

OWIA Annual Individual Athlete Performance Grant - Information

BACKGROUND

The Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (**OWIA**) has a proud tradition of supporting athletes in their sporting pursuits. The objective of the OWIA is the fulfilment of podium performances at World Cup, World Championship events and ultimately at the Olympic Winter Games. With international competition intensifying and always improving, the OWIA aligns its elite athlete support with the strategic high performance goals of the Australian Sports System as defined by the Australian Institute of Sport (**AIS**).

The OWIA identity represents a strong tie to the Olympic family in Australia. The Australian Olympic Committee provides funding for the operations of the OWIA in partnership with the Federal Government represented by the AIS, state institutes of sport, industry partners, commercial sponsors and suppliers.

The OWIA Board at its discretion may allocate a very limited number of annual Individual Athlete Performance Grants (**Performance Grants**) in those sports where the OWIA does not operate a medal outcome focused sports program. Eligibility for consideration:

- To an individual athlete who is most likely to be selected to the 2026 Olympic Winter Games.
- To an individual athlete who is currently, likely to be or has been, the best performed Australian in their sport.
- Typically, there will be only one Performance Grant recipient in each sport. (Note: only those athletes in those sports who meet the minimum selection criteria will be eligible for consideration. Where no athlete of a particular sport has achieved the minimum selection criteria, there may be no Performance Grant recipient for that sport).

ANNUAL INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE PERFORMANCE GRANT SELECTION PROCESS

Application process

To be eligible for consideration for a Performance Grant, athletes are required to return the completed OWIA Individual Athlete Performance Grant Application Form to the OWIA by the nominated due date (in or around April/May of each year), noting the following:

- Athletes who do not complete an Application will not be eligible for a Performance Grant.
- The OWIA will consult with the National Federation before selecting an athlete to receive a Performance Grant.
- Performance Grant offers are made annually in or around June of each year, at the sole discretion of the OWIA Board.
- All applicants will be notified in writing of their application outcome.
- The annual Grant period commences 1 July and ends 30 June.

Key selection criteria

Where it is determined that a Performance Grant will add significant value to an athlete's program and ultimately enhance their performances at the elite international level, the OWIA Board at its sole discretion may offer a Performance Grant. The minimum performance level for consideration will be:

- An athlete with a top fifteen world ranking; and/or
- An athlete capable of a top fifteen world ranking; and/or



- A talent identified athlete at the discretion of the OWIA; and/or
- A Performance Grant recipient returning from injury.

Additionally, consideration will be given to:

- Athlete performance tracked over time in order to inform the prioritisation of athlete support.
- Athlete potential to progress.
- Displaying appropriate and positive behaviours, supporting OWIA values of Excellence, Health, Integrity and Respect.

Consultation with the Athlete's National Federation

The OWIA will consult with the National Federation before selecting an athlete to receive a Performance Grant. Should the OWIA and National Federation not reach agreement the OWIA at its discretion may elect:

- To support the athlete identified by the OWIA;
- Not support the identified athlete;
- Not support an athlete in that sport.

FUNDING AND BENEFITS

All athletes receiving a Performance Grant will remain a member/participant of their National Federation's program and/or team.

The OWIA will provide Performance Grant recipients with:

- A fixed funding contribution to support the athlete's best endeavours to achieve and improve elite performance culminating in success at the Olympic Winter Games and World Championships.
- Upon request, OWIA official clothing (Karbon outerwear and XTM gloves). Note: The athlete must be granted approval by their National Federation (NF) to wear any OWIA official clothing and must adhere to the official clothing requirements and protocols required by their NF.
- Upon request, specialist injury management, medical and other support services. (Note: the athlete is covered on a primary basis by their National Federation's insurance and medical services).
- OWIA will not provide Performance Grant recipients with competition insurance coverage.

Athletes supported by the OWIA are expected to contribute to the Australian performance outcomes at Olympic Winter Games, World Championships and World Cups.

CONTACT

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