



PROGRAMS & FUNDING GUIDELINES

FOR SPORTS ON THE PROGRAM OF THE 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, MILAN
CORTINA FOR PERIOD 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2026

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 Winter Games, Youth Olympic Winter Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronised by the 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 Medallists "**AOC Medal Incentive Funding**".

2. SOURCES OF FUNDING

- a. **AOC Funding** is derived from income distributions from the Australian Olympic Foundation, grants from the International Olympic Committee (IOC), known as Olympic Solidarity, grants from the Organising Committees for the Olympic Games (OCOGs), sponsorship and licensing and fundraising for Olympic Teams by the AOC, State/Territory Olympic Councils and the Olympic Team Appeal Committees.
- b. While the AOC neither seeks nor derives any funding from the Australian Government or its Australian Sports Commission (ASC) and Australian Institute of Sport (AIS), it acknowledges the critical assistance these bodies provide to the AOC's Olympic Winter Institute of Australia (OWIA) and member National Federations (NFs) of sports on the Olympic Winter program and to athletes directly for their preparation for the Olympic Winter Games.
- c. The AOC also acknowledges the assistance provided by the State and Territory Institutes and Academies of Sport to the OWIA and for the preparation of athletes for the Olympic Winter Games.
- d. For sports on the program for the 2024 Olympic Games there are separate Programs and Funding Guidelines for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2024.

3. ATHLETE TRANSITIONING (FOR SUMMER AND WINTER OLYMPIANS)

- a) Under this new program the AOC will assist Olympians to transition from "life as an athlete" to "life after sport" by focusing on developing;
 - i a health and wellness network (friendship, support, professional counselling and crisis management);

- ii a corporate network of mentors and assisting with internships, cadetships, work experience and work placements.

4. THE OLYMPIC WINTER INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA (OWIA)

- a. The OWIA was established by the AOC in June 1998 to improve the performances of its Australian Olympic Winter Teams and promote Olympism through wintersports generally.
- b. The objective of the OWIA is:
 - i. to develop and prepare elite Australian athletes for selection in Olympic Winter Games; and
 - ii. to assist with the development and funding of high performance coaches.
- c. The OWIA operates specialist high performance sport programs in disciplines identified to have medal potential outcomes.
- d. **AOC Funding** to the OWIA of \$4.982m (prior quad \$4.665m) is budgeted for this program. Funding comprises direct cash grants per annum of \$1.1m, increased annually by 3%, and provision of VIK funding for motor vehicle leasing.

5. AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE 2024 WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES, GANGWON, SOUTH KOREA

- a. The fourth WYOG will be held in Gangwon, South Korea from 19 January 2024 – 1 February 2024
- b. Subject to the AOC Olympic Team Selection and other relevant By-Laws and the Team Membership Agreement which shall prevail, the AOC Selection Committee will consider selecting a full team meaning all those athletes who qualify under the Qualification System of their International Federation (IF) and are nominated by their NF or failing nomination by an NF, who the AOC deems in its sole and absolute discretion nominated or proposed for the purpose of Bye-Law 2.1 to Rules 27 and 28 of the Olympic Charter.
- c. AOC Funding of \$720,000 is budgeted for this Team.

6. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

- a. **AOC Funding** to NFs, from IOC Olympic Solidarity, will be considered for programs designed to assist sports development including coaching and equipment grants.

7. MILAN CORTINA 2026” OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY SCHOLARSHIPS

- a. The IOC’s “Milan 2026” Olympic Solidarity Scholarships are expected to be available to identified athletes to improve their competitiveness at the Olympic Winter Games. A scholarship can be used to meet the costs of access to training facilities, specialised training and coaching services, medical assistance and scientific monitoring, accommodation and meals.
- b. When the IOC’s guidelines are released, the AOC will apply for scholarships for identified athletes for the period 2023- 2024. The AOC will determine whether funding is paid to an NF or directly to athletes.

8. FUNDING TO NFS

- a. The AOC will consider applications for NF Funding (of up to \$37,500 per 12 months) for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 December 2026 from the NFs on the program of the

2026 Olympic Winter Games which have received less than \$100,000 from the ASC/AIS in high performance funding for 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-2024 and any subsequent year.

