



BMX Australia National Team Structure

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Document structure

The BMX Australia National Team documentation set consists of:

- This document (scope and structure of Team)
- Appendix 1 (201x) which defines the selection criteria relevant to a given year
- Appendix 2 (201x) which defines the actual team members in a given year

Introduction

This document describes BMX Australia's National Team structure, objectives, pathways, programs and operations. The BMX Australia National Team is managed and run by the BMX Australia Coaching Management Team (Manager and Coach) who are tasked with developing and assisting riders to transition from domestic to international competition.

We note that international competition is not restricted to any particular area such as UCI World Cups and World Championships, with our scope broadened to assist riders transitioning to all levels of international competition within the sport of BMX.

BMX Australia's intention in supporting this team structure is to develop and encourage our riders to pursue their BMX careers in whatever direction suits them. In this regard riders and parents must note that BMX Australia does not currently have any involvement in the Cycling Australia High Performance Team. Membership of that team, and the efforts and value applied to riders within that team is completely controlled by Cycling Australia.

Cycling Australia currently run a very limited and "exclusive" team – with limited opportunities for BMX Australia riders to gain acceptance and support from that organisation. Therefore BMX Australia has broadened its scope to support and develop Australian riders in pursuit of all forms of International racing.

Membership of the BMX Australia National Team does not guarantee any form of transition or movement towards any particular international career, and is no guarantee of being considered or chosen to the Cycling Australia High Performance Team – BMX Australia have no say in that process and riders should have no illusions about our ability to assist them towards competing at the World Championships or Olympics in the Elite Categories – under the current structure of Cycling in this country we have no such ability.

That said, BMX Australia will do what it can to support and develop riders to the point where Cycling Australia determine such rider as a suitable candidate for their team hopefully giving riders the choice to follow their own pathway – and allow them to choose to interact with Cycling Australia High Performance on their own terms with alternatives for those who are not chosen to be part of the "exclusive" CAHP environment.

BMX Australia see Coach education and development as an integral part of this pathway. Moving forward we will work to develop the skills of all coaches, and the communication processes between National, State and Club level coaches to facilitate the growth of coaches, which we believe will have a positive benefit for the riders within the entire sport, along with those riders in the National Team.

Finally it should be noted that the resources of BMX Australia mean that there will always be riders who "miss out", and there will be room for growth, expansion and improvement. It is the intention of the Board to push these limitations as our resources permit keeping the best interests of the riders in the forefront of our planning.

Neil Cameron
President
BMX Australia

Objectives

The objectives of the BMX Australia National Team include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Develop a pathway which guides riders from club level through to National and International careers
- Identify and support riders for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 categories of the BMX Australia National Team
- Identify riders who we believe should be included in the Talented Athlete Program (TAP)
- Support and guide States and Clubs with coach education

As the National Team program develops and matures there will likely be additional objectives added to this list as the Board of BMX Australia continues to broaden its scope for riders to progress to their intended career objective.

Pathway

The BMX Australia rider pathway concept takes riders from club level through to national competition. It then provides choice and options for riders to branch into international competition.

An important component of the pathway is to identify where in the path a rider currently sits, and provide information and guidance on how a rider can progress along that pathway to further their career in BMX.

Pathway Definition

Tier 1	
Events	National Titles, Oceania Championship, National Series, International Events
Age Groups	Junior and Senior Elite
Goals	Podium at National Events, Top 12 ABA and European UCI Rounds, Top 32 UCI SX events.
Coaching / Support	Support from National Coaching Management in conjunction with State and Private Coaches

Tier 2	
Events	National Titles, Oceania Championship, National Series
Age Groups	14-16 / Junior and Senior Elite
Goals	Podium at National Events, exposure to International Racing
Coaching / Support	Support from National Coaching Management in conjunction with State and Private Coaches

BMX Australia National Team

The BMX Australia National Team consists of a group of riders who have been identified to fit within the following categories:

- Tier 1 (*equivalent to CAHP Developing*)
- Tier 2 (*equivalent to CAHP Emerging*)

Explanations of these two categories follow:

Tier 1 (Definition)

A Tier 1 Athlete is one who has been identified as currently being a successful National level athlete who has experienced / demonstrated skills and ability at an international level.

This means that the rider is podium placing at National Series and National Titles on a regular basis and who has been identified as having the drive to move to international level racing. These riders show ambition, a hunger to win and are willing to take risks to achieve their results.

This category is defined as only supporting Junior and Senior Elite riders.

Tier 2 (Definition)

Tier 2 Team Members are Athletes who have been identified as having the potential to become Tier 1 riders within a 2-3 year timeframe.

These riders can be members of the 14-16 Challenge Classes as well as Championship Class riders.

They are successful National-level riders who are currently focussed on National racing with the intent to develop to international racing level.

These riders show ambition, a hunger to win and are willing to take risks to achieve their results.

Measuring a rider's place in the pathway

Riders are assessed by their standing on the BMX Australia National Team Performance Guide. This guide is used to assess riders by:

- National Coaching Manager
- National Coach
- State Coaches
- Private Coaches

A rider can self-assess to see where they believe they stand on the current points table, and all levels of coaching management will work together to compare their assessments of the rider and accurately place them within the pathway.

It is vitally important for a rider to work with their private and state coach on this assessment to ensure that the National Coaching Management receives accurate feedback regarding assessable items on this table. These coaches who work with the riders on a day to day basis will have considerable input to the standing of a rider at a National level. The final consideration as to whether a rider makes the team will always be up to the National Coaching Management, but the rider needs to ensure that their coach is communicating a rider's results and standing to that National Coaching Management.

