

CombatAUS National Performance Centre (NPC)

Selection Guidelines 2027

Purpose

These guidelines explain who may apply for the 2027 CombatAUS National Performance Centre (NPC) program, how applications will be assessed, what selected athletes can expect and the standards required throughout the program.

1. Program overview

The Melbourne-based NPC provides an athlete-centred, coach-led and performance-supported daily training environment. Its purpose is to develop athletes capable of winning medals at benchmark international events through high-quality daily training, clear performance behaviours and close alignment between athletes, home coaches and the CombatAUS High Performance system.

Delivered in partnership with the Victorian Institute of Sport (VIS), the NPC supports selected CombatAUS Judo and Taekwondo athletes through:

- 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.

2. Key dates how to apply

Milestone	Date
Applications open	5 October 2026
Applications close	9 November 2026
Selection outcomes advised	7 December 2026
2027 program commences	4 January 2027

How to apply.

Complete the online Expression of Interest form ([INSERT HYPERLINK](#)) by the closing date.

Applicants should also review the NPC Frequently Asked Questions ([INSERT HYPERLINK](#)) published with these guidelines before submitting.

3. Eligibility

Athletes may apply if they:

- Hold Australian citizenship and are eligible to represent Australia at international competition.
- Are a member of their relevant National Sporting Organisation's (NSO) High Performance or Pathway/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.

Meeting the eligibility requirements does not guarantee selection. Selection will also depend on the assessment criteria below, program fit and available capacity.

4. Application Process

1. Complete the online **Expression of Interest (EOI)** form by 9 November 2026.
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.
4. Selection outcomes will be communicated by email in December 2026.

5. 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 care/high challenge, high-performance environment.

6. Athlete Expectations

NPC athletes are expected to:

- Commit to the daily training schedule and HP standards.
- Engage actively with CombatAUS and VIS performance staff.
- Work toward the agreed targets within their Individual Performance Plan (IPP).
- Represent the program with integrity and uphold the CombatAUS values – commitment, consistency, accountability, professionalism, and integrity.
- Comply with all applicable integrity, anti-doping, and wellbeing policies as outlined by Sport Integrity Australia, CombatAUS, and their NSO.

7. Support Available

Depending on athlete categorisation, individual need and program fit, support may include;

- Full-time coaching and daily performance facilities.
- VIS performance support across key disciplines (strength and conditioning, medical, physiotherapy, nutrition, psychology, wellbeing (inc career & education support), 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.
- **VIS service access.** Athletes must be categorised for the relevant year to access VIS performance support. The type and level of support provided will vary according to athlete categorisation, Individual Performance Plan priorities, program fit and alignment with LA 2028 performance objectives.

8. Induction, communication and review

- All selected athletes will participate in a formal induction 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.

9. Further Information

For eligibility or program enquiries, contact Andrew Nolen, CombatAUS National High Performance Director, at andrew.nolen@combataus.com.au.

10. Links:

Submit an Expression of Interest

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

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