

**2008 AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM
AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION INC.
NOMINATION CRITERIA**

The AOC reserves the right to require amendments to the Nomination Criteria and amend its Selection Criteria as necessary, particularly where there is a change to the Participation Criteria or significant circumstances affecting the nomination process.

1 Shadow Team

- (1) The Australian Baseball Federation (ABF) will choose athletes from within its sport to be members of the AOC's Shadow Team. The AOC may recognise other athletes from within this sport to also be members of the Shadow Team.
- (2) The ABF may only nominate members of the Shadow Team to the AOC for selection in the 2008 Australian Olympic Team.
- (3) The ABF will advise the AOC of the athletes that it has chosen as members of the Shadow Team at such time as required by the AOC.
- (4) No athlete is eligible to be chosen or recognised as a member of the Shadow Team unless the athlete has signed the Consent to Consideration for Nomination (See Attachment 1 for form of Consent to Consideration for Nomination and Attachment 2 for Parents/Guardians Acknowledgment for Minors) and provided it to the ABF (Att: Brett Pickett, High Performance Manager), at PO Box 10468, Southport BC, QLD 4215.
- (5) In order to be chosen by the ABF as a member of the Shadow Team each athlete must, to the satisfaction of the ABF:
 - (a) be an active player playing in an elite level competition that is either professional, independent-professional, collegiate or of National standard;
 - (b) commit to full availability for all on and off field National Team Program Requirements for 2007 and 2008, as outlined in Attachment 3. Program requirements include athlete participation in National Team international games, Olympic qualifying events, Claxton Shield state programs, training and processing camps and off-field sports science and medicine requirements. Athletes may be granted an exception to the National Team Program Requirements in circumstances determined by the ABF Selection Committee as being unavoidable or extenuating circumstances.
 - (c) demonstrate a positive attitude and strong desire to represent Australia at the highest level (eg the Olympic Games), mental and physical discipline and a sound work ethic required to play successfully at International and/or Olympic level; and
 - (d) achieve positive and consistent scouting reports that reflect the ability to perform at International/Olympic levels.
- (6) Methods for determining inclusion in the Shadow Team will be:
 - (a) in-competition scouting and performance monitoring by ABF Scouting Panel, using the "8 to 2" grading system adopted from the Major League Baseball scouting bureau. Scales for the ABF Tool Rating System are attached as Attachment 4;
 - (b) monitoring, comparing and ranking Shadow Team candidates and their respective statistical performances, as well as assessing each athlete's mental and physical aptitude to play at International and/or Olympic level;
 - (c) identifying athletes with the potential to play at Olympic level and who demonstrate the ability, attitude and commitment to perform well in an Olympic competition; and

- (d) such other methods as may be determined from time to time by the ABF Selection Committee and approved by the AOC, and notified in writing by the ABF to athletes.
- (7) Process for naming the Shadow Team:
- (a) The ABF Board appointed High Performance Committee (established in October of 2002) will appoint an ABF Scouting Panel for the purpose of scouting and identifying a Shadow Team list. The Scouting Panel will include up to six (6) professional scouts (minimum of 4), of which at least two (2) will be National Team Coaching Staff (ie one (1) Head Coach plus one (1) assistant coach). The scouting period for this stage of the process will be from January 2007 through to end June 2008, and will provide regular scouting reports for assisting with the identification of athletes for both the Shadow Team and the final nominated Olympic Team.
 - (b) The ABF Scouting Panel will assist with athlete performance monitoring and reports from these scouts will be used in the validation of athletes identified for nomination. The scouting methods and benchmarks used will be based upon the ABF Tool Rating System. For a variety of mental, physical, experiential and attitudinal reasons, not always will the “highest ranked athlete” be included in the Shadow Team, or to the final, nominated Olympic Team.
 - (c) The ABF High Performance Committee will act as the Selection Committee for the naming of the Shadow Team and the final list of athletes to be nominated for selection to the 2008 Australia Olympic Team. In the event the Selection Committee cannot agree on the nomination or the non nomination of the Shadow Team or the final Olympic team, the Head Coach will make the final decision on the athletes inclusion or otherwise. The ABF Board will ratify the final Olympic Team of athletes to be nominated, prior to the nomination of the Olympic Team to the AOC for selection.
 - (d) The ABF Selection Committee will be responsible for nominating the Shadow Team to the AOC, no later than **1 October 2007** and the final nominated Olympic Team no later than **10:00am on 4 July 2008**. Please note that the ABF Selection Committee may, at its discretion, remove athletes from the Shadow Team for failing to maintain Shadow Team standards as outlined in clause 1 of this Nomination Criteria. The ABF Selection Committee may also add athletes to the Shadow Team who warrant inclusion based upon the athlete meeting the Shadow Team requirements, at anytime after **1 October 2007**.
- (8) The ABF will provide all athletes chosen or recognised as members of the Shadow Team with an informative précis of the AOC Selection By-Law, a copy of the Selection Criteria and this Nomination Criteria, and on the request of any such athlete, a copy of the AOC Selection By-Law and/or a copy of the Participation Criteria.

