distributing funds;
 - nominated athlete;
 - athlete's parent/guardian (if nominated athlete is under 18).
- discipline and event of nominated athlete
- confirmation the sport has qualified a quota spot for this discipline/event.

• NSO percentage ranking of nominated athlete's potential for selection to the 2024 Australian Olympic or Paralympic Team.

Athlete's potential for selection ranking:

- 100% barring injury will be selected
- o 70% barring injury and serious loss of form is likely to be selected
- o 50% is in the mix with a few other athletes for one of the final spots
- 30% has attended AOC/PA team processing session but would require a few athletes above them to drop out due to injury or serious loss of form.
- confirmation the nominated athlete has incurred out-of-pocket expenses of equal value or greater than \$3,000 in the 2023/2024 financial year related to their selection and preparation for the 2024 Paris Games.

6.2 Utilising the SmartyGrants platform

Important application notes:

- Hardcopy or email applications will not be accepted.
- A SmartyGrants login must be created to begin an application.
- Sessions may be logged out after 20 minutes. Navigating between pages and saving will reset the session timer. Applicants should ensure they save progress regularly.
- Applicants can press 'save' at any point and log out and a draft nomination will be saved. Log back in to re-commence the application.
- Nominations are unable to be submitted until all the questions are completed and the form is reviewed.
- ACTAS is unable to view nominations until they are submitted.
- Once submitted a confirmation email with a copy the application attached will be sent to the email used to register.

Please ensure the application is complete and the information is accurate prior to submitting it. The selection panel will investigate information that is false or misleading and may not consider the sport's application for athlete support.

6.3 Late Applications

- NSO nominations will close on Sunday 28 April 2024.
- All requests for late applications should be directed to the ACTAS Assistant Director Individual Athlete Program prior to 5pm, Friday 26 April 2024.

6.4 Enquiries

All enquiries regarding the 2024 ACT Olympic and Paralympic Training Assistance athlete support program should be directed to:

ACTAS Assistant Director - Individual Athlete Program.
 Phone: (02) 6207 4408 Email: megan.marcks@act.gov.au

For assistance with technical difficulties whilst completing the application form please contact:

Business Services Team - Grants and Procurement
 Phone: (02) 6207 5257 during business hours
 Email: EconomicDevelopmentGrantsandProcurement@act.gov.au

7. NOMINATION ASSESMENT AND APPROVAL

- The assessment panel will be chaired by a senior staff member of ACTAS.
- The assessment panel will convene and review all NSO nominations in accordance with the eligibility and assessment criteria.
- If applications exceed the level of available funding, eligible applications will be assessed against the selection criteria as follows.
 - Athletes potential, as assessed by the NSO, to make the 2024 Australian Olympic or Paralympic Team. With priority given to those ranked with the highest potential for Australian Team selection to compete at the Paris 2024 Games.
- The assessment panel may verify any statement of claims, rankings and performances with National Performance Directors, National Head Coaches or High Performance Managers, and will be guided in their decision making process bearing these discussions in mind.
- The ACTAS will notify the NSO and nominated athletes of their successful applications. The nominated NSO Contact Officer for Distributing Funds will be listed for the athlete should they have any questions regarding fund distribution.
- A Funding Deed will be supplied at the time of NSO notification to the nominated NSO Contact Officer for Distributing Funds.
- Unsuccessful athlete nominations will not be informed by ACTAS.
- Successful grant recipients will be published on the Sport and Recreation website.

8. FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

- By submitting a nomination form the NSO agrees to abide by the terms of the Funding Deed. Including the distribution of funds and reporting and acquittal of the deed.
- A signed Funding Deed must be supplied along with an invoice for the total funding sum within two weeks of notification of a successful NSO application.
- Participating NSOs agree to direct funds to successful applicants in a timely manner.

