



**BMXA AIS *Australia's Winning Edge (AWE)*  
Athlete Nomination & Program Selection Criteria  
BMX Australia High Performance Pathway  
2015 – 2016**

***Incorporating:***

BMXA High Performance Unit Athlete Scholarship selection criteria for Podium, Podium Potential A and Podium Potential B athletes

BMXA National Development Academy selection criteria for AWE Developing and Emerging athletes

BMXA National Development Academy selection criteria for BMXA Talent categorised athletes



***HIGH PERFORMANCE UNIT***

## INTRODUCTION

BMX Australia (BMXA) has adopted the Australia's Winning Edge (AWE) Athlete Categories as a way to support high potential and high performing BMX athletes and ensure they receive the right support at the right time in their pathway. The information provided to the AIS allows them to:

- Identify the athletes with the greatest potential to achieve AWE targets;
- Track their performance over time;
- Inform the prioritisation of support to these athletes.

It is important to note that to be prioritised for support an athlete must demonstrate potential for future success. Past results alone are not considered to be sufficiently acceptable criteria<sup>1</sup>.

## OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this document is to describe the AWE Athlete Categories, and set out the minimum requirements and criteria for the sport of BMX to identify potential medal winning athletes to represent Australia at AWE identified Benchmark events (BME) to ensure BMX Australia meets the High Performance Program's vision of being the dominant nation in the world for Elite BMX SX.

## OVERVIEW OF CATEGORIES

Within the BMXA National Athlete Pathway, the AWE Athlete Categories are incorporated across the BMXA National Development Academy (Academy) and the BMXA High Performance Unit (HPU) programs.

BMXA have adopted the FTEM (Foundation–Talent–Elite–Mastery) athlete pathway<sup>2</sup>. The 'Elite' and 'Mastery' stages align with AWE Podium Potential (A and B) and Podium categories, respectively. Athletes in these categories are supported by the BMXA HPU. The criteria outlined in this document for these categories corresponds to the criteria required for selection into the BMXA HPU.

The BMXA Academy consists of three tiers that align with the Talent stage of the FTEM pathway (Talent phases T2–T4). AWE Developing and Emerging categorised athletes are supported within the T4 tier of the Academy – 'Breakthrough' and 'Reward' Emerging Performance and International Development Programs. The Academy's Support at this level is geared towards athletes entering or already competing in BMX Championship classes (Junior and Senior Elite) with the purpose of preparing them to qualify for benchmark events and selection into the BMXA HPU.

The BMXA Academy's Talented Athlete Program, incorporating T2 and T3 phases of the FTEM pathway, is specific to BMX Australia and does not form part of the AWE Athlete Categories. However this program includes athletes identified with high performance

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<sup>1</sup> AIS Australia's Winning Edge Athlete Categories - Developing your nomination guidelines

<sup>2</sup> FTEM athlete pathway - <http://www.ausport.gov.au/ais/pathways>

potential that have been selected based on BMXA national selection criteria and who are considered capable of progressing to at least Emerging within the next two years.

### BENCHMARK EVENT

Benchmark Event in BMX refers to the BMX Elite World Championships (Olympic discipline only), except in an Olympic year where the Olympic Games are the Benchmark Event.

### ATHLETE CATEGORIES

BMX Australia has adopted the AWE Athlete Categories as detailed below:

Category	Criteria	Time to Podium Potential A
1. Podium	Athlete who has a medal performance at a Benchmark Event within the last 24 months <b>and</b> is considered capable of a medal at the next Benchmark Event.	N/A
2. Podium Potential	A) Athlete who placed 4 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> at the most recent Benchmark Event <b>and</b> is considered capable of progressing to <i>Podium</i> category.  B) Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least <i>Level 2A – Podium Potential</i> in the next four years.	N/A  4 Years
3. Commonwealth	<i>Not applicable as BMX is not a Commonwealth Games sport</i>	N/A
4. Developing	A) Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Level 2B – <i>Podium Potential</i> in the next two years.  B) <i>N/A – refers to Commonwealth Games.</i>	5–6 Years
5. Emerging	A) Athlete who is considered capable of progressing to at least Level 4A – <i>Developing</i> in the next two years.  B) <i>N/A as refers to Commonwealth Games</i>	7–8 years
<b>TALENT</b> <b>(BMXA Categorisation)</b>	Athlete who has been identified by BMXA as capable of progressing to <i>at least</i> Level 5 – <i>Emerging</i> within the next two years.	

