



Climbing New Zealand (CNZ)

Selection Policy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This policy sets out the criteria and process for selection to:
 - a. New Zealand Climbing Teams to represent New Zealand at International Competitions (excluding the Olympics), and
 - b. New Zealand Development Squads.
- 1.2 CNZ will produce a separate policy for nomination to a New Zealand Olympic Team.

Objectives

- 1.3 The selection process and criteria are intended to:
 - a. Identify, support and develop high performance competition climbers, and
 - b. Increase the number of New Zealand climbers achieving:
 - i. Semi-final placings at world cups, world championships and youth world championships
 - ii. Semi-final placings or better at other International Competitions
 - iii. Top 6 results at paraclimbing world championships, and
 - iv. Selection for the Olympics.

Effect

- 1.4 This policy applies to selections from the date on which it is approved by the CNZ Committee (as noted at the end of this policy).

2. Eligibility & Age Requirements

New Zealand Climbing Teams

- 2.1 To be selected to a New Zealand Climbing Team, athletes must, at the Time of Selection:
 - a. Hold a New Zealand passport
 - b. Provide confirmation they are a member of a CNZ affiliated New Zealand based climbing club and have agreed to meet all terms imposed by CNZ for participation in its New Zealand based competitions
 - c. Be eligible to represent New Zealand at the International Competition the team is being selected for (including in respect of any applicable residency or age restrictions)
 - d. Not be ineligible, disqualified, suspended or under investigation for any breach or violation of New Zealand or applicable international anti-doping rules, regulations, codes or legislation (**Doping Rules**)
 - e. Not have used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected as being present in the athlete's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted doping, or used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offence as defined in the Doping Rules
 - f. If requested to do so, provide confirmation that they meet any health screening requirements for the International Competition the team is being selected for, including the REDs testing requirements of World Climbing
 - g. Not have acted in such a manner so as to bring the athlete, the sport or CNZ into public disrepute, and
 - h. Not be under investigation for, charged with, or convicted of any criminal offence, unless any sentence imposed has been served.



Development Squads

- 2.2 To be selected to a Development Squad, athletes must, at the Time of Selection:
- Be a New Zealand citizen
 - Provide confirmation they are a member of a CNZ affiliated New Zealand based climbing club and have agreed to meet all terms imposed by CNZ for participation in its New Zealand based competitions
 - Not be ineligible, disqualified, suspended or under investigation for any breach or violation of the Doping Rules, and
 - Not have used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected as being present in the athlete's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted doping, or used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offence as defined in Doping Rules.

Ongoing requirements

- 2.3 Once selected to a New Zealand Climbing Team or Development Squad athletes must continue to comply with CNZ requirements, including those set out in section 9.

3. National Competitions, Selection Camps & Age Categories

- 3.1 National Championships and any Selection Camp are important competitions in selecting athletes to Development Squads and New Zealand Climbing Teams.
- 3.2 National Championships and any Selection Camp are held in an annual cycle from September each year (**Domestic Season**).
- 3.3 To ensure:
- Athletes are selected as close as possible to International Competitions, and
 - All athletes in the same Age Category for which New Zealand Climbing Teams are selected compete with each other on the same climbs at National Championships and the Selection Camp,

National Championships and the Selection Camp must be held either:

- In the same calendar year as (but before), the International Competition for which athletes are being selected, or
 - From September the year before.¹
- 3.4 CNZ may at its discretion run additional Selection Camps to support the objectives of this policy. Any additional camp that is directly aligned to the selection process will be notified to athletes at least 60 days prior to that event.

Example 1:

The International Competitions for which New Zealand Climbing Teams are being selected are being held in May and September 2026. The National Championships and any Selection Camp must therefore be held between September 2025 and April 2026.

- 3.5 The CNZ Committee may elect to hold additional selection events outside the Domestic Season (e.g. if a New Zealand Climbing Team needs to be selected for an Olympic qualifying event).

How Age Categories work for National Competitions & Selection Camps

Held in the same year

- 3.6 Where a National Championship or Selection Camp is held in the same calendar year

¹ Noting, however, that this does not limit selection eligibility via the alternative performance criteria set out in Table 2 below e.g. if the athlete becomes eligible based on performance at a world cup or world championship.



as the International Competition, athletes must meet the age requirements as at 31 December that year.

Example 2:

The International Competitions for which New Zealand Climbing Teams are being selected are being held in May and September 2026. The National Championships and Selection Camp must therefore be held between September 2025 and April 2026.

The national lead championships are being held on 15 February 2026 and the national bouldering championships on 15 March 2026.

On 1 January 2026 Athlete A is 16. She turns 17 on 25 February 2026.

As she will be 17 as at 31 December 2021 Athlete A is U19 for both competitions (even though she is 16 at the time of the national lead championships). As she is 16 and over as at 31 December 2026 Athlete A may also be considered for selection in the Open category.

- 3.7 Where a National Championships or Selection Camp is held between September and December the year before the International Competition, athletes must meet the age requirements as at 31 December in the year of the International Competition.

Example 3:

The International Competitions for which New Zealand Climbing Teams are being selected are being held in May and September 2026. The National Championships and Selection Camp must therefore be held between September 2025 and April 2026.

The national bouldering championships are held on 15 September 2025 and the national lead championships on 15 March 2026.

Athlete B's birthday is 1 November. He turns 17 on 1 November 2025 and turns 18 on 1 November 2026.

As he will be 18 as at 31 December 2026 Athlete B is U19 for both competitions (even though he is 16 at the time of the national bouldering championship and 17 at the time of the national lead championships). As he is 16 and over as at 31 December 2026 Athlete B may also be considered for selection in the Open category.

