



**SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS CONFEDERATION AND
OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**

**2018/2019 OPERATION EXCELLENCE (OPEX)
PROGRAMME**

OPERATION EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

PREAMBLE

The OPEX programme is for athletes with potential to qualify for participation and return medals at higher level in the multi-coded events delivered by SASCOC.

The programme was reviewed to ensure the following:

- OPEX remains a programme aimed at supporting consistently performing top level senior athletes;
- OPEX supports athletes at U/23 level who have performed well at specific age group international events, and have recently transitioned or will be transitioning to senior level.

SASCOC will again consider the following factors to accept athletes onto the programme:

- Athlete's current international ranking;
- Athlete's proven ability to constantly perform at higher level and return medals;
- Athlete's consistency with podium finishes at international events over the past year.

Any senior athlete not meeting the above mentioned criteria may be supported through the Special Support Programme, based on available resources. This support will ensure eligible athletes receive the necessary support to allow them to progress to the OPEX programme.

1. ELIGIBILITY

The athlete shall:

- 1.1 Be a South African Citizen with a valid South African passport;
- 1.2 Be a registered member in good standing of a recognized club affiliated to a National Federation, recognized and affiliated to SASCOC;
- 1.3 Observe the SASCOC's Constitution and Policies;

- 1.4 Enter into an OPEX Agreement with SASCOC and his/her National Federation which will govern his/her participation in the support programme;
- 1.5 Observe and abide by the Rules and Regulations of his/her National Federation, Continental Confederation and International Federation.

2. SPECIFIC FOCUS ON TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES MEDAL RETURNS

For athletes to qualify for support, they shall be:

- 2.1 Athletes who were **medallists** at their respective 2017 World Championships in Olympic/Paralympic Disciplines and are still eligible for participation/committed to preparing for Tokyo 2020.
- 2.2 Athletes who were **finalists** (up to and including 5th position) at their respective 2017 World Championships in Olympic/Paralympic Disciplines and are still eligible for participation/committed to preparing for Tokyo 2020.
- 2.3 Athletes who were **medallists** at the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Olympic/Paralympic Disciplines (in consultation with the National Federation) and are still eligible for participation/committed to preparing for Tokyo 2020.
- 2.4 SASCOC reserves the right to amend the qualification criteria should the international qualification criteria vary or be amended at any stage prior to any SASCOC approved event.

3. SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME

- 3.1 Athletes with potential to still qualify and perform at multi-coded events, but do not meet the above OPEX criteria, may be considered for support, at SASCOC's discretion, under SASCOC's Special Support Programme.

4. INCLUSION/ EXCLUSION

- 4.1 It is specifically recorded that Athletes are nominated through their NFs in order to participate in the OPEX/ Special Support Programme. However, SASCOC reserves the right to review any such nomination and/or to exclude any Athletes from such nomination, should they deem that the Athlete does not meet the relevant criteria, or is in contravention of any of the SASCOC or multi-coded sports events rules, regulations, codes or bye-laws;

- 4.2** SASCOC also reserves the right to remove athletes from the programme if in its opinion the athlete no longer meets the criteria for receiving support through the programme;

5. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

SASCOC will allocate funding to athletes based on plans and budgets submitted by the National Federations. The allocation will be specific to the athlete needs, however, some items listed in the plan/ budget may not be funded. Allocations will be considered on a case by case basis based on athlete's circumstances.

6. SUPPORT SERVICES

The support services offered to athletes through the OPEX programme shall be a combination of the following:

- 6.1** Living expenses
- 6.2** Medical Aid
- 6.3** Transport to/from training sessions
- 6.4** Access to training facilities
- 6.5** International camps and competitions
- 6.6** Local camps and competitions
- 6.7** Coaching Fees
- 6.8** Scientific and medical support services
- 6.9** Technological support services
- 6.10** Sport specific equipment (based on special application and endorsed by the NF)
- 6.11** Career planning and life skills support (based on programme implemented by SASCOC).

Support for athletes considered under the Special Support Programme shall be limited to a set number of competitions and training camps as shall be determined by SASCOC.