

CombatAUS National Performance Centre (NPC) Selection Guidelines 2026

Purpose

The CombatAUS National Performance Centre (NPC) provides an athlete-centred, coach-led, and performance-supported environment designed to develop world-class athletes capable of winning medals at benchmark events. The program focuses on excellence in daily training, performance behaviours, and alignment between the athlete, their home coach, and the CombatAUS High Performance (HP) system.

1. Overview

The NPC operates in partnership with the [Victorian Institute of Sport \(VIS\)](#) and supports CombatAUS athletes across **Judo and Taekwondo**. The program offers:

- Centralised training and access to HP coaching and multidisciplinary support.
- Integration with VIS performance services (strength and conditioning, medical, physiotherapy, psychology, nutrition, wellbeing, and recovery).
- Collaboration between national and home coaches to maximise athlete progression.

Key Dates:

- **Applications open:** October 31, 2025
- **Applications close:** November 21, 2025
- **Selections confirmed:** December 8, 2025
- **Program commences:** January 5, 2026

[Submit an Expression of Interest](#)

[Read the National Performance Centre \(NPC\) Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ's\)](#)

2. Eligibility

Athletes are eligible to apply if they:

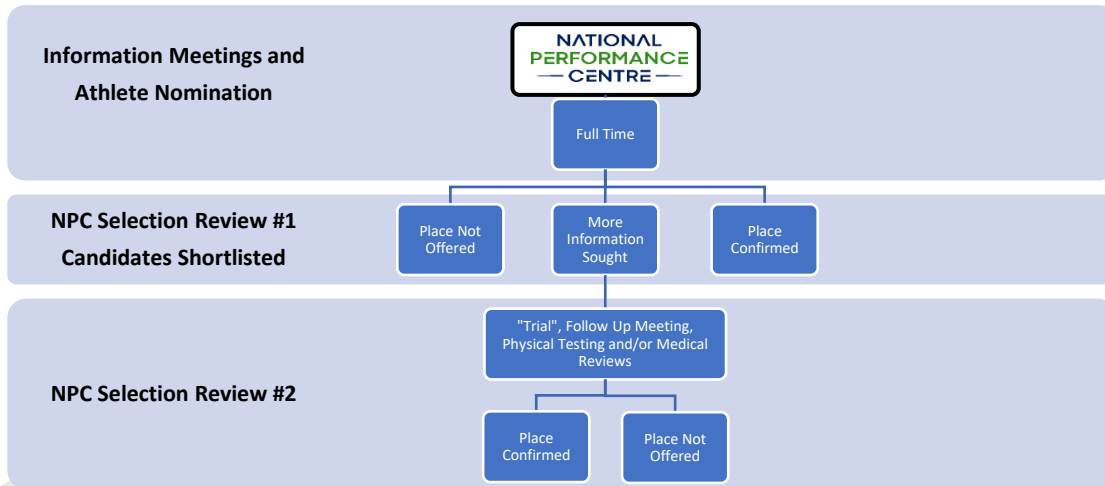
- Hold Australian citizenship and are eligible to represent Australia at international competition.
- Are members of their relevant National Sporting Organisation's (NSO) High Performance or Development Program.
- Have an Individual Performance Plan (IPP) endorsed by their National Coach or Pathway Coach.
- Demonstrate consistent engagement in training, competition, and performance behaviours aligned with the sports 'What It Takes to Win' (WITTW) framework.

Priority consideration will be given to athletes who:

- Are categorised within the **AIS Athlete Categorisation Guidelines**.
- Demonstrate podium potential for **LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032 and beyond**.
- Are committed to full-time training within the Melbourne-based NPC environment.

3. Application Process

1. Complete the online **Expression of Interest (EOI)** form.
2. Applications will be reviewed by the CombatAUS NPC Selection Panel, consisting of National Coaches, and CombatAUS HP staff.
3. Shortlisted athletes may be invited to attend an interview and/or training assessment.



Selection outcomes will be communicated by email in December 2025.

4. Selection Considerations

Selections will be based on a holistic assessment of the following factors:

- **Performance Level:** Recent international and domestic results, and competitive trajectory.
- **Daily Training Environment (DTE):** Commitment to high-performance behaviours, reliability, and engagement.
- **Coach and Support Alignment:** Demonstrated collaboration with National and home coaches.
- **Physical and Technical Readiness:** Alignment to the WITTW benchmarks.
- **Contribution to Culture:** Attitude, professionalism, and willingness to contribute to a high-performance environment.

5. Athlete Expectations

NPC athletes are expected to:

- Commit fully to the daily training schedule and HP standards.
- Actively engage with CombatAUS and VIS performance staff.
- Maintain agreed targets within their Individual Performance Plan (IPP).
- Represent the program with integrity and uphold the CombatAUS values – commitment, consistency, accountability, professionalism, and integrity.

Athletes must also comply with all integrity, anti-doping, and wellbeing policies as outlined by Sport Integrity Australia, CombatAUS, and their NSO.

6. Support Available

NPC athletes receive access to:

- Full-time coaching and daily training facilities.
- VIS performance support across key disciplines (strength and conditioning, medical, physiotherapy, psychology, nutrition, wellbeing, and recovery). To access a VIS performance support, an athlete is required to be Categorised for the following year.
- Competition preparation and monitoring tools.
- Periodised planning and athlete performance reviews.

Individual levels of support will vary depending on athlete categorisation, program fit, and alignment to LA 2028 performance goals.

7. Communication and Review

- All selected athletes will participate in a formal induction and review meeting.
- Ongoing communication between CombataUS, VIS, and home coaches will ensure consistent progress tracking.
- Athlete status will be reviewed annually, considering performance progression, engagement, and IPP outcomes.

8. Further Information

For questions or to discuss eligibility, please contact:

CombataUS National High Performance Director, Andrew Nolen –
andrew.nolen@combataus.com.au

9. Links:

[Submit an Expression of Interest](#)

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CombataUS – Building World-Class Combat Sports for LA 2028 and Beyond