Age Categories & restrictions

- 3.8 To compete in an Open event at National Championship an athlete must be at least 15 years of age at the time of the event.
- 3.9 The CNZ Committee may (in its sole discretion) where it considers it necessary or expedient:
- Amend the Age Categories to align with the age categories of International Competitions, and
 - Introduce other age-related restrictions (e.g. prohibit athletes 16 and under competing in Open competitions) (**Additional Age Restrictions**).
- 3.10 The CNZ Committee will endeavour to give as much notice as reasonably possible of any Additional Age Restrictions, but in any event will give notice at least 2 months before the first National Championship in a Domestic Season.

Selection Camps

- 3.11 Selection Camps may be held by CNZ in a Domestic Season in one or more Age



Categories.

- 3.12 Competitions at Selection Camps will be held:
 - a. Using the same competition format (including points, scoring etc) as National Championships, or
 - b. The format notified by CNZ at least 6 weeks before the Selection Camp.
- 3.13 Where a Selection Camp is held using a format notified by CNZ:
 - a. Details of the format, including how points are scored and allocated, ties are treated etc, will be included in CNZ's notification.

4. Disciplines

- 4.1 Athletes are selected to New Zealand Climbing Teams in each Discipline. Athletes selected to a New Zealand Climbing Team in a particular Discipline may only compete for New Zealand in that Discipline.
- 4.2 Athletes are selected to a Development Squad on the basis of performance in any Discipline. Athletes selected to a Development Squad based on performance in one of the bouldering or lead disciplines may compete in that and the other Discipline at a Selection Camp.

Example 4:

Athlete C is 2nd at the national bouldering championships. Athlete C competes in the national lead championships but does not make the finals in that competition. On the basis of their performance at the national bouldering championships Athlete C is selected to a Development Squad. Athlete C may compete in the bouldering and lead competitions at any Selection Camp.

- 4.3 Speed Discipline. Selection into Speed discipline has its own selection criteria separate from lead and bouldering. There may be additional Selection Camps created for Speed athletes.
 - 4.3.1 Speed selection into a Development Squad is based on athletes meeting the qualification time for their category. The required times are published on the CNZ website. If these times are changed they will be communicated to the community.
 - 4.3.2 U19 athletes can qualify a time for their age group while competing in the Open category.

5. New Zealand Development Squads

- 5.1 Athletes meeting the:
 - a. eligibility requirements in section 2, and
 - b. age and performance criteria in Table 1 below,are selected to the New Zealand Development Squad and the New Zealand Youth Development Squad (as applicable).
- 5.2 Athletes are selected to a Development Squad for a two year period. This time is calculated from the Time of Selection in a particular Discipline to the date of the second National Championships in that Discipline held.² (In respect of a selection based on a Combined event, if there is no Combined National Championship in the relevant Domestic Season, time will be calculated from the date of either the second bouldering or lead National Championship, whichever is first.)

² This applies even if the athlete is selected based on performance at a world cup or world championship.



Example 5:

Athlete D is 2nd at the national lead championships in February 2025 and 10th in the national bouldering championships in March 2025. On the basis of their performance in the lead championships Athlete D is selected to a Development Squad.

The national lead championships are held again in February 2026 and again in March 2027. Athlete D is therefore a member of the Development Squad from February 2025 to March 2027 (but may be selected to a Development Squad again based on their performance at the March 2027 competition).

- 5.3 An athlete remains in the Development Squad for a two year period even if they move up an Age Category in their second year. They will then automatically be deemed to be a member of the Development Squad in the next Age Category.

Example 6:

Athlete E wins the lead national championship in February 2026 in the U15 Category. She is selected to the Development Squad. She turned 14 in January 2026 and will turn 15 in January 2027. She competes in the lead championship held in March 2027 as an U17. She remains in the Development Squad as an U17 athlete until February 2028 when the lead national championships are held again regardless of her result in the March 2027 lead national championships.

- 5.4 CNZ will notify athletes meeting the criteria of their selection within 5 working days after the criteria has been met.
- 5.5 Athletes in a Development Squad are entitled to attend the Selection Camp (if one is held).

Table 1: New Zealand Development Squads Age & Performance Criteria

	Age Category	Performance Criteria
NZ Development Squad	Open	One of: • Top 30% of those athletes meeting the eligibility criteria in section 2 in each gender, Age Category and Discipline at most recent National Championships • Top 50% of field in most recent world cup/world championship (any Discipline) • Top 50 Combined world cup ranking, most recent season • Top 60 Combined world championships ranking, most recent season • Selected in accordance with paragraph 5.6 (Selection Committee discretionary selection)
NZ Youth Development Squad	U19, U17, U15, U13	One of: • Top 30% of those athletes meeting the eligibility criteria in section 2 in each gender, Age Category and Discipline at most recent National Championships • Selected in accordance with paragraph 5.6 (Selection Committee discretionary selection)



Speed Development Squad	Open, U19, U17	• Has met the qualification time for that category at the National Speed Championships • Selected in accordance with paragraph 5.6 (Selection Committee discretionary selection)
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Discretionary Selection to New Zealand Development Squads

- 5.6 The Selection Committee may select athletes meeting the eligibility criteria in section 2 to a Development Squad in addition to those meeting the performance criteria in Table 1, where the Selection Committee considers (in their sole discretion):
- Exceptional Circumstances apply (see section 8), or
 - The selection supports the objectives of this policy.
- 5.7 Where discretion is exercised, the Selection Committee will:
- Record their reasons for the selection in writing (and provide these to the CNZ Committee), and
 - Notify those selected within 5 working days of the selection.

