



## PROGRAMS & FUNDING GUIDELINES

### FOR SPORTS ON THE PROGRAM OF THE 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES, FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2025 TO 31 DECEMBER 2028

#### 1. BACKGROUND

These Programs and Funding Guidelines have been developed and approved by the Australian Olympic Committee (**AOC**) Executive to promote the fundamental principles and values of Olympism in Australia in accordance with the role of the AOC as a National Olympic Committee under the Olympic Charter and its Objects under the AOC Constitution. These include promoting Olympism through;

- a) Olympic education and other programs in schools (Olympic Education);
- b) the AOC's exclusive authority for the representation of Australia at the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and all matters incidental thereto and;
- c) providing funding for these programs known as "AOC Funding" or, in the case of direct funding to athletes, "AOC Athlete Incentive Funding".

#### 2. SOURCES OF FUNDING

- a) AOC Funding is derived from income distributions from the Australian Olympic Foundation, and grants from the IOC, known as Olympic Solidarity, grants from the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (**OCOGs**), sponsorship and licensing, and fundraising for Olympic Teams.
- b) While the AOC neither seeks nor derives any funding from the Australian Government, Australian Sports Commission (**ASC**) or the Australian Institute of Sport (**AIS**), it acknowledges the critical assistance these bodies provide to both the AOC's member National Federations (**NFs**) of sports on the Olympic program and to athletes directly for their preparation for the Olympic Games.
- c) The AOC also acknowledges the assistance provided by the State and Territory Institutes and Academies of Sport to NFs and athletes for their preparation for the Olympic Games.
- d) The AOC acknowledges the direct contribution of the Queensland Government, New South Wales Government, South Australian Government and Western Australian Government to partner with the AOC to deliver Olympic school programs in their States and Territories.
- e) The AOC acknowledges the contribution of the Queensland Government, the

New South Wales Government, Victorian Government, Western Australian Government, Tasmanian Government and Australian Capital Territory Government via the AOC's Team Appeal.

- f) For sports on the programs for the 2026 and 2030 Olympic Winter Games there are separate Programs and Funding Guidelines available at <https://www.olympics.com.au/the-aoc/funding/>.

### **3. OLYMPIC SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

- a) As the custodian of the Olympic Movement in Australia, the AOC has Objectives to encourage more Australians to play sport and to increase access to sport for everyone. The AOC particularly promotes to young people the educational, health benefits and values associated with sport and Olympism.
- b) The AOC achieves these Objectives through a number of Olympic School and Community programs.
- c) 'Olympics Unleashed' taking Olympians into schools, 'Olympic Day' celebrations, the 'Australian Olympic Change-maker' Program, 'Indigenous Programs' that provide practical assistance to communities, and activations through strategic partnerships with community organisations throughout Australia.
- d) AOC Funding of \$7.9m is budgeted for these programs, subject to AOC receiving ongoing support from State and Territory Governments and other partners for funding support for these programs.

### **4. OLYMPIAN SERVICES**

- a) The AOC assists Olympians to transition from "life as an athlete" to "life after sport" by focusing on developing:
  - (1) a health and wellness network (friendship, support, professional counselling and crisis management); and
  - (2) a corporate network of mentors and assisting with internships, cadetships, work experience and work placements.
- b) AOC Funding of \$3.1m is budgeted for this program.

### **5. AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES IN DAKAR, SENEGAL**

- a) The AOC will be invited by the IOC to send athletes to compete in some or all of sports on the 2026 Youth Olympic Games.
- b) The AOC will send a team of athletes nominated from the National Federations on the 2026 Youth Olympic Games program.
- c) AOC Funding of \$1m is budgeted for this Team.

## **6. AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE 2027 PACIFIC GAMES IN TAHITI**

- a) The AOC will be invited by the Pacific Games Council to send athletes to compete in some or all of sports on the 2027 Pacific Games program.
- b) The AOC will send a team of athletes nominated from the National Federations on the 2027 Pacific Games program.
- c) AOC Funding of \$600,000 is budgeted for this Team.

## **7. AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE 2028 YOUTH WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES**

- a) The AOC will be invited by the IOC to send athletes to compete in some or all of sports on the 2028 Youth Winter Olympic Games program.
- b) The AOC will send a team of athletes nominated from the National Federations on the 2028 Youth Winter Olympic Games program.
- c) AOC Funding of \$1.1m is budgeted for this Team.

## **8. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**

- a) AOC Funding to NFs, from IOC Olympic Solidarity, will be considered for programs designed to assist sports development including coaching.
- b) AOC Funding of \$1.3m is forecast for this program.

## **9. FUNDING TO NFs**

- a) The AOC will consider applications for NF Funding for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 from the NFs of sports or disciplines on the program of the 2028 Olympic Games which receive less than \$100,000 from the Australian Sports Commission in able-bodied high performance funding for 2024-25 and any subsequent year for up to \$150,000 per quad each.
- b) This NF Funding must be applied by NFs for participation in qualifying events for Los Angeles 2028, other international competition, direct athlete support, coaching, technical support or equipment. It must not be applied towards any NF or team administration costs.
- c) Sports within the Coalition of Major Professional & Participation Sports (COMPPS) are not eligible to receive this funding.
- d) AOC Funding of \$2.6m is budgeted for this program.

## **10. DIRECT FUNDING TO ATHLETES**

- a) The purpose of the AOC Athlete Incentive Funding (**AIF**) is to support the endeavour of athletes whilst training, preparing, and attending the Olympic Games.
- b) For the 2028 Olympic Games, athletes who meet NF Olympic Nomination criteria, eligibility requirements set by their relevant International Federation in their Qualification System and AOC Olympic Team Selection criteria, are

nominated by their NF and selected by the AOC, and have submitted all required documentation to the AOC will be eligible for a **Team Selection Payment** of \$5,000. This will be paid to athletes post Games.

