

NEW ZEALAND ICE SKATING ASSOCIATION (INC)
POLICY DOCUMENT
PRIME MINISTER'S ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP

The New Zealand Academy of Sport offers scholarships to eligible athletes, including ice figure skaters on a yearly basis. These are called the Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarships. Whilst the Academy offers guidelines for scholarship eligibility, the National Body of each sport must also determine their own requirements.

Full details of the scholarship scheme are set out on the SPARC website, at www.sparc.org.nz/elite-sport/prime-ministers-athlete-scholarships. These are summarized below, along with the NZISA eligibility criteria.

Guidelines as set out by NZ Academy of Sport

The goal of the Prime Minister's Athlete Scholarship programme is to assist talented and elite athletes achieve tertiary and vocational qualifications while pursuing excellence in sport.

Managed by the NZ Academy of Sport who are committed to having athletes winning consistently in events that matter to New Zealanders, the Programme is athlete focused, coach led, performance driven, administrator supported and based on a commitment to a culture of excellence.

Eligibility

A maximum of five (5) PM Athlete Scholarships will be available to each Development Sport. Ice figure skating is classified as a Development Sport.

To be eligible for a PM Athlete Scholarship, applicants must meet the NZISA Criteria defined below.

A Figure Skater's eligibility for the programme is determined by:

- Meeting the NZISA performance standards and priority levels
- Demonstrating a commitment to continued education and sporting improvement
- Support from the NZISA
- The availability of the NZ Academy of Sport resources.
- Compliance with the NZ Academy of Sport and this Policy Document

Closing Date

Athletes should submit their application form according to the process outlined by their national sport organization. The national sport organization will receive, prioritise and endorse applications, then nominate applicants to the NZ Academy of Sport. The closing date for this is 1 December 2006. Successful applicants will be advised by the Academy by 24 December.

In general, the payment category for a recipient is determined by the highest performance level attained at a “pinnacle event” during the twelve months preceding the annual application closing date. A pinnacle event is defined as a high level competitive event, or events, in which the sport participates.

A National Sport Organisation usually has one pinnacle event, which must have been agreed to by the Academy, per year. Typical examples of pinnacle events are Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships. The specific NZISA pinnacle events are the basis for the NZISA priority levels listed at the end of this document. These reflect the developing standard of ice figure skating in New Zealand.

Study course for which scholarships may be available

To be eligible, a skater may be enrolled in any Tertiary or Vocational qualification that is approved by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, which includes most University and Polytechnic qualifications, Teaching courses and trade courses. The education provider must be a New Zealand Organisation. The course must be at least 0.2 EFT's (Equivalent Full-Time Study)

Skater's Requirements

A skater is required to pass academic and athletic criteria:

- Academic - All study must be passed by the recipient in each six-month period for which funding is granted.
- Athletic – Applicants must reach the NZISA's eligibility criteria.

Progress Reports

A Progress Report must be completed by the recipient for each six-month period and the dates are:

5pm 1 July (for study commencing between January 1 – June 30)

5pm 1 December (for study commencing between July 1 – December 31).

Progress Reports must be submitted by the recipient to the Academy Regional Operation from which they receive scholarship payments. The NZISA request that a copy of the six monthly skating assessment report as required in the Goal Setting Document be forwarded to the Technical Secretary of the NZISA at the same time. This is because the NZISA has a responsibility to SPARC for adherence to application criteria. Failure to do this may result in the loss of NZISA support for future applications.

Anti-Doping

First time recipient must attend a NZ Sports Drug Agency approved anti-doping seminar in the first twelve months in which the scholarship is awarded and once in every two consecutive years thereafter.

NZ ICE SKATING ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Based on the opening paragraphs of the Academy of Sport Document above.

The NZISA encourages eligible skaters to apply for these scholarships, subject to the following NZISA conditions.

- Skaters must be performing at a level to be New Zealand representatives.
- Skaters must be training at a level to become New Zealand representatives.
- The NZISA Goal Setting Document must be included with the skater's application for a PM Scholarship.

The NZISA has defined priority levels for selecting up to 5 skaters per year for NZISA support to apply for the PM Scholarships. These skaters must also meet the NZ Academy Criteria above.

NZISA Priority Levels

Skaters levels of priority for consideration if meeting NZ Academy Criteria as above.

1. Senior Worlds Skater/s who are eligible for selection from the Four Continent Championships.
2. Four Continents – Skaters who have been selected to represent New Zealand immediately following NZ Nationals Championships.
3. Junior Worlds – Skater/s who have been selected to represent New Zealand immediately following NZ Nationals Championships.
4. International Competition – Skater/s who have been selected to represent New Zealand immediately following NZ Nationals Championships.
5. Australian Nationals – Skaters/s who have been selected to represent New Zealand immediately following NZ National Championships at Senior, Junior and Novice Grades.
6. Should further vacancies be available the highest placed skaters, will be ranked by points obtained at the preceding NZ National Championships.

APPLICATIONS

1. Applications must be made on the standard form, which can be downloaded from the SPARC website noted above.

2. Applications together with supporting documents are required to be in the hands of the NZISA Technical Secretary by 1 November 2006 for processing and forwarding to the NZ Academy of Sport.