6. New Zealand Climbing Teams

- 6.1 The CNZ Committee determines:
- Which International Competitions New Zealand Climbing Teams will compete at, and
 - The Age Categories and Disciplines for which New Zealand Climbing Teams will be selected.
- 6.2 New Zealand Climbing Teams are selected for each International Competition by the Selection Committee following review by the CNZ Committee.
- 6.3 The number of athletes selected to a New Zealand Climbing Team depends on the number of places available to New Zealand athletes at the International Competition and selection in accordance with this policy. Accordingly:
- The size of New Zealand Climbing Teams may vary depending on the International Competition, and
 - Fewer athletes may be selected in a New Zealand Climbing Team than there are places available at an International Competition.
- 6.4 Results at national or international events, or achieving the Minimum Selection Standards (or any other criteria set out or referred to in this policy) do not guarantee selection to a New Zealand Climbing Team.
- 6.5 Athletes meeting the:
- eligibility requirements in section 2, and
 - the age and performance criteria in Table 2 below,
- are eligible to be considered for selection to a New Zealand Climbing Team (**Eligible Athletes**).
- 6.6 To streamline the selection process the Selection Committee may opt to seek expressions of interest from Eligible Athletes for events prior to undertaking the selection process. This is an administrative process to enable the Selection Committee to remove from consideration for selection those athletes who have indicated they do not wish to be considered. If this process is adopted, and depending on the returned intentions, the Selection Committee may prepare an Initial Team List based on the returned athlete intentions.
- 6.7 The selection process for New Zealand Climbing Teams is set out below.



Table 2: New Zealand Climbing Teams & Performance Criteria

Team	Age Category	Performance Criteria
NZ Team	Open	One of: • Member of New Zealand Development Squad • A top 40 result at a world cup/world championship (single Discipline) in previous 12 months • Top 40 Combined result at most recent world championship • Top 40 Combined world cup ranking, most recent season • 1 world cup semi-final in current or previous season • Current Oceania champion
NZ Youth Team (Australian Youth Championships)	U19, U17, U15, U13	One of: • Member of the current New Zealand Youth Development Squad. • Member of the New Zealand Youth Development Squad in the prior year.
NZ Youth Team (Oceania or World Climbing Youth World Championships)	U19, U17, U15, U13	One of: • Member of the New Zealand Youth Development Squad • Top 40 result at most recent youth world championships (single Discipline) • Top 40 Combined result at most recent youth world championships • Current Oceania champion in the athlete's current Age Category • U19 athletes also selected in the NZ Team (NZ Open team)
NZ Paraclimbing Team	Open	One of: • Top 25% of NZ Paraclimbing of those athletes meeting the eligibility criteria in section 2 in each gender and Discipline as ranked by the Selection Committee in accordance with the criteria set out in Appendix 1 • Top 8 result at a world championship in previous 12 months • Current Oceania champion
UTSNZ Team (Universities and Tertiary Sport New Zealand)	Refer to FISU website	• Must be eligible to compete under the UTSNZ and FISU criteria. Refer to UTSNZ and FISU websites. And one of: • Member of the New Zealand Development Squad • Member of the New Zealand Youth Development Squad
NZ Speed Team	Open, U19, U17	One of: • Member of the New Zealand Development Squad • Member of the New Zealand Youth Development Squad • Top 40 result at most recent youth world championships • Top 40 result at a world cup/world championship in previous 12 months • Current Oceania champion in U19 or Open Age



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Selection Committee

- 6.8 The Selection Committee comprises the:
- Selection convenor
 - Three selectors appointed by the CNZ Committee. Selectors must have enough experience and expertise to assess athletes against requirements to compete at international competitions and be able to defend their decisions through appeals, committee review and if necessary the sports tribunal.
- 6.9 The selection convenor is appointed/reappointed by the CNZ Committee annually, chairs the Selection Committee and may be an independent appointee.
- 6.10 The three appointed members of the Selection Committee are appointed/reappointed annually and may be independent appointees.
- 6.11 The CNZ Committee may (in its sole discretion) change an appointed selector or the selection convenor:
- at any time before the Selection Committee meets to consider selection for an International Competition, or
 - at any subsequent time if a selector or the selection convenor is unable or unwilling to perform his or her duties.
- 6.12 Any change will be notified on CNZ's website.

Roles

- 6.13 The Selection Committee's role is to:
- Determine which athletes meet the applicable criteria:
 - For selection to a Development Squad, and
 - To be considered for selection to a New Zealand Climbing Team
 - Make discretionary selections to a Development Squad in accordance with paragraph 5.6
 - Ensure Eligible Athletes are fairly considered for selection to a New Zealand Climbing Team
 - Adjust rankings as a result of Exceptional Circumstances applications being granted by the CNZ Committee
 - Select athletes to New Zealand Climbing Teams
 - Consider selection appeals (section 7), and
 - Consider whether athletes should be removed from New Zealand Climbing Teams (section 10).
- 6.14 The selection convenor's role is to:
- Chair the Selection Committee
 - Oversee selection to ensure it is undertaken in accordance with this policy
 - Attend all Selection Committee meetings and take minutes of those meetings, and
 - Provide, to the CNZ Committee:
 - Confirmation that selection has been undertaken in accordance with this policy
 - The names of those selected to Provisional Teams and New Zealand Climbing Teams
 - Any recommendations (together with reasons) to remove athletes from an Initial Team List under paragraphs 6.20 or 6.25 (Minimum Selection Standards and other considerations)
 - Details (together with reasons) of any athletes chosen by the Selection Committee under paragraph 6.18(b) (athletes tied in the Adjusted Rankings)
 - The minutes of Selection Committee meetings, and
 - Details and supporting information of how Appendix 2 has been applied where applications for Exceptional Circumstances have been granted.



