Athletics Canada’s Enhanced Individual Athlete Funding

“Targeted Medal Program Rio 2016”

Athletics Canada is pleased to announce the third year of the Enhanced Individual Athlete Funding Program (hereafter “Targeted Medal Program” or the “Program”) (Published for the 2015 season as the “Individual Athletes Funding” program). With our new High Performance Structure in place, there has been a considerable amount of funding reinvested into our targeted athletes with the aim of utilizing these funds to support targeted athletes, through athlete-based funding, in their preparations towards the Rio 2016 Olympics.

The Targeted Medal Program identifies athletes who are tracking towards potential podium performances in 2016 based on performances achieved at the prior year’s major championships. In assessing athletes’ potential, three performance indicators will be considered: (1) international world ranking, (2) podium performance pathways, and (3) current event trends. The Program provides the additional funds to ensure our high performance athlete are closing the gap to podium success in 2016. The efficiency and success of the program will be re-evaluated after the 2016 Games.

PREVIOUS CRITERIA

Targeted Medal Program 2014-2015 (April 1st to March 31st):
This was the first year of athlete-based funding, which provided programming support to ensure athlete’s individual performance plans were conducive to success at the World Championships in 2015 and continued success through to 2016 Olympic/Paralympic Games.

Targeted Medal Program (2015-2016):
In continuation with the athlete-based funding, the 2015-2016 cycle was the second year of the program. The selection of the targeted athletes was based from the following criteria:

- OG (A) Top 3 in Moscow*
- PG (A) Gold Medallist Lyon*
- OG (B) Top 8 (top 12 distance and field) in Moscow*
- PG (B) Medallist in Lyon*
- OG (C) Top 16 in Moscow*
- OG (D) Potential Finalists (HPAD)
- PG (D) Potential Finalists (Athletics Canada’s Point score table)

[OG refers to Olympic stream athletes; and PG refers to Paralympic stream athletes]

*Also considered for the 2015–16 season was the athlete’s ability to maintain or improved position IAAF / IPC ranking (3 per country), or other major events when all top athletes in the field are competing at the same time.
LOOKING AHEAD TO RIO 2016-2017

Targeted Medal Program Rio (2016-2017):
Athletics Canada will continue its commitment towards the High Performance Program and the pursuit of podium results at the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. This will entail a significant refocus on its approach and program delivery towards supporting targeted athletes who demonstrate the evidence of achieving podium performances at the 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games. As a result, Top-16 finishers at World Championships have been removed from the Targeted Medal Program in 2015 and 2016. The program will therefore eliminate funding for “C”- level performances to streamline the funds to those targeted “A” and “B” athletes. Despite these changes, athletes that achieve exceptional performances will be considered for funding, as defined below.

Targeted Medal Program 2016 Rio Criteria
To receive athlete-based funding or to maintain the previous year’s individual athlete-based funding in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, athletes will be required to maintain or improve their performance according to the criteria set out below, which will be based on performances achieved at the 2015 IAAF World Championships in Beijing, China and the 2015 IPC World Championships in Doha:

Tier 1

| Olympic Program: | Podium Result (top 3) |
| Paralympic Program: | Gold Medal (2016 Paralympic Games Medal Events) |

Tier 2

| Olympic Program: | Finalist Top 8: All track events 800m and under including hurdles and Combined Events |
| Top 12: All field events and 1500m |
| Top 15: 3000m Steeplechase, 5000m, 10000m, Race Walk and Marathon |
| Paralympic Program: | Medallist (2016 Paralympic Games Medal Events) |

Tier 3

| Olympic Program: | Podium Potential (HPAD) at the 2020 Olympic Games based on meeting the performance targets 4 years away from 2020 Olympic Games outlined in Athletics Canada’s Podium Pathway |
| Paralympic Program: | Podium Potential (HPAD) at the 2020 Paralympic Games – based on meeting the performance targets outlined within Athletics Canada’s Point Score Table |

