

# National Talent Academy for BMX Freestyle





## Overview

The Aus Cycling National Talent Academy ('Academy') has been established as part of the pre-categorised rider development pathway for BMX Freestyle. The Academy aims to identify, develop, and support Under 15 Amateurs aspiring for Elites and over 15 Elites or aspiring Elites under the age of 18, helping them enhance their performance and acquire the skills needed to progress through the performance pathways.

Academies are offered across various disciplines including BMX Racing, BMX Freestyle, Road, Track (including Para), and Mountain Bike (Gravity and Endurance). Riders may be part of one or more



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## Structure and Purpose

The Academies provide structured training opportunities and coaching support to enhance the daily training environment of targeted riders. For BMX Freestyle, the target age groups are Under 15 and Over 15. The specific purpose of the Academy includes:

- Providing targeted training sessions or camps
- Enhancing and complementing the primary daily training environment (DTE)
- Developing consistent development opportunities for high performance education and skill development
- Increasing the number of riders meeting key performance targets
- Providing cross-discipline opportunities

The program will be an annual initiative, beginning each calendar year.

## Support Personnel

The academy has a dedicated Lead Coach and may also include a Manager. The Lead Coach and Academy Manager will be appointed by AusCycling.

Additional support coaches and staff may be added as needed for the delivery of Academy Programs. Diversity among coaching and support staff is essential.

All team personnel must have a current Working with Children Check (or equivalent) with no exemptions.

## Program Inclusions and Funding Model

The program may include a mix of structured training sessions, online education, camps, and, where feasible, travel and logistical support. It operates on a co-contribution basis where AusCycling provides development opportunities and administrative support. Costs related to travel, logistics, and coaching will be charged to the riders at the lowest possible rate.

### Academy activity will consist of:

- Daily training Environment opportunities (non QLD athletes will be paired with an AC endorsed coach to undertake DTE activities)
- Personal development goal setting and monitoring

- Testing and monitoring sessions
- 4 x camps per year
- Riders selected for the BMX Freestyle Academy will also be invited to selected activities for other relevant Academies.

### Training Frequency

The frequency of sessions will depend on the location of the riders. The Lead Coach and Team Manager are responsible for setting training dates.

### Number of Riders

The total number of participating riders will depend on the number of riders within each state/territory and coaching capacity. A maximum number of academy participants may be set, based on the AusCycling coach-to-athlete ratio and the effectiveness of session delivery. The NTA is a user pays program with monthly fees for QLD residents and Camp fees for QLD and non-QLD attendees.

## Selection Criteria

### General Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for selection to an Academy, riders must:

- Be Australian citizens or residents with a current AusCycling racing membership
- Have read, signed, and returned the execution page of the current Academy Agreement
- Agree to meet all training and participation requirements as set by the Lead Coach
- Not have breached UCI or AC Anti-Doping Policies or have an unresolved sanction
- Not be suspended from the sport for any reason
- Demonstrate commitment to the sport beyond personal participation, such as engaging in volunteer work with their club

### BMX Freestyle Specific Selection Process

- Expression of interest application including video submission – \* each application should be endorsed by AC coaching staff of AC recognised network coach.
- A selection panel will select candidates from criteria based on current skill, athlete potential, training levels, head room and attitude



- Selected candidates will then be invited onto the National Talent Academy
- Athlete will formally accept invitation and sign and relevant documents
- Athlete will then be Inducted onto program

The selection panel will consist of the following:

- AC BMXFS Technical Director
- AC BMXFS National Development and Talent Coach
- AC BMX Freestyle Development Coordinator

### **Discretionary Selection Criteria**

The Selection Panel will evaluate Academy selection based on performance results. This includes podium finishes aligned with performance standards in BMX Freestyle. Performance results will be gathered from:

- National BMX Freestyle Championships
- Oceania BMX Freestyle Championships
- C1 events
- State or Territory Championships

Discretionary considerations may include:

- Rider's skill, performance, and understanding of the sport
- Potential for progress in the performance pathway

Selection panel may look at current and potential skill level of athlete this will include the wholistic development of the athletes including parameters such as;

Bike control, trick execution/landing, trick repertoire, style, height/amplitude, run development and creativity, training behaviours and coachability.

Ongoing monitoring and testing will be administered during camp activities to determine future selection and eligibility in the program with various testing measures including; athletic testing, on bike skills/ tricks testing, psychological screens, performance trials and coach evaluations.

### **Special Circumstances Discretionary Selection**

Dispensation may be granted for riders affected by limited training opportunities or those who have experienced illness, injury, or adverse personal circumstances but have demonstrated prior competencies in club or state/territory training environments/events.

The maximum number of riders selected through discretionary criteria will be determined based on coach and venue capacity.

### **Selection Process**

Unsuccessful applicants may seek feedback from their EOI. Riders who do not submit an EOI or were initially unsuccessful but demonstrate exceptional performances later in the season and meet the automatic selection criteria may be invited to join the Academy.

If a rider's ability to meet the selection criteria diminishes during the season, their status with the Academy will be reassessed by the Selection Panel. Performance drops, non-commitment, or lack of coachability may lead to a review of their membership.

### **Duration of Academy Intake**

Academy members will participate in the program for one year. At the end of this period, their continued involvement will be reviewed. They may either be reconsidered for next year's intake or exited from the program.

An annual athlete tracking meeting will be held to assess the athlete's progress and determine appropriate next steps.

### **Deselection / Athlete Exit from the Program**

If an athlete chooses to exit the program for any reason, a meeting will be scheduled with the Lead Academy Manager prior to their departure.

Athletes will be evaluated annually against the current academy selection criteria. Those who do not meet these standards may be exited from the program. We are committed to ensuring that exits are handled fairly, and we will provide support by connecting athletes with local providers and coaches to continue their development in the sport.

**To apply please utilise the following link: [APPLY NOW](#)**