Selection

- 6.15 In determining selections to New Zealand Climbing Teams the Selection Committee:
- a. Ranks athletes
 - b. In the case of Speed, assesses whether athletes have met, or will meet, any Minimum Selection Standards, and
 - c. May take other considerations into account in accordance with paragraphs 6.25 to 6.30.

Ranking

- 6.16 In considering athletes for selection to a New Zealand Climbing Team, the Selection Committee must rank Eligible Athlete's in accordance with Appendix 1.
- 6.17 The Selection Committee must then adjust the rankings in accordance with Appendix 2 (**Adjusted Rankings**) as a result of Exceptional Circumstances applications being granted (see section 8).
- 6.18 In the event athletes are tied on the same number of points in the Adjusted Rankings the higher ranked athlete will be:
- a. Where the athletes competed against each other in that Discipline at the most recent National Championship or Selection Camp, the athlete with the highest final placing at the last of those events in which they both competed,
 - b. If the athletes have not competed against each other in that Discipline at the most recent National Championship or Selection Camp, the athlete determined by the Selection Committee.
- 6.19 Subject to any streamlining of the ranking process possible following the use of the expression of interest process provided for in clause 6.6 above, the Selection Committee must then compile an initial team list (**Initial Team List**) on the basis of the Adjusted Rankings with:
- a. The highest ranked athlete securing the first spot on the Initial Team List, the next highest ranked the second spot and so on until the number of places available to New Zealand athletes at the International Competition are filled (**Initial Team**), and
 - b. The next highest ranking athlete as a reserve (**Initial Reserve**).

Example 7:

The International Competition has 2 places available for New Zealand athletes. The first 2 athletes based on the Adjusted Ranking form the Initial Team and the next highest ranked athlete is the Initial Reserve. These 3 athletes form the Initial Team List.

Minimum Selection Standards for Speed

- 6.20 In the case of Speed, the Selection Committee must then determine whether athletes on the Initial Team List have met, or will meet, any Minimum Selection Standards.
- 6.21 If an athlete does not meet, or the Selection Committee considers the athlete will not within a reasonable time meet, the Minimum Selection Standards for Speed the Selection Committee may recommend to the CNZ Committee that the athlete be removed from the Initial Team List.
- 6.22 If the CNZ Committee ratifies the Selection Committee's recommendation, the athlete will be removed from the Initial Team List, in which case:
- a. The athlete is not replaced by a lower ranked athlete, the Initial Reserve or another athlete not on the Initial Team List, and
 - b. Athletes ranked below that athlete will also be removed from the Initial Team List irrespective of whether those athletes meet the Minimum Selection Standards³.

³ Lower ranked athletes have not performed as well as the removed athlete in the events against which athletes are ranked in Appendix 1.



- 6.23 If the CNZ Committee ratifies the Selection Committee's recommendation to remove an athlete, the Selection Committee must provide its reasons in writing to those athletes removed at the time the Provisional Team is notified under paragraph 6.34.
- 6.24 CNZ will publish the Minimum Selection Standards for Speed at least 2 months before the first National Speed Championship in each Domestic Season, except in exceptional circumstances when it may determine a shorter notice period. If no standards are notified none will apply.

Other Criteria

- 6.25 The Selection Committee may then assess athletes on the Initial Team List against any of the following **Performance Factors**:
 - a. The athlete's results and performances in international and domestic competitions over the previous 12 months, and
 - b. Whether the athlete's previous performances at domestic and international competitions demonstrate he/she will be competitive and perform credibly at the International Competition.
 - c. In considering athletes to be selected for World Youth Championships, the Selection Committee must consider the athlete's overall readiness to compete at this level. A lack of competition experience may be a factor, as the Selection Committee needs evidence to support selections. As an example, athletes to be considered for Youth World Championships should have a minimum of 2 climbing seasons competing at National Championship level and there would be a strong preference for the athletes to have competed at events outside of New Zealand.
- 6.26 If the Selection Committee considers an athlete does not meet the above Performance Factors, it may recommend to the CNZ Committee that the athlete be removed from the Initial Team List.
- 6.27 If the CNZ Committee ratifies the Selection Committee's recommendation, the athlete will be removed from the Initial Team List, in which case:
 - a. The athlete is not replaced by a lower ranked athlete, the Initial Reserve or another athlete not on the Initial Team List, and
 - b. Athletes ranked below that athlete will also be removed from the Initial Team List irrespective of whether those athletes meet the Performance Factors⁴.
- 6.28 If the CNZ Committee ratifies the Selection Committee's decision to remove an athlete, the Selection Committee must provide its reasons in writing to those athletes removed at the time the Provisional Team is notified under paragraph 6.34.
- 6.29 The Selection Committee may determine the relevance (if any) and weight they wish to place on any Performance Factor(s) as they consider appropriate. No particular Performance Factor shall be weighed more or less significantly based on the order in which it appears.
- 6.30 For selections for the Australian Youth Championships, where the number of athletes per Age Category may be restricted (e.g. to 2), the Selection Committee may opt to select athletes in a single discipline only.
 - 6.30.1 The rankings from the qualification event/s should still be the first consideration when selecting for this event.6.30.2 Reasons for a single discipline selection may include:
 - a. An athlete who is new to competing at this level and selection in a single discipline allows the athlete to focus on the one discipline in their training a lead up.
 - b. There may be athletes who we wish to select to compete at the World Climbing World Youth Championships where up to 3 athletes are allowed to compete, however they will benefit from the opportunity to compete at the Australian Youth event as part of their lead up.
 - c. Athletes may be very close in ability and performance and we wish to

⁴ Lower ranked athletes have not performed as well as the removed athlete in the events against which athletes are ranked in Appendix 1.



provide the development opportunity to additional athletes given the closeness of the results.