As per the AIS AWE guidelines, all athletes who satisfy the criteria contained in the BMXA nomination guidelines will be nominated for AWE categorisation.

As well as performance in the most recent Benchmark Event, additional performance parameters relevant to the Athlete Category may also be used such as results at UCI BMX SX World Cup Series; BMX Australia National Series; and other UCI SX events. Supplementary to race results, the nature of BMX necessitates the use of timing data to help predict future performance and support athlete categorisation. BMXA National Performance Standards (NPS) for ramp and full-lap times have been created (Appendix 1). An athlete's timing can be used against the NPS cut-offs when it is recorded at the national testing track (Sleeman Sports Complex, Chandler, QLD) or other BMXA endorsed SX tracks where a '*World's Best*' record for ramp and full-lap times has been established. Riders will be evaluated against the current NPS at UCI SX races and/or HPU and Academy camps where a transponder based timing system is utilised. Timing data collected within the 6 months prior to AIS athlete nomination deadlines will be considered. In extenuating circumstances (e.g. injury), this period may be extended to 12 months.

#### **GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL CATEGORIES**

- Be an Australian Citizen and eligible to represent Australia in international competition
- Be actively training towards the next benchmark event
- Be a registered (licenced) member of BMXA, have a signed athlete agreement, and have an agreed athlete performance plan with BMX BMXA Development Academy or BMXA HPU
- Comply with all anti-doping requirements of the sport of BMX
- Maintain a lifestyle conducive to sporting excellence
- Abide by both the rules and the spirit of the sport of BMX
- Maintain the high standard of personal behaviour expected of an athlete representing Australia
- Not bring the sport of BMX, BMXA or the ASC into disrepute

#### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATION**

Should an exceptional circumstance prevent an otherwise eligible athlete from satisfying the nomination criteria of an AWE Athlete Category (such as illness or injury or other mitigating factors occurring at the time of the benchmark event or testing camp/s) BMXA and the AIS may review submissions for approval on a case by case basis.

#### **ATHLETE PROGRESSION**

Athletes must continually demonstrate progression to ensure they reach the next Athlete Category within the timeframe specified in their performance plan; or maintain Podium or Podium Potential A status. If an athlete fails to demonstrate continued progression, or the ability to progress within the specified timeframes, they may have their athlete category status removed. Athletes with Podium or Podium Potential A status will generally not be eligible to move down to Developing or Emerging, with the exception of approved exceptional circumstances as accepted by BMXA and the AIS.

It is important to note that change in an athlete's Category status is linked to their position within the BMXA Development Academy or their HPU Scholarship status.

### **SIS/SAS**

Athletes need to be identified as Developing or Emerging athletes (Development Academy T4) to be eligible to receive endorsement from BMXA to apply for Individual SIS/SAS Scholarships if available within their home state. Individual cases may be reviewed between AWE categorisation nomination deadlines, where an athlete is identified as meeting performance standards and SIS/SAS Scholarships are available. HPU Scholarship holders are endorsed by BMXA to receive access to SIS/SAS Individual Scholarship programs as part of their HPU scholarship status.

### **ADDITIONAL SELECTION NOTES**

- BMXA together with the AIS may apply additional selection criteria in specific cases.
- All selections made by BMXA will be FINAL and no correspondence will be entered into regarding selections or the selection process generally.
- Membership of a particular category does not automatically entitle an athlete to receive support, and athletes within a certain category may not all receive the same level of support.
- The selection criteria will be reviewed annually by BMXA and the AIS.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

### 1. PODIUM

Program: HPU

Program Coach: Wade Bootes (National Head Coach)

Athletes will be nominated to the Podium category if they achieved:

- A medal result at the most recent Benchmark Event;

OR:

- A medal result at a Benchmark Event in the last 24 months

*PLUS:*

- A podium result at a UCI BMX SX World Cup event in the past 12 months to demonstrate the ongoing potential to podium at international SX elite class events.

Athletes must demonstrate performance progression to remain in this category as detailed and agreed to in their Individual Athlete Performance Plan and Individual Athlete Competition Plan.