A sample of the performance guide follows. Note that riders should talk to the coaches when looking for more detail in regard to this plan.

BMX Australia Athlete Performance Guide					Rider		Year						
					Tier			Year					
Performance / Results (see point score guide below)													
	Placing				Hill Time				Full Lap Time				
Event	Act	Pod	%	Avg	Fastest	Rider	Diff	Avg	Fastest	Rider	Diff	Avg	
World Championship													
World Cup Round 1													
World Cup Round 2													
World Cup Round 3													
World Cup Round 4													
World Cup Round 5													
World Cup Round 6													
World Cup Round 7													
World Cup Round 8													
National Championship													
National Series Round 1													
National Series Round 2													
National Series Round 3													
National Series Round 4													
National Series Round 5													
National Series Round 6													
National Series Round 7													
	Total					Average				Average			
Assessment (Highest 10, Lowest 1)													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Current physical (S&C) performance													
Technical capabilities (gate start, manauling, jumping, cornering)													
Tactical capabilities (race craft)													
Psychologically strong in pressure situations													
Ambition and hunger for winning (training and racing)													
Athlete is willing to take the risk in the aim of winning													
												Total	
Point score guide													
	Podium	Final	Semi	Qtr									
World Championships and World Cups	10	8	6	4									
National Championships	6	4											
National Series	5	3											

Program Description (general)

The riders selected on the National Team will receive some or all of the support listed below from the BMX Australia National Coaching Management. Note that different riders will receive different levels of support depending on where they sit within the pathway:

- Program support (support from Coaching Staff and Camps etc)
- Invitation to selected international events with subsidised financial support where deemed appropriate
- Invitation to training camps
- Invitation to strength and conditioning programs
- Guidance around a rider’s individual performance plan

Riders in the BMX Australia National Team are expected to commit to training camps and races outlined in their individual performance plan. They will be expected to communicate with their Coaching Management, external coaches and other resources as directed by the BMX Australian National Team management.

The National Team isn’t solely selected around results. There is also high expectation on where an athlete is at when it comes to their technical, tactical and mental skills, commitment to racing and training, plus the determination to succeed will also be analysed.

Athletes must continually demonstrate progression to ensure they are fitting within the timeframe specified. If an athlete fails to demonstrate continued progression, or the ability to progress within the specified timeframes, their position within the team will be reviewed.

- Membership of the BMX Australia National Team is a privilege, not a right, and riders / parents are expected to behave with their and BMX Australia’s reputation in the forefront of their minds at all times.

- ***Plain English: there are plenty of people waiting to take your position if you don't behave in a suitable manner.***

Selection / Deselection

A rider is potentially selected into the team based on how they are assessed via the BMX Australia Performance Guide. It should be noted that not all riders who score well via this assessment will be able to be part of the team, and that BMX Australia is focussed on the rider as an individual, not just their results.

The performance guide will show a rider's progress over a period of time, and it is expected that riders will continue to progress within the team. If a rider is not progressing then a serious discussion needs to be had regarding their continued membership of the team.

BMX Australia will adjust the size of the team as financial and logistical considerations permit from time to time.

As indicated above, the performance guide receives input from many sources – private coaches, state coaches, national coach etc.

BMX Australia has zero tolerance for behaviour or attitudes from either the rider or the parent that are not in the best interest of the sport. It is expected all riders will be part of the team in the best interests of the sport and the team.

The National Coaching Management will attempt to pick their team by approximately late October each year to give rider's time to prepare for the upcoming year and develop their position within the team with the National Coach and National Coaching Manager.

Cycling Australia High Performance

As described in the introduction, this organisation is completely separate to BMX Australia and control selection to World Titles and Olympic events. CAHP look after a very limited number of riders, predominantly in the Elite Category – focussing only on those riders whom they believe can win Olympic medals.

When CAHP identify a rider whom they believe fits their criteria they will propose a rider (not necessarily a BMX Australia National Team member) to be included in their team.

Once a rider transitions from the BMX Australia support to CAHP BMX Australia will stop supporting that rider so as to not "double-coach" a rider (and thereby confuse the rider) and allow BMX Australia to focus on the upcoming riders whom we are preparing for the transition along with other potential international racing career options.

It should be noted that when CAHP eject a rider from their team the BMX Australia National Team management will do all within their power to soften the landing for such a rider, providing a "safety net" for those riders whom CAHP test and propose membership for, but in the end drop such support.

Talented Athlete Program

The Talented Athlete Program is designed for riders who have been identified by State Coaches who show potential for future selection to the BMX Australia National Team.

The riders are identified from a series of criteria, including (but not limited to):

- Technical skills
- Tactical race skills
- Mental skills
- Commitment to the sport as well as their own achievements
- Effort in training and racing
- Determination to succeed

The rider support will predominantly come from a rider's State and their State Coach. The BMX Australia National TAP Coach (or BMXA Australia Coaching Management) will oversee the program, giving individual rider support and feedback, along with guiding, supporting and mentoring the State Coaches.

Further support will come from State SIS/SAS and Regional Academies in those states who have access to these resources.

These riders are generally based in the 14-16 age groups, are consistently racing at Opens and State Title events, and are showing the characteristics listed above, but not necessarily the top-level results within the events they are competing in.

It is expected that these riders are looking above and beyond their State level racing by becoming competitive at a National level in events such as at National Series rounds.

Conclusion

BMX Australia is committed to developing and fostering the aspirations of riders throughout the country. The BMX Australia National Team is one component of a many-pronged strategy designed to help our riders achieve their dreams.

We wish all riders the best of luck in their pursuit of those dreams.