Provisional Teams

- 6.31 Once the Selection Committee has completed the above steps the athletes on the Initial Team List will comprise the **Provisional Team**.
- 6.32 The Selection Committee will provide the CNZ Committee with each Provisional Team within 2 working days of having completed the above steps. The selection convenor will provide the information required under paragraph 6.14(d) to the CNZ Committee at the same time.
- 6.33 The CNZ Committee will review the Provisional Teams and information provided under paragraph 6.32, and provide its comments (if any) to the Selection Committee for its consideration. The Selection Committee will then finalise the Provisional Team.
- 6.34 The CNZ Committee will then notify all Eligible Athletes in writing of each Provisional Team.

Final Teams

- 6.35 The CNZ Committee will notify Eligible Athletes of final New Zealand Climbing Teams:
 - a. If no appeals are lodged, within 4 working days after the Provisional Team is notified under paragraph 6.34,
 - b. If an appeal is lodged, as soon as possible after the appeal has been determined.
- 6.36 The CNZ Committee may, in its absolute discretion, choose to notify athletes:
 - a. Selected to a final New Zealand Climbing Team of their selection where appeals have been lodged in respect of selections to other New Zealand Climbing Teams, and/or
 - b. Selected to a Provisional Team that appeals have been lodged in relation to the selections.

Conditional Selections

- 6.37 An athlete may be maintained on an Initial Team List, selected to a Provisional Team or be selected in a final New Zealand Climbing Team on a conditional basis where:
 - a. The athlete is recovering from injury or illness, or
 - b. For Speed, the athlete hasn't yet met, but the Selection Committee considers the athlete is likely to meet (within a reasonable period), the Minimum Selection Standards.
- 6.38 The Selection Committee will specify the conditions which must be met, and time by which they must be met. If the conditions are not met by the specified time, the conditionally selected athlete will be removed from the Initial Team List, Provisional Team or final New Zealand Climbing Team (as the case may be) and:
 - a. The Initial Reserve will be added as a member of the team, or
 - b. If the Initial Reserve is the conditionally selected athlete, has already replaced an athlete in a final New Zealand Climbing Team, or is not otherwise available, the next highest ranked athlete on the Adjusted Rankings will be added,provided in either case the Selection Committee is satisfied it would not recommend, under paragraphs 6.20 or 6.25, the athlete is removed from an Initial Team List.

7. Selection Appeals

Grounds for Appeal

- 7.1 An athlete may appeal their non-selection to a Development Squad or Provisional Team on one or more of the following grounds:
 - a. This policy was not properly followed



- b. The selection decision was affected by actual bias, or
- c. There was no material on which the decision could reasonably be based.

Lodging an Appeal

- 7.2 Appeals regarding non-selection to a Development Squad must be received by the CNZ Committee within 2 working days after the applicable Development Squad is notified under paragraph 5.3.
- 7.3 Appeals regarding non-selection to a Provisional Team must be received by the CNZ Committee within 2 working days after the applicable Provisional Team is notified under paragraph 6.34.

Appeal Process

- 7.4 The selection convenor must acknowledge receipt of the appeal as soon as possible but in any event within 2 working days after it is received.
- 7.5 The Selection Committee will consider the appeal and:
 - a. If the appeal relates to a Development Squad, notify the athlete of the outcome of the appeal within 10 working days after the applicable Development Squad is notified under paragraph 5.3,
 - b. If the appeal relates to a Provisional Team, notify the athlete of the outcome of the appeal within 10 working days after the applicable Provisional Team is notified under paragraph 6.34.
- 7.6 The Selection Committee will notify the CNZ Committee of the outcome of the appeal before it is notified to the athlete.
- 7.7 In considering an appeal the Selection Committee will:
 - a. Consider evidence from the athlete, its own process in undertaking the selections and from any other relevant party
 - b. If appropriate in the circumstances, reconsider its selections in accordance with this policy, and
 - c. Meet with the athlete if the athlete wishes to discuss the appeal.
- 7.8 Any meeting with an athlete may be held in person, by phone or video conference/internet communication. Any meeting with an athlete in respect of an appeal will be on a confidential and without prejudice basis and in particular, may not be used by either party in respect of any appeal to the New Zealand Sports Tribunal in relation to non-selection to a Provisional Team.
- 7.9 The Selection Committee's decision regarding appeals in respect of non-selection to a Development Squad will be final and binding on the parties.
- 7.10 If, following the Selection Committee's decision on an appeal regarding non-selection to a Provisional Team, an athlete considers there remain grounds for an appeal (as set out in paragraph 7.1) the athlete may lodge the appeal with the New Zealand Sports Tribunal. Such appeal must be:
 - a. Lodged within 15 working days of the applicable Provisional Team being notified under paragraph 6.34
 - b. Provided to the CNZ Committee at or before the time at which it is lodged with the New Zealand Sports Tribunal, and
 - c. Determined by the New Zealand Sports Tribunal in accordance with its rules.
- 7.11 The decision of the New Zealand Sports Tribunal shall be binding on the parties and, subject to any right of review and/or appeal as set out in its rules, no party to the appeal may institute or maintain proceedings in any Court or other Tribunal.
- 7.12 An athlete may have a representative act for them or support them with an appeal but the costs of engaging a representative shall be borne by the athlete irrespective of the outcome of the appeal.



