



WPNZ and the term “High Performance”

22 April 2025

Context:

WPNZ receives High Performance Sport NZ funding for the Women’s water polo programme under the “Teams” category (since 2021), this is because the women have placed in the top 8 at pinnacle events (World Cups 2022 and 2023), plus tracking towards Olympic qualification in 2028 (WPNZ Women finished 9th in the 2024 World Championships and missed Olympic Qualification by 2 goals against Canada).

When referring to the term High Performance in NZ team sports, we are referring to teams and /or athletes in senior squads and/or teams that are currently capable of performing on the international stage with distinction. In high performance terms and in line with the NZOC criteria for NZ Olympic qualification, distinction means ranked the top 16 in the World (open – not age group) with the likelihood of a top 8 finish at pinnacle events (Olympics, World Championships and World Cup).

WPNZ pathway and domestic competitions are categorised as Participation, Competitive Participation, Competitive, Performance. These national programmes are known as athlete development.



For clarification regards NZ government high performance funding:

HPSNZ INVESTMENT CRITERIA INVESTMENT CATEGORISATION

- TEAM SPORT / SUB-CATEGORY:

NSO FOCUSED CAMPAIGNS

• Descriptor:

Team sport NSO likely to achieve podium success at the pinnacle event in this cycle, and/ or across multiple cycles, and/or contribute to HPSNZ's broader investment objectives.

Evidence Required (seeking some or all of this evidence):

IN PRIORITY ORDER:

1. Strong evidence of the senior national team tracking towards a medal at the agreed pinnacle event/s in this cycle (Olympic/Paralympic Games or world championship/world cup)
2. A Top 4 placing at the pinnacle event in the last cycle (Olympic/ Paralympic Games or world championship/world cup) and strong evidence of tracking towards Top 4 placing at the pinnacle event in this cycle (Olympic/Paralympic Games or world championship/world cup)
3. In sports with significant global competition environments, strong evidence of ability to qualify for the pinnacle event in this cycle (Olympic/Paralympic Games and/or world championship/world cup)
4. A Top 4 placing at the Commonwealth Games in the last cycle and strong evidence of tracking towards a medal at the Commonwealth Games in this cycle
5. Athlete depth within the pathway is of sufficient quality and quantity to deliver future podium performance

INVESTMENT DECISION-MAKING CONSIDERATIONS

- Ability to impact HPSNZ's stated strategic outcomes
- Past performance
- Future potential
- Quality of HP pathway, programme, and/or campaign(s)
- Individual sport context



Location: 14 Antares Place, Rosedale, Auckland 0632, New Zealand

Postal Address: PO Box 302145, North Harbour, Auckland 0751, New Zealand

+64 9 476 0376 | admin@nzwaterpolo.org.nz | nzwaterpolo.org.nz



HPSNZ long term strategic outcomes:

Performances that Connect-

International performances that inspire and unite New Zealanders, contributing to national pride and wellbeing

Engagement –

Increase the proportion of New Zealanders engaging with high performance sport



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