- c) Athletes who win medals at the 2028 Olympic Games will be considered for an **Athlete Incentive Payment**.
- d) Athletes who place 1st to 4th in 2025, 2026, 2027 at Benchmark Events (BME) (i.e. World Championships or other major international competition of a comparable standard) in events on the 2028 Olympic program (agreed in advance by the AOC as appropriate "benchmark competitions") will be considered for an Athlete Incentive Payment.
- e) AIF will be payable as summarised in the table below:

Year Achieved	Year Paid	AIF Type	Team Selection	Gold	Silver	Bronze	4th
2025	2026	Athlete Incentive Payment: 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> BME		\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
2026	2027	Athlete Incentive Payment: 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> BME		\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
2027	2028	Athlete Incentive Payment: 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> BME		\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
2028	2028	Team Selection Payment	\$5,000				
2028	2029	Athlete Incentive Payment: Medal at Games		\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	-

- f) In order for athletes to be considered for an Athlete Incentive Payment they must maintain appropriate training regimes with the intention of gaining national (or in 2028 Olympic) selection in the year after them winning a medal. It is not necessary that the event for which they are training be the same as that in which the medal was won provided it is in the same sport and on the program of the 2028 Olympic Games. For clarity, the requirement to continue to train does not apply to the Team Selection Payment.
- g) Athletes who win more than one medal in any year will be considered for an Athlete Incentive Payment in respect of their best result only - in other words multi-medal winners will not be considered for multi-funding.
- h) Members of medallist teams and other combinations will be considered for the same Athlete Incentive Payment as individual medallists.

- i) The amount of Athlete Incentive Payment paid to medallist teams or other combinations will be set by the number of medals to be awarded for that event/sport at the 2028 Olympic Games. If the number of athletes who won medals at the benchmark event is larger than the number of medals to be awarded for that event/sport at the 2028 Olympic Games, then the total Athlete Incentive Payment paid may be split amongst the athletes that won medals at the benchmark event. The Athlete Incentive Payment may only be split amongst a larger number of athletes than the number who won medals at the benchmark event upon prior agreement of such medal winning athletes and at the request of the NF, with the approval of the AOC Executive.
- j) AIF will be determined by the AOC in its sole and absolute discretion.
- k) Athletes who receive AIF have no duty or obligation to provide any services to the AOC and nor does the AOC regard this funding as a reward for services. It is a matter for the athletes as to whether they acknowledge or publicise it.
- l) The AOC relies on its own legal advice which confirms that athletes who are not carrying on a business as a sportsperson and are awarded Team Selection and Athlete Incentive Payments will not be taxed on those payments. However individuals should always seek their own independent tax advice.
- m) Whether an athlete is carrying on business as a sportsperson will depend on a review of all the facts. If in any doubt, athletes should refer the Class Ruling and these Program & Funding Guidelines to a tax agent or adviser for consideration.
- n) To ensure that AIF funding is allocated to those athletes who have the greatest need for support, AIF payments under paragraph 8(d) will be subject to athlete means testing.
- o) AOC Athlete Incentive Funding of \$7.1m is budgeted for the program.

## **11. AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES IN LOS ANGELES, USA**

- a) Subject to the AOC Olympic Team Nomination and Selection and other relevant By-Laws, AOC Selection Criteria, and the Team Membership Agreement which shall prevail, the AOC Selection Committee will consider all those athletes who qualify under the Qualification System of their International Federation (IF) and are nominated by their NF for selection to the Australian team for the 2028 Olympic Games.
- b) AOC Funding of \$32m is budgeted for this Team.

## **12. REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION (IF) MEETINGS**

- a) The AOC recognises the importance for National Federations (NF) to be represented on IFs. To this end, AOC will provide an international air travel grant to NFs for their member(s) who have been elected or appointed to decision

making bodies of their IF for sports and or events on the Olympic Program of the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. The grant is for travel to one approved meeting of the IF per member, per year. Applicants will need to complete the application form which must be signed by their NF Chief Executive.

- b) The AOC Travel Grant will amount to the full cost of economy international air travel via the most direct route to the destination of the meeting. The grant provided is subject to a reduction by the amount of any subsidy or assistance received from the IF or any other source and to the cost of the travel not exceeding the best fare the AOC can obtain.
- c) Individuals who have been endorsed by a non-Australian National Federation will not be eligible for an AOC travel grant.
- d) AOC funding if \$200,000 is budgeted for this program.

### **13. GENERAL**

- a) It is the responsibility of NFs to provide, without reminder, advance details of their programs for international competition and the results of all such competitions as they occur, including the details of all medal winning athletes who in the opinion of the NF should be considered for an AOC Athlete Incentive Payment.
- b) NFs receiving assistance under Olympic Solidarity programs must comply with all IOC acquittal and audit requirements.
- c) AOC Funding to NFs must be used for the purpose for which it is provided, and any unused amounts refunded. On this understanding financial acquittals will be required annually.
- d) NFs receiving AOC Funding or whose athletes receive AOC Athlete Incentive Funding are requested to acknowledge it in appropriate publications and communications and on appropriate occasions.
- e) These are guidelines only and may be amended or varied by the AOC at any time.

## 12. AOC QUADRENNIAL FUNDING 2025-2028

AOC Funding of its programs for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028 is budgeted as follows:

Olympic School & Community Programs & Olympian Transition	\$11m
Sports on the Program of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games	\$10.9m
Sports on the Program of the 2028 Olympic Games	\$41.6m
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TOTAL	\$63.5m

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**President**

ADOPTED 26 November 2024