8. Exceptional Circumstances

- 8.1 **Exceptional Circumstances** include:
- a. Injury
 - b. Illness
 - c. Conflicts with international competitions and associated travel where the athlete can demonstrate the international competition has significant potential benefit
 - d. Conflicts with, or is within reasonable proximity to, world cup or world championship events
 - e. Conflicts with other training or development opportunities the athlete can demonstrate have more potential benefit than attendance at domestic National Championships or the Selection Camp
 - f. Travel delays or cancellations
 - g. Bereavement, illness or injury to an immediate family member or other personal misfortune
 - h. School, university or other significant educational exams, training or career requirements, and
 - i. Any other factors reasonably considered by the Selection Committee to constitute exceptional circumstances.

Application

- 8.2 An athlete wishing Exceptional Circumstances to be taken into account in the selection process must advise the CNZ Committee by the date specified on CNZ's website, providing full details of the Exceptional Circumstances, the effect or potential effect on the athlete and his/her potential selection, and where applicable third party evidence (e.g. medical).
- 8.3 Applications relating to injury must be accompanied by supporting documentation from a medical professional including a medical certificate, confirmation of date of injury, diagnosis, prognosis and, if applicable, recovery plan.
- 8.4 The CNZ Committee may require additional information, documentation and/or evidence and may, in relation to injuries or illness, require an athlete to undertake a medical examination with a medical practitioner nominated by CNZ at the athlete's cost, with a copy of the examination to be provided to the CNZ Committee. This may include a medical certificate confirming that an athlete has recovered from illness/injury and the risk associated with, and extent to which they can return to, training and/or competing.

CNZ Committee Considerations

- 8.5 The CNZ Committee will assess Exceptional Circumstances applications.
- 8.6 In assessing an application the CNZ Committee will consider:
- a. The significance, severity and duration of the Exceptional Circumstances
 - b. The nature of the injury or illness (if applicable), prognosis for recovery and other medical recommendations and supporting medical evidence (e.g. the risk associated with, and extent to which an athlete can return to, training and/or competing)
 - c. Documented evidence provided
 - d. Potential impact in the short term and long term the Exceptional Circumstances may have on the athlete's ability to participate in competitions, performance, results, training, and wellbeing
 - e. The medium and long-term benefits to the athlete's physical and mental wellbeing in granting or declining the application
 - f. The athlete's responsiveness to overcome any illness or injury with urgency
 - g. Results at previous and subsequent (if any) national and international competitions, and
 - h. Other factors the CNZ Committee considers relevant.



- 8.7 The CNZ Committee may appoint a sub-committee to carry out its role under this section 8.

9. On-going Conditions

- 9.1 Athletes selected to New Zealand Climbing Teams and Development Squads must comply with the following on-going conditions⁵:

	NZ Team	NZ Development Squad	NZ Youth Team	NZ Youth Development Squad	NZ Para climbing Team
Meet the eligibility requirements in section 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comply with CNZ rules, codes of conduct, ethics and social media policies	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Have signed and returned an athlete's agreement	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Comply with Doping Rules	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comply with other applicable national and international policies (World Climbing, HPSNZ etc) notified as being within this requirement to athletes (including via CNZ's website)	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Follow training and competition plans where these have been agreed between the national or youth coach, the athlete, and if the athlete has one, the athlete's personal coach	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Participate in quarterly meetings (in person or remote) with the national or youth coach	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
Participate in annual fitness assessments with national coach	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

10. Selection Review and Dismissal

Eligibility & on-going conditions

- 10.1 The CNZ Committee may remove athletes from New Zealand Climbing Teams where they have breached, never met, or no longer meet, the eligibility requirements in section 2 or on-going conditions in section 9. Before removing an athlete, the CNZ Committee will notify the athlete of the issue and give them a reasonable opportunity to respond.

⁵ See Tables 1 and 2 (at paragraphs 5.5 and 6.7) for definitions of NZ Teams and Development Squads.



Illness, injury & training

- 10.2 The Selection Committee may, after the procedures in paragraphs 10.3 to 10.9 have been followed, recommend to the CNZ Committee that athletes be removed from New Zealand Climbing Teams where:
 - a. An athlete is injured or ill and that injury or illness may impact the athlete's ability to train or represent New Zealand at International Competitions, or
 - b. The Selection Committee (acting reasonably) considers the athlete has significantly decreased training effort and performance.
- 10.3 Where the Selection Committee (acting reasonably) considers paragraph 10.2 applies, the applicable national coach (or otherwise, the selection convenor) will discuss the concerns with the athlete, and if the athlete has one, the athlete's club/day to day coach.
- 10.4 If, following the discussion, the Selection Committee remains concerned it will notify the athlete of what they consider the issues to be, and may request supporting information (which in the case of injury or illness, may include a medical certificate, diagnosis, prognosis and recovery plan).
- 10.5 The athlete will be given a reasonable opportunity to respond and provide the information requested.
- 10.6 If the Selection Committee remains concerned (acting reasonably), the applicable national coach (or otherwise, the selection convenor) and athlete (together with the athlete's club/day to day coach if the athlete has one) will agree on actions and a sufficient period of time for the athlete to remedy the concerns.
- 10.7 If the concerns are not resolved within that period, the relevant coach (being either the national coach or the athlete's club/day to day coach) will notify the Selection Committee, including the actions taken and what the outcome has been.
- 10.8 The Selection Committee will then meet to consider if the athlete should be removed from the applicable New Zealand Climbing Team. If the Selection Committee considers the athlete should be removed from the team the selection convenor will provide the CNZ Committee with:
 - a. Confirmation of the Selection Committee's determination, and
 - b. Details and supporting information/evidence of how the Selection Committee has reached its determination.