### 2.A PODIUM POTENTIAL A

Program: HPU

Program Coach: Wade Bootes (National Head Coach)

Athletes will be nominated to the *Podium Potential A* category if they achieved:

- A 4th–8th result at the most recent BENCHMARK EVENT;

AND:

- The athlete is considered capable of a medal performance at the next Benchmark Event as assessed by the BMXA HPU.

Athletes must demonstrate performance progression to remain in this category as detailed and agreed to in their Individual Athlete Performance Plan and Individual Athlete Competition Plan.

### 2.B PODIUM POTENTIAL B

Program: HPU

Program Coach: Wade Bootes (National Head Coach)

Athletes will be nominated to the Podium Potential B category athlete if they achieved:

- A top 8 result at a UCI BMX SX WORLD CUP event in the past 12 months with more than 32 total starters;

AND:

- Has met the current NPS times for PODIUM POTENTIAL B within the past 6 months as per Appendix 1.

Athletes in this category are identified as having potential to reach *Podium Potential A* or *Podium* category results within the next two years.

Athletes must demonstrate performance progression to remain in this category as detailed and agreed to in their Individual Athlete Performance Plan and Individual Athlete Competition Plan.

#### 4. DEVELOPING

Program: BMXA DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY  
International Development Program

Program Coach: Luke Madill

Athletes will be nominated to the *DEVELOPING* category if in the **past 12 months** they have achieved:

2 x top 32 results (men) or top 20 results (women) from either a:

- UCI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (CM event) with more than 32 total starters; or a
- UCI BMX SX WORLD CUP (CDM event) round with more than 32 total starters.

OR

1 x top 32 result (men) or top 20 result (women) from one of the **above** events

PLUS: 2 x podium results/rankings in the **past 12 months** from the following events:

- UCI Continental Championships (CC event)
- International supercross (C1 events) with more than 32 total starters
- BMXA Probikx National Series (C1 event) overall series ranking
- BMXA National Championships (NC event).

AND have met the current NPS times for DEVELOPING within the past 6 months as per Appendix 1.

Athletes will generally have a maximum of two (2) years in this category and are considered as having the potential to achieve a senior elite podium at a BME within the next 5–6 years or earlier. The age and training age of the athlete at the time of selection into this category will determine the maximum time.

Athletes must demonstrate performance progression to remain in this category as detailed and agreed to in their Individual Athlete Performance Plan and Individual Athlete Competition Plan.

#### 5. EMERGING

Program: BMXA DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY  
Emerging Performance Program

Program Coach: Luke Madill

Athletes will be nominated to the *EMERGING* Category if in the past 12 months they have achieved:

A top 64 (males) top 24 (females) result from either a:

- UCI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (CM event) with more than 32 total starters; or a
- UCI BMX SX WORLD CUP (CDM event) round with more than 32 total starters

PLUS at least 2 x top 8 results from the following:

- UCI Continental Championships (CC event)
- BMXA National Championships (NC event)
- BMXA Probikx National Series (C1 event) overall series ranking

AND has met the NPS times for EMERGING within the past 6 months as per Appendix 1.

Athletes will generally have a maximum of two (2) years in this category and are considered as having the potential to achieve a senior elite podium at a BME within the next 7–8 years or earlier. The age and training age of the athlete at the time of selection into this category will determine the maximum time.

Athletes must demonstrate performance progression to remain in this category as detailed and agreed to in their Individual Athlete Performance Plan and Individual Athlete Competition Plan.

## TALENT (non AIS AWE)

Program: BMXA DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY  
Talented Athlete Program

Program Coach: Sharon  
Willoughby

Athletes who meet the criteria for the Talent category will be nominated to BMXA for entry to the BMXA Development Academy by their State Coaches and are considered capable of progressing to at least Emerging within the next two years or earlier and provides an entry point to the high performance pathway for age class athletes or junior/senior elite athletes who are demonstrating *potential to podium* within the required AWE timeframes.

The BMXA Development Academy objective is to identify talent potential and prepare athletes for future HP selection.

