



## 2016/17 Target Talent Program (TTP)

### Athletics WA Target Talent Program (TTP) Overview

The Target Talent Program (TTP) is Athletics Australia's (AA) talent identification strand of the High Performance Strategy. The program is fully funded by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) Australian Winning Edge (AWE) program. In Western Australia, the TTP is delivered on AA's behalf by Athletics WA (AWA).

### Program Purpose

- To be the early talent identification element of Athletics Australia's High Performance Department as part of the AIS Winning Edge strategy;
- To encourage the best young athletes in each State (or Territory) by inviting them to be part of a State level squad;
- To create meaningful contacts in the off-season between the best young athletes in each State (or Territory) and their personal coaches and the State TTP coaches;
- To encourage the best local coaches by giving the status of being a State TTP Coach;
- To create a national pool of identified coaches in each event group (e.g. State TTP coaches) who can be used to disseminate best practice at the local level;
- The TTP is **not** intended to create "mini high performance centres" in States. The program is intended to motivate and improve athletes through coach led training and education squad sessions.

By identifying and engaging Western Australia's best junior athletes and coaches through development and education opportunities, the TTP aims to encourage athletes and coaches to achieve their potential and to represent Australia at youth, junior and senior levels. In 2017, this includes the IAAF World Youth Championships to be held in Nairobi, Kenya for U18 athletes.

The 2016/17 AWA TTP program will focus on athletes born in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.

State TTP Coaches will be appointed within four event groups (Sprints & Hurdles, Endurance & Walks, Jumps, and Throws) and will act as points of contact for TTP squad athletes and their personal coaches. Up to 10 State TTP Coaches may be appointed.

Throughout 2016/17, athletes who meet inclusion criteria and their personal coaches will be invited to attend TTP Squad Days which will incorporate a combination of relevant event group training clinics and both general and event-specific education workshops. The education workshops will also incorporate the WAIS / DSR "Developing Champions" Program.

## **Athlete Inclusion Criteria:**

### **Squad Period**

The 2016/17 TTP Squad will run from 1 May 2016 – 30 April 2017.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for inclusion in the TTP Squad, athletes must:

1. Be a current registered member of Athletics WA and register for the 2016/17 season;
2. Be a medallist from the 2016 Australian Junior Athletics Championships in the U16-U20 age groups (Able-bodied and Para-athletes);
3. Be in good standing with their Club and/or AWA, comply with AWA's Code of Conduct, and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves, their sport or Athletics WA into disrepute.
4. Have a personal coach who will attend the TTP Squad Days and submit an annual training plan if required;
5. Not be a current AIS or WAIS scholarship athlete. AIS or WAIS scholarship athletes may be invited to specific sessions, if deemed appropriate.

### **Notes**

Priority will be given to athletes born in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 or 2001. AWA may also invite additional athletes and their personal coaches, who may fall outside the eligibility criteria above, based on their competitive results if they exceed the Athletics Australia performance matrix standards for their age group, and with advice from Athletics Australia National Junior Coaches, National Paralympic Coaches, and Athletics Australia High Performance Department.

This is an integrated program that will include both able-bodied and Para-athletes.

Age will be calculated as at 31 December 2016.

Athletes not selected in the Target Talent Program for 2016/17 may be eligible for selection in the Athletics WA Talent ID Squad or the Athletics WA "A Squad".