Removal from New Zealand Climbing Team

- 10.9 The CNZ Committee will then consider whether to ratify the Selection Committee's decision. In doing so the CNZ Committee may obtain information, and hear, from any party (including the national coach, athlete and if the athlete has one, the athlete's club/day to day coach).
- 10.10 If the CNZ Committee decides to remove an athlete under paragraph 10.1, or ratifies the Selection Committee's decision under paragraph 10.9, the athlete will be removed from the applicable New Zealand Climbing Team and:
 - a. The Initial Reserve will be added, or
 - b. If the Initial Reserve is the removed athlete, has already replaced an athlete in the New Zealand Climbing Team, or is not otherwise available, the next highest ranked athlete on the Adjusted Rankings will be added,provided in either case the Selection Committee is satisfied it would not recommend, under paragraphs 6.20 or 6.25, the athlete is removed from an Initial Team List.

11. General

Finishing Position

- 11.1 In determining (in this policy and the Appendices) whether an athlete has finished in



the top “x” number of athletes (e.g. top 20), or is in a certain percentage of athletes (e.g. top 25%):

- a. athletes who entered the competition but did not compete are excluded, and
- b. athletes who competed in the competition but did not finish the event (e.g. because of injury) are included,
- c. athletes who are ineligible are excluded.

Rounding

11.2 Percentages (e.g. “top 25%”) are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Example 8:

*If 6 athletes are competing in U15 female, the top 30% of U15 female athletes is the top 2 competitors ($6 * 0.3 = 1.8$). If there are 7 athletes, 2 are still selected ($7 * 0.3 = 2.1$).*

Example 9:

*12 athletes are competing in the U19 male bouldering national championships. 2 of those athletes are from Australia and do not meet the eligibility criteria in section 2. The other 10 athletes do meet the eligibility criteria. The top 30% of athletes is therefore the top 3 of the 10 athletes who meet the eligibility criteria ($10 * 0.3 = 3$).*

12. Definitions

Age Categories:

- a. Open – 17 and over as at 31 December in relevant year
- b. U19 as at 31 December in relevant year
- c. U17 as at 31 December in relevant year
- d. U15 as at 31 December in relevant year, and
- e. U13 as at 31 December in relevant year.

(Please see further section 3 and the examples therein as to what the relevant year will be for selection purposes.)

CNZ means Climbing New Zealand Incorporated

CNZ Committee means the committee of CNZ from time to time

Development Squads means the New Zealand Development Squad and the New Zealand Youth Development Squad selected in accordance with this policy and notified under paragraph 5.4

Discipline means:

- a. Lead climbing (top rope for U13)
- b. Bouldering
- c. Speed climbing, and
- d. Combined, being a competition combining the above Disciplines.
- e. Paracimbing.

Domestic Season has the meaning given in paragraph 3.2

Doping Rules has the meaning given in paragraph 2.1

Eligible Athletes has the meaning given in paragraph 6.5

Exceptional Circumstances means the circumstances set out in paragraph 8.1

International Competitions means the international climbing competitions the CNZ Committee has determined New Zealand Climbing Teams will compete at but excludes the Olympics

Minimum Selection Standards mean the selection standards for the Speed discipline that an athlete must meet as set by the CNZ Committee (if any) and published in accordance with paragraph 6.24.

National Championship means a national climbing championship competition run and/or sanctioned by CNZ

New Zealand Development Squads (or Development Squads) means the Development Squads selected in accordance with this policy

New Zealand Climbing Team means a New Zealand climbing team selected to compete



at International Competitions in accordance with this policy but excludes persons nominated by CNZ to form part of a New Zealand Olympic Team

New Zealand Olympic Team means a team selected by the New Zealand Olympic Committee from nominations made by CNZ

Provisional Team means a provisional New Zealand Climbing Team selected in accordance with this policy and notified under paragraph 6.34

Selection Camp means any selection camp or event run and/or sanctioned by CNZ that may contribute towards the selection of athletes into a New Zealand Development Squad or New Zealand Climbing Team

Selection Committee means the selection committee referred to in paragraph 6.8

Time of Selection means:

- a. In respect of selection to a New Zealand Climbing Team, the date on which the Provisional Team is notified in accordance with paragraph 6.34.
- b. In respect of selection to a Development Squad, the date on which:
 - i. the applicable performance criteria is achieved (i.e. date of National Championship, world championship or world cup), or
 - ii. the Selection Committee notifies the athlete notice of the selection in accordance with paragraph 5.4 or 5.7 (as the case may be).

General

Amendment: This policy may be amended at any time by the CNZ Committee

Appendices: The Appendices form part of this policy

Legislation etc: a reference to an enactment, regulations, rules or policies is a reference to those things as amended or substituted from time to time

Notified or similar: a reference or requirement to something being notified shall include notification by email, website, social media publication or other similar electronic means.

Plural & gender: the singular includes the plural and vice versa, and words importing one gender include the other genders

Status: This policy overrides any correspondence, discussions and representations (whether written or oral) regarding the selections to New Zealand Climbing Teams or Development Squads.