Factors to be considered for selection to the Academy include:

- Athletes may be selected from the 14, 15, 16 year age challenge categories (year of racing) as well as the Junior Elite and Elite championship categories.
- Whether an athlete is participating within their state's athlete development pathway – i.e. named as a member of their State Development Team or State Team.
- Data from current National or State Performance Standards or testing days.
- In addition to the above criteria, athletes will be considered for selection based on their performances in the BMXA National Series, BMXA National Championships and UCI World Championships.
- A rider must compete in all qualifying BMXA National Series rounds unless exemption is granted.
- Results from other representational events may be also taken into account dependant on the age of the athlete including, but not limited to State Titles, the BMXA National Dynamite Series, UCI Continental Championships, UCI World Cup Series or UCI World Championships
- State Coach recommendations
- The following factors will be taken into consideration when assessing an athlete's performance from the competitions above:
  - Race placing
  - Performances obtained most recently
  - Consistency in results and ability to repeat World Class results and deliver performances under pressure
  - Race speeds, rider splits and time comparisons.
- Selection priority will be given to results within the BMX 20" classes.
- International rankings of Junior or Elite riders who have competed in eligible UCI events.
- Injury, illness or recovery related to results/rankings

Underpinning the Academy, the BMXA National Female Shadow Squad comprises of female athletes who have been identified by the national Academy Coach as having potential to achieve Academy selection to participate in a camps based program aimed at developing the skills required to compete in bmx supercross events.



**SX GATE AND TRACK TIMES for AWE CATEGORISATIONS**

**Background:** National Performance Standards (NPS) for ramp and full-lap times have been developed for the purpose of identifying athletes who perform at a level that indicates the potential to achieve results at UCI SX World Cups and World Championships. Timing data collected during approved SX racing and testing camps should be used in combination with race results for the purpose of categorisation of athletes against Australian Winning Edge Guidelines or for justifying support at UCI SX World Cups and World Championship events. The NPS percentage cut-offs have been developed based on ramp and full-lap times from UCI SX World Cup/World Championship races where both these time splits were recorded by the race organisers. Ramp times are not provided at all races although this is recognized as a critical aspect of performance.

**Rationale for categories:** It is expected that a *Podium Potential Athlete* would be capable of achieving a top 20 (5<sup>th</sup> in a 1/4) or top 16 (qualify for 1/2) result at a UCI SX World Cup or World Championship race for males and females, respectively. It is expected that a *Developing* athlete would be capable of achieving a top 32 (qualify for 1/4) or top 20 result (5<sup>th</sup> in 1/4) at a World Cup or World Championship race for males and females, respectively. It is expected that an *Emerging* athlete would be capable of achieving a top 64 (qualify for 1/8) or top 24 (6<sup>th</sup> in 1/4) rank at a UCI SX World Cup or World Championship race for males and females, respectively. The NPS cut-offs capture approximately ~75% of the athletes who achieved these results in the included races (Berlin, Papendal, Worlds 2014, Papendal 2015). The standards are reviewed after each UCI SX World Cup/World Championship event and updated if necessary. The Junior World Championships cut-offs are based on the 2014 World Championship results from which Junior finalists' times are compared to the Senior Elite track record.

**Table 1** summarises the current cut-offs for each category. All cut-offs will be re-evaluated following the 2015 World Championships and again after subsequent world cups that include ramp times.

<b>Table 1. National Performance Standards (NPS) for AWE Categorised Athletes</b>				
	<b>MALE</b>		<b>FEMALE</b>	
	<i>Ramp</i>	<i>Full-Lap</i>	<i>Ramp</i>	<i>Full-Lap</i>
<b>*Sleeman SX Elite Records:</b>	2.355s	37.940s	2.511s	41.573s
<b>Podium:</b>	2.5% 2.414s	3.5% 39.268s	3.0% 2.586s	6.0% 44.067s
<b>Developing:</b>	3.0% 2.426s	4.0% 39.458s	4.0% 2.611s	8.0% 44.899s
<b>Emerging:</b>	4.0% 2.449s	6.0% 40.216s	5.0% 2.637s	10.0% 45.730s
<b>Junior World Championship:</b>	4.0% 2.449s	5.0% 39.837s	5.0% 2.637s	8.0% 44.899s
<b>*While the times provided apply specifically to the Sleeman SX track, the percentages can be applied to any SX track including those used in World Cups and World Championship events where a 'World's Best' course record is available.</b>				

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