

CombatAUS National Performance Centre (NPC) Training Partner Selection Guidelines 2026

Purpose

The CombatAUS National Performance Centre (NPC) Taekwondo Training Partner Program exists to integrate the High Performance (HP) Program and Performance Pathway system, providing targeted athletes with accelerated development opportunities while strengthening the quality and depth of the centralised Daily Performance Environment (DPE).

The program is designed to:

- Enhance the daily training quality and benchmark-event readiness of HP Program athletes; and
- Support the progressive transition of identified Performance Pathway athletes into the HP Program by improving readiness across technical, physical, behavioural, and environmental demands.

Training Partner selection is performance-driven, time-bound, and reviewable, ensuring alignment with HP priorities and pathway progression outcomes.

Training Partners are selected to:

- Enhance the technical, tactical, and physical preparation of HP Program athletes within the DPE;
- Support benchmark event preparation, including weight-division and campaign-specific needs;
- Positively contribute to the standards, behaviours, and professionalism of the HP training environment;
- Accelerate development of targeted Performance Pathway athletes through exposure to HP training demands, enabling improved readiness and informed transition into the HP Program where appropriate.

1. Overview

NPC Training Partners:

- Train alongside full-time HP Program athletes within the centralised DPE;
- Engage on an agreed and individualised basis (e.g. part-time, or camp-based for interstate athletes), as determined by the National HP coaching team;
- Are selected to meet specific HP Program needs while supporting Pathway-to-HP integration.

Training Partner status:

- Is **not equivalent** to full-time NPC athlete selection;
- Does **not guarantee access** to full VIS scholarship services;
- Does **not imply national team selection**, but may support future progression where performance standards are met.

2. Eligibility

To be considered as an NPC Taekwondo Training Partner, athletes must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- AIS Categorised Athlete (Emerging, Developing, Podium Potential, Podium Ready, or Podium); or
- National Team Member at a recognised Benchmark Event, including:
 - Senior World Championships
 - U21 World Championships
 - Junior World Championships

AND

- Be an active member of an affiliated AT State Performance Pathway Program, demonstrating progression intent toward the HP Program.

Athletes must also:

- Be eligible to represent Australia internationally;
- Demonstrate availability and commitment to the HP DPE;
- Consistently display training, competition, and behavioural standards aligned with the sport's What It Takes to Win (WITTW) framework.

3. Selection Considerations

In addition to eligibility, the NPC Selection Panel will consider:

- Performance trajectory across domestic and international competition;
- Ability to enhance the quality of the DPE, including sparring quality and technical/tactical capability;
- Alignment to weight divisions, campaign phases, and HP Program priorities;
- Demonstrated HP behaviours (professionalism, coachability, accountability);
- Physical and technical readiness to train safely and consistently within an HP environment;
- Injury status and capacity to meet agreed training loads.

Primary consideration is the impact on HP Program athlete preparation for LA2028, alongside the athlete's readiness to progress within the HP pathway.

4. Application Process

1. Complete the online [**Expression of Interest \(EOI\)**](#) form.
2. Applications will be reviewed by the NPC Selection Panel, consisting of National HP 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 late January 2025.

5. Athlete Expectations

Selected Training Partners are expected to:

- Uphold HP Program training standards, codes of conduct, and wellbeing expectations;
- Engage constructively with HP athletes, coaches, and performance staff;
- Maintain clear communication with their home coach, National HP Coaches, and AusTKD Performance Pathway staff;
- Contribute to a culture of high standards, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Training access, volume, and duration will be individualised and agreed between the athlete, home coach, and National HP Coaches to support both HP needs and pathway progression.

6. Support Available

Selected Training Partners receive:

- Access to the HP Program DPE and coaching support from National HP Coaches;
- Access to VIS Strength & Conditioning sessions, pending availability under CombatAUS Agreement.

Selection as an NPC Training Partner:

- Does **not guarantee full-time NPC selection**;
- Does **not change pathway responsibility** for competition and camp programming, which remains coordinated by the home coach and AusTKD Performance Pathway Program.

7. Communication and Review

- All Training Partners will complete a formal induction into the HP environment;
- Ongoing communication between CombatAUS, National Coaches, and Pathway coaches will support alignment and progression tracking;
- Training Partner status will be reviewed bi-annually (or earlier if required), considering contribution to the DPE, performance progression, and readiness for transition into the HP Program.

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

The Training Partner Program forms a critical bridge between the Performance Pathway and the HP Program, enabling CombatAUS and AusTKD to better prepare athletes for the demands of centralised training, international competition, and long-term podium progression.