2 Making of Nominations

The ABF will not make any nominations for selection to the 2008 Australian Olympic Team to the AOC unless it has adopted and implemented an anti-doping policy that conforms with the World Anti-Doping Code. Nominations will not be made to the AOC after 10:00am on 4 July 2008. Any nominations made after this deadline will be invalid unless made pursuant to a direction or award in respect of an appeal against nomination or non-nomination to the ABF Appeal Tribunal or the Court of Arbitration for Sport pursuant to the AOC's Selection By-Law and which appeal had been commenced prior to 10:00am on 4 July 2008.

The 10:00am on 4 July 2008 deadline for the making of nominations by the ABF is absolute and mandatory and applies irrespective of any deadline prescribed under the Participation Criteria or by the Organising Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games.

3 **Nomination of the Baseball Team**

For the purpose of nomination to the AOC of a team for selection to the 2008 Australian Olympic Team the ABF will:

- (1) only nominate members of the team who are, or are recognised by the AOC as, members of the Shadow Team;
- (2) only nominate members of the team it honestly believes have met the requirements described in the Selection Criteria;
- (3) only nominate members of the team who have signed the athlete nomination form issued by the AOC from time to time;
- (4) not nominate more members of the team (including reserves) than the maximum number permitted under the Participation Criteria;
- (5) not nominate as a member of a team any athlete who has breached the AOC Anti-Doping By-Law for which the athlete has been sanctioned and has not completed the sanction imposed; and
- (6) only nominate members of teams who to the satisfaction of the ABF have competed in the events or trials, completed the training regime, other attendance and team participation requirements as follows:
 - (a) the athlete has played professional, independent professional, collegiate and/or National competition baseball in 2007 and 2008;
 - (b) the athlete has consistently demonstrated sound levels of mental aptitude and physical performance skills required to play at International and/or Olympic level. These skills can be measured by using the ABF Tool Rating System, as well as through individual statistical results accumulated in a high level of competition (referred to above), or on projected performance potential as adjudged by the ABF Selection Committee;
 - (c) the athlete has maintained suitable levels of physical/mental fitness through on-field performance, anthropometric testing results and other off-field sports science and medicine practices as prescribed by team sports science and medicine staff;
 - (d) the athlete has participated in, or made every effort to participate in the ABF National Team Program Requirements for 2007 and 2008 (as outlined in Attachment 3), as required by the ABF;
 - (e) the athlete has demonstrated a willingness and understanding of the requirement to fill a vital, productive role for team's balance and have the ability to work in harmony with team mates, coaches and share a common purpose in relation to achieving Team goals/objectives;
 - (f) the athlete actually fills a vital role in the team, and nomination of the athlete suits overall team balance and positional requirements;
 - (g) the athlete has made himself available for promotional and sponsorship servicing activities as reasonably requested by the ABF; and
 - (h) the athlete has demonstrated a consistently positive attitude in line with National Team codes of conduct throughout the 2007 and 2008 program, or as long as the athlete has been part of the National Team Program and has participated in an open communication system with the ABF and its appointed National Team Coaching and sports science/medicine staff.

4 **Illness/Misadventure/Extenuating Circumstances**

This clause will only apply in determining whether an athlete has met the criteria imposed by ABF pursuant to clauses 1(5)(b) and 3(6) of this Nomination Criteria:

- (1) In considering the performances of athletes required under clauses 1(5)(b) and 3(6) of this Nomination Criteria the ABF Selection Committee may in their discretion give weight to extenuating circumstances
- (2) For the purposes of this clause 4, “extenuating circumstances” means an inability to compete and/or attend training camps arising from:
 - (a) injury or illness;
 - (b) travel delays;
 - (c) bereavement; and/or
 - (d) any other factors reasonably considered by the ABF to constitute extenuating circumstances
- (3) Athletes unable to participate at any events, trials, training camps or other attendances required by ABF under this Nomination Criteria must advise the ABF National High Performance Manager in writing of this fact and the reasons before the commencement of the events, trials, training camps or other attendances in question
- (4) In the case of illness or injury, athletes will be required to undergo a medical examination by a doctor or doctors nominated by ABF.
- (5) A decision in each case of extenuating circumstances will be made by the ABF on an individual basis. Any such decision will not be binding on the AOC.

5 **Amendments to Nomination Criteria**

The nomination criteria may be amended by ABF with the approval of the AOC. Amended criteria will be distributed by the ABF to all members of the Shadow Team. Shadow Team members will receive the amended document via direct email and/or notification that it has been posted on the ABF website.