- i. Each Winter National Federation will be assessed annually by reference to the ASC/AIS Investment Allocations as published from time to time to reflect the HP Funding each NSO will receive in the next 12 months. The AOC will use the ASC/AIS Investment Allocation document that is current as at 30 June of each year.
- b. Any NF Funding must be applied by NFs for participation in qualifying events for Milan 2026, other international competition, direct athlete support, coaching, technical support and equipment. It must not be applied towards any NF or team administration costs.
- c. The AOC will invite applications for Funding from and to athletes in any of these sports whose NF does not commit to support the AOC’s policy of selecting a full team for the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games, Lausanne and the 2022 Olympic Winter Games, Beijing or generally if it is not satisfied in its sole and absolute discretion that any Funding to NFs is being applied strictly in accordance with 10b.
- d. **AOC Funding** of \$950,000 is budgeted for this program.

9. DIRECT FUNDING TO MEDALLISTS

- a. Athletes who win medals at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games or win medals in 2022/23 or 2023/24 or 2024/25 at World Championships or other major international events of a comparable standard in events on the 2026 Olympic Winter Games program (agreed in advance by the AOC as appropriate “benchmark competitions”) will be considered for **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** in the following year and in the following amounts:

ATHLETES				
Season in which result was achieved	Year in which MIF will be paid	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2022 Olympic Winter Games	2023	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
2022/23	2024	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
2023/24	2025	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
2024/25	2026	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000

The purpose of this funding is to help these athletes gain selection to represent Australia at the 2026 Olympic Winter Games and win medals.

- b. In order for athletes to be considered for **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** they must maintain appropriate training regimes with the intention of gaining national (or in 2026 Olympic) selection in the year subsequent to 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 discipline and on the program of the 2026 Olympic Winter Games. Athletes who won medals at the 2022 Olympic Winter Games may be excused from maintaining an appropriate training regime and will carry forward their eligibility to be considered for **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** to the subsequent year .
- c. Athletes who win more than one medal in any year will be considered for **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** in respect of their best result only. In other words, multi- medal winners will not be considered for multi-funding.
- d. Members of medallist teams and other combinations will be considered for the same **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** as individual medallists.

- e. **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** for medallists will be determined by the AOC in its sole and absolute discretion.
- f. Any **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** will be paid as one payment made as soon as practicable after 1 July following the medal winning performance. In the case of athletes who carry forward their consideration for **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** in respect of their 2022 Olympic Winter Games result, the funding will be paid as one payment upon them actually gaining and accepting national selection in 2022/23 or 2023/24 (as relevant).
- g. Athletes who receive **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** 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.
- h. In August 2015 the Australian Taxation Office issued Class Ruling 2015/68 in respect of the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019 (which is an update on CR 2007/36 issued in respect of prior years). The rulings can be found on the AOC corporate website olympics.com.au under "Programs and Funding". The ruling confirms that athletes who are not carrying on a business as a sports person and are awarded **AOC Medal Incentive Funding** will not be taxed on those payments.

Whether an athlete is carrying on business as a sports person will depend on a review of all the facts. If in any doubt, athletes should refer the Class Ruling to a tax agent or adviser for consideration.

10. AUSTRALIAN TEAM FOR THE 2026 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES, MILAN CORTINA

- a. Subject to the AOC Olympic Team Selection and other relevant By-Laws and the Team Membership Agreement which shall prevail, the AOC Selection Committee will consider selecting a full team meaning all those athletes who qualify under the Qualification System of their International Federation (IF) and are nominated by their NF or failing nomination by an NF, who the AOC deems in its sole and absolute discretion nominated or proposed for the purpose of Bye-Law 2.1 to Rules 27 and 28 of the Olympic Charter.

Addendum (December 2025): For the 2026 Winter 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 are eligible for a Team Selection Payment of \$5000. This will be paid to athletes post Games.

11. REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION (IF) MEETINGS

- a. The AOC recognises the importance for NFs to be represented on IFs. To this end AOC Funding will be provided to Australians who are members of the executive organs of IFs of sports on the Olympic Winter program for travel related to approved meetings or international events of the IF for one meeting or international event per year.
- b. This AOC Funding will amount to the full cost of business international travel 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.

12. 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 **AOC Medal Incentive Funding**.
- b. **AOC Funding** to NFs and the OWIA must be used for the purpose for which it is provided and any unused amounts refunded. On this understanding and recognising the special relationship between the AOC and member NFs and the OWIA, financial acquittals will not be required as a matter of course.
- c. NFs and the OWIA receiving **AOC Funding** are requested to acknowledge it in appropriate publications and communications and on appropriate occasions.

- d. These are guidelines only and may be amended or varied by the AOC at any time.
- e.

Ian Chesterman AM
President

ADOPTED 23 March 2023