

National Talent Squad

Flatwater 2009

The aim of the National Talent Squad (NTS) is to provide an environment for the development of elite junior athletes and elite developing athletes. This is to be achieved at state and national level which encourages the development of skill and knowledge of athletes. This will allow those involved to reach their full potential in competitive kayaking at a junior level. This program is supported by Australian Canoeing (AC) and the Australian Sports Commission's (ASC) National Talent Identification and Development Program.

This will be achieved by:

- **Communication** – Communicating and promoting a clear program.
- **Development Camps** – learning through interaction with the nations best athletes, coaches and past Champion mentors .
- **Promoting Pathways** – building links between the NTS and the Australian Junior Team
- **Competition** – Supporting NTS athletes to compete at the relevant level of competition.
- **International Competition** – Present opportunities to compete internationally.
- **Coach Development** – Developing the knowledge and skills of coaches at all levels.

Communication

Effective communication of the NTS program is an important part of delivering on the program. This communication can be achieved through the extensive use of the internet and through personal presentations by AC.

AC has developed an NTS webpage specifically to assist in getting information out to athletes, coaches and parents.

Development Camps

These camps will be made up of weekend and day camps throughout Australia. This is an opportunity for the states and nations best juniors to train and race with each other. These camps will work on the development of the whole athlete with instruction and assistance in technique, team boat training skills and methods along with life skills and management for a positive elite athlete career. It is also a great opportunity for athletes and coaches to network and utilise each other's knowledge and experience. This will also be beneficial in assisting athletes in finding suitable team boat partners.

The development camps are supported by AC and the ASC. There will be two National camps for NTS members in August and November 2009. Participants are expected to fund their own way to the camps, but the cost of the camps will be covered by ASC.

In addition, four state-based Regional Training Days will be held throughout the 2009/10 season in **July 09, December 09, January 2010 and February 2010.**

June Selection Trials Regatta & Open Training Development Day –The NTS Selection Trial Regatta will be held on 27 – 28 June at SIRC, Penrith, NSW. This selection event is open to any athlete who meets the eligibility criteria, wishing to trial for a position in the NTS. The regatta will be held on 27 June with athlete development activities on the 28 June. Athletes will be responsible for their own transport and accommodation for this selection event.

- **July Regional Development Training Day-** in home states. Date & Venue TBC. Each Regional coach will be the contact responsible for communicating this information to the athletes in their state.
- **August National Training Camp GC, QLD, 28-30th Aug-** National Camp for all selected NTS athletes.
- **September- NTS National Touring Team-** Overseas competition Young Hopefuls Regatta, CZECH REP. 31st Aug-14th Sept
- **November National Training Camp-** in conjunction with GP 1 Date & Venue TBC. National Camp for all selected NTS athletes.
- **December Regional Training Day** – Date & Venue TBC
- **January Regional Training Day-** Date & Venue TBC
- **February Regional Training Day-** Date & Venue TBC

Pathways

The next stepping stone for NTS athletes is the Australian Junior Team. Liaison between the teams is important. The athletes and coaches from Nationals teams will fill out evaluation sheets covering their development and experience so we can continue to improve the pathways and this information will assist in the best utilisation of our NTS resources. With a structured, unified approach we can then lift the continuous Australian successes to another level. This NTS program will ensure our athletes making the Australian Teams are professional well skilled and have an understanding of the commitment and expectations of a World Class Sportsman.

Where NTS fits into the pathway (Some of the areas will overlap).

- Club Paddlers, Sports transfer
- ASC Talent Id Paddlers
- ***National Talent Squad-Junior***
- Australian Junior Team
- Under 23 Australian Team
- National Open Flatwater Team

Competitions – Domestic & International

AC and the ASC will continue to foster a variety of competitions suitable for NTS athletes. A limited number of competitions are held throughout the year at a national level. NTS athletes are strongly encouraged to attend as many of these events as possible.

International competition is a key element of the NTS program where athletes have the opportunity to experience international events at an early age. A selection process will be used June 27th to select athletes to represent Australia in the NTS Touring Team at the Olympic Hopes Regatta in Czech Republic, Sept 2009. The tour is self-funding and is intended to provide young athletes selected to attend international events with elite coaching, sportsmanship development & sports science support.

Coach Development

The success of the NTS program relies on excellent coaches being available to athletes at club, state and national level. State coaches will work with athletes on the state regional days and have opportunities to work with national coaches on camps. Australian Canoeing to provide support, information and advice to coaches.

Coaches and Contacts

Coaching Coordinator: Shelley Oates-Wilding

shelley@sgwilding.com 0414 441 660

Shelley will be responsible for coordinating coaching direction, camps, NTS communication network and be involved with future planning and development for the program.

Touring Team Manager: Graham Bendeich

mermaid@bigpond.net.au 0419 705 682

Graham will coordinate the NTS tour logistics for the team including flights, accommodation etc.

Senior Manager - Sports Programs

National Talent Identification and Development: Elissa Morley

Elissa.Morley@ausport.gov.au 0408 513 036

Current State NTS Contacts

QLD:	Elissa Morley	Elissa.Morley@ausport.gov.au
	Peter Petho	peter.petho@ausport.gov.au
	Kevin Crisp	crispk@njc.qld.edu.au
	John Newton	johnnewt@hotmail.com
NSW:	Shelley Wilding	shelley@sgwilding.com
	Guy Wilding	guy@sgwilding.com
	Brian Trouville	briantrouville@hotmail.com
SA:	Jim Murphy	jim.murphy@canoe.org.au
	Kate Barclay	barclaykate@hotmail.com
WA:	Michael Pond	
VIC:	Dasha Kopecek	dagmar.kopecek@police.vic.gov.au
TAS:	Tom Norton	