6 **Interpretation**

- (1) Words used in this Nomination Criteria have the same meaning ascribed to them in the AOC’s Selection By-Law unless a contrary meaning appears from the context.
- (2) In this Nomination Criteria the following words and phrases have the following meanings:
 - “**ABF**” – means the Australian Baseball Federation Inc.
 - “**ABF National Team Program Requirements for 2007 and 2008**” – means the requirements set out in Attachment 3
 - “**ABF Selection Committee**” – means the committee of the ABF set out in clause 1(7)(c)
 - “**ABF Scouting Panel**” – means the panel appointed by the High Performance Committee in writing from time to time
 - “**ABF Tool Rating System**” – means the system described in Attachment 4
 - “**ABF High Performance Committee**” – means the committee of that name established by the ABF Board of Directors in October 2002 (consisting of the ABF Director of High

Performance, the High Performance Manager, the Chief Executive Officer and four (4) x National Team Coaching Staff).

“ABF National Team Coaching Staff” – means ABF contracted coaching staff responsible for all coaching aspects of ABF National Teams programs.

‘Head Coach’ – means the coach appointed to this position by the ABF from time to time

- (3) email, the announcement or notice is deemed to have been received by me by properly addressing the email address and transmitting it to the address supplied by me and to have been received by me on the next business day after the date of transmission unless the AOC or NF is advised that the transmission failed to send to the addressee.

Signature of Athlete

Date

Witness Name

Witness Signature

Attachment 2

**2008 AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM
CONSENT TO CONSIDERATION FOR NOMINATION**

Parents/Guardians Acknowledgement for Minors

AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION INC. (NF)

[insert name of athlete]

I/we, the undersigned parents/guardians of the athlete agree (and if more than one, then jointly and severally agree) as follows:

1. the athlete is under the age of 18 years as at the date of signing the agreement;
2. I/we have read and understood the AOC Selection By-Law, the AOC Selection Criteria applicable to the sport of Baseball (“the agreements”) and have fully explained to the athlete the terms and effects of the agreements. To this end I/we have obtained independent legal advice as to the terms and effects of the agreements in order to clarify any doubts or concerns I/we may have had in this regard;
3. the athlete has read the agreements and, together with the benefit of our full explanation, understands its terms and effects;
4. the agreements are for the benefit of the athlete; and
5. the athlete’s eligibility for being considered for nomination by the above NF for selection to the 2008 Australian Olympic Team, (“Team”), may be terminated in the event of any breach of these agreements.

Dated:

Signed by the Parent/Guardian)

In the presence of:)

.....
(Parent/Guardian’s signature)

.....
(Witness’ signature)

.....
(Name of Witness)

.....
(Name of Parent/Guardian)

.....
(Address of Witness)

.....
(Address of Parent/Guardian)

Attachment 3

2008 AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM

ABF National Team Program Requirements for 2007 and 2008

Scouting and Performance Monitoring - The ABF Scouting Panel and National Coaches will scout and monitor player performance from January 2007 (Claxton Shield) through to the end of September 2008 (end of professional season).

Nomination of the Olympic Shadow Team - The Olympic Shadow Team will be nominated no later than October 1 2007. A team processing camp will be conducted soon thereafter, which all Shadow Team athletes are expected to attend.

State Training Centre Programs - All Olympic Shadow Team athletes will be expected to participate in State Training Centre strength and conditioning, nutritional and athlete welfare programs under the supervision of State training centre Head Coaches, as directed by the Olympic Team Head Coach. This program will be classified as an "active rest" phase and will take place in the months of November and December in 2007. Professional athletes in the Shadow Team unable to return to Australia during this period must organise a suitable, acceptable alternative program subject to the approval of the Olympic Team Head Coach.

2008 Claxton Shield State Team Programs - All Olympic Shadow Team athletes will be expected to participate in the 2008 Claxton Shield, as well as State Team preparation training programs. This program phase will take place during the month of January 2008. The 2008 Claxton Shield will take place in the last week of January. Shadow Team athletes unable to return to Australia during this period, or those undergoing injury rehabilitation, must make suitable alternative program arrangements subject to the approval of the Olympic Team Head Coach.

Olympic Qualification Program - This will be a 2 stage process. Stage 1 of the process will be participating in and winning the 2007 Senior Oceania Championships. This tournament is to be played at the Blacktown Olympic Park, Sydney from the 1 – 5 of February 2007. Stage 2 of the process will be participating in and finishing in the top three (3) teams of the Final 8 Olympic Qualification tournament. Dates and venues for this tournament are still to be confirmed by the International Baseball Federation, but it is likely to be played sometime in April of 2008, most likely in the USA or Asia.

2008 Baseball Season- Olympic Shadow Team athletes will be scouted and their performances monitored by the ABF scouting panel and Olympic Team Coaching staff.

Beijing Olympic Games Program - The Olympic Team will be nominated to the Australian Olympic Committee no later 10.00am on 4 July 2008. A total of 24 athletes will be nominated. A team training camp will be conducted prior to the Olympic Games, in late July/early August. The location of this camp is still to be determined, but likely to be in Asia. The Olympic Team will enter the Beijing Olympic Village on approximately the 6th of August. The Olympic Games will take place from the 8th to the 24th of August in Beijing and the Olympic Baseball Competition will be conducted from