*Athletes may be added to the Targeted Medal Program by Athletics Canada Chief Technical Officer/Head Coach on the basis of achieving an ‘Exceptional Performance’.
**Exceptional Performance:** Subject to the criteria for the Targeted Medal Program Rio 2016, Athletes may be added to the Targeted Medal Program after Jan. 1, 2016 by Athletics Canada’s Chief Technical Officer / Head Coach if they achieve an ‘exceptional performance’. The Chief Technical Officer/Head Coach will rely on the following criteria to define exceptional performance:

- Performances required to qualify for a final, based on the average last 4 major games*
- Performances based on the average last 4 major games,* required to finish top 8 track (800m and under) & combined-events, top 12 field and 1500m, top 15 (3000m Steeplechase, 5000m, 10000m, Race Walk and Marathon)
- Achieve an outdoor performance that is tracking one year away from potential Olympic podium performance within Athletics Canada’s Podium Performance Pathway ([Click here](#))
- Paralympic performance result which matches a minimum 975 points in the Athletics Canada’s Point score table in the event ([Click Here](#))
- Repeatability of performance will be considered
- IAAF World Ranking and IPC World ranking will be considered
- Event performance trends within the last 4 years will be considered

* 2011, 2013, 2015 IAAF World Championships, 2012 Olympic Games
* 2011, 2013, 2015 IPC World Championships, 2012 Paralympic Games

**Individual Athlete Performance Plan (IAPP)**
As part of inclusion in the Program, athletes and their coaches are expected to submit a *Yearly Plan*, which clearly maps out the athlete’s training, competitions plans and other activities that are deemed necessary to achieve expected performances.

This plan will be submitted to the Chief Technical Officer / Head Coach (or his representative) for review at the end of each season and will cover all aspects of the athletes’ preparation (competition, training camps, testing, medical screening etc.) Our objective is to help athletes reach their goals, and to do so, it is imperative that Athletics Canada knows how targeted athletes are progressing in their plan and what resources and assistance will be required. Athletics Canada is committed to providing the necessary assistance to those targeted athletes. Note that the level of support services and resources provided to athletes in the same tier may be different, and will depend in part on the CTO/Head Coach’s assessment of the IAPP submitted, as well as on the extent to which additional services and resources are expected to contribute to narrowing the identified performance gap.

The rationale behind the above requirements is to foster a collaborative approach that will help provide accountability for each of the parties to achieve mutual performance goals.

As part of the IAPP, the athlete and coach will also be expected to provide a *Mesocycles Report* (roughly 6-8 weeks, depending on the length of mesocycles, and must not exceed 1 page). The Mesocycle Report must include:

- Objectives of previous 6-8 weeks (i.e. what you intended to happen and what you need support with)
- Delivery in the mesocycle (i.e. what actually happened)
- Assessment of delivery vs. objectives (i.e. what has been learned, if relevant based on tests)
Selection Process:
The CTO/Head Coach or designate will undertake the review on a year-to-year basis with the athlete and their coach.

Review the year:

1. **Identify the performance gap** (how wide is the gap to a medal performance at the Rio Games?
The actual performance gap in terms of time, distance and the percent gap between the athletes’ current best performance and the previous medal or final performance).
2. **What are the key elements that CONTRIBUTE to the performance gap** (be very specific – example: number of competitions, injury status, lack of training days, physical or mental issues etc.)
3. Identify training needs and coaching needs based on point 2.
4. **Formulate expected performance outcomes (2016-2017 season)**

Aligned and supported by our major funding partner Own the Podium, this updated and re-structured Enhanced Individual Athlete Funding Program provides additional investment for our top athletes (Tier 1 and Tier 2) and a continued investment in our podium potential development athletes (Tier 3) in the Olympic/Paralympic year. This increased program investment will ensure access to world class sport science, sport medicine services support, along with necessary warm weather training camps and international competition opportunities for our podium potential athletes as they prepare for 2016.