13. Details

Policy owner	CNZ Committee
Commencement Date	July 2020
2022 Revision	Released December 2022, change summary: Re-define the national selector criteria, to remove specific named roles. All selectors selected at large via EOI process (clause 6.7). Include Speed discipline in selection process (clause 4.3 and table 2) Include World University Championships in selection process (table 2) Adding a level of competitive climbing experience as one factor to be considered when selecting for World Youth Championships (clause 6.24c)
2023 Revision	Released November 2023, change summary: Clarifies the definition of a Selection Camp



	Allows Expressions of Interest to be used as part of the selection process. (Section 6.6) Introduces single discipline selections (under certain circumstances) as part of the selection process for Australian Youth Championships. (Section 6.30) Minor wording tidy up.
2026 Revision	Released August 2026, change summary: Further clarifies selection eligibility Updates for consistency with World Climbing age categories Updates percentage of athletes that may be selected into Development Squad and introduces two year Development Squad cycle Further clarifies how the Expressions of Interest process works in practice Updates references to World Climbing (from IFSC) Retains Minimum Selection Standards only for Speed. Minor other wording tidy up.
Next Review	Maximum of 2 years from last review



APPENDIX 1:

Initial Ranking Criteria

Eligible Athletes are ranked using the points system set out in this Appendix.

Open athletes are ranked using sections 1 to 4. All other Age Categories are ranked using sections 2 to 4 only.

Athletes are ranked according to gender and Age Category for each Discipline.

1. World Climbing results

Result category	Points	Consistency bonus points
Top 5	18	9
Top 20	17	7
Semi-final	14	5
Top 30% of field	12	4
Top 50% of field	10	3
Top 75% of field	8	2

An Open athlete earns points for open world cups/championships up to a maximum of 45 points (inclusive of consistency bonus points).

- **Points:** Points are earned per Discipline based on an athlete's **best 2** results from the most recent World Climbing season.
- **Consistency bonus points:** Points are earned if an athlete achieves 2 or more results in the **same results category**.

Position is determined by finishing position in the overall field – not the finishing position of only those athletes meeting the eligibility criteria in section 2 of the policy.

Example 1A:

Athlete A has 1 x top 5 result and 2 x top 20 results.

- **Points:** Athlete A's best 2 results are 1): a top 5 (18 points) and 2): a top 20 (giving 17) giving a total of 35 points.
- **Consistency bonus points:** Athlete A also achieved 2 results in the same results category - 2 top 20 results. Athlete A therefore earns 7 additional consistency bonus points.
- **Total points:** Athlete A earns 42 points (35 + 7).

Example 2A:

Athlete B has 1 x top 5 result and 1 x top 20 result and 1 x top 30% result.

- **Points:** Athlete B's best 2 results are 1): a top 5 (18 points) and 2): a top 20 (17 points) giving a total of 35 points.
- **Consistency bonus points:** Athlete B did not achieve 2 results in the same results category so does not earn any additional consistency bonus points.
- **Total points:** Athlete B earns 35 points.



2. National Championship results

Position	Points
1 st	20
2 nd	18
3 rd	15
4 th	12
5 th	8

Position	Points
6 th	7
7 th	6
8 th	4
9 th	2
10 th	1

Points are awarded in each Age Category, gender and Discipline at each National Championships.

Position is determined by the finishing position of those athletes meeting the eligibility criteria in section 2 of the policy.

Example 3A:

Athlete X wins U17 female at the national lead championships so earns 20 points for rankings in the New Zealand U17 female lead team. They come 7th in the national bouldering championships and earn 6 points for rankings in the New Zealand U17 female bouldering team.

Example 4A:

Athlete A wins the U19 male at the national bouldering championships, Athlete B comes 2nd, Athlete C 3rd, Athlete D 4th and Athlete E 5th. Athletes A, C and E meet the eligibility criteria in section 2 of the policy. Athlete's B and D are from Australia and do not meet the eligibility criteria. The position of the athletes for the purposes of awarding points is:

- Athlete A: 1st*
- Athlete B: not applicable – does not meet the eligibility criteria in section 2*
- Athlete C: 2nd*
- Athlete D: not applicable – does not meet the eligibility criteria in section 2*
- Athlete E: 3rd*

3. Selection Camp

Position	Points
1 st	15
2 nd	13
3 rd	10
4 th	8

Position	Points
5 th	6
6 th	4
7 th	3
8 th	2

Points are awarded in each Age Category, gender and Discipline at the Selection Camp.

Example 5A:

Athlete Y comes 2nd in the U19 male lead competition at the selection camp so earns 13 points for rankings in the New Zealand U19 male lead team. They come 5th in the bouldering competition at the Selection Camp so earn 6 points for rankings in the New Zealand U19 male bouldering team.

4. Other Events

The Selection Committee may nominate other domestic CNZ and non CNZ events at which athletes can earn points (e.g. Secondary School competitions, and National Indoor Bouldering Series (run by the New Zealand Alpine Club)).



CNZ will give notice on its website 3 months before the applicable event together with the points formula to be applied.

A maximum of 12 points is available for all other events.



APPENDIX 2

Adjusted Ranking Criteria

Effect of exemption

If the CNZ Committee has granted an application for Exceptional Circumstances, the Selection Committee may adjust the points to be awarded to the athlete using one or more of the following:

- If the athlete has missed a National Championship, award the athlete points equal to:
 - Their placing at the previous National Championships they competed in, in the same gender, Age Category and Discipline, or
 - The points they were awarded at the Selection Camp in that discipline, or
 - The average of the points awarded to other athletes under Appendix 1 in respect of the National Championship in the same gender, Age Category and Discipline,
- If the athlete has missed a Selection Camp, award the athlete points equal to:
 - Their placing at the previous National Championships in the same gender, Age Category and Discipline, or
 - The average of the points awarded to other athletes under Appendix 1 in respect of the Selection Camp in the same gender, Age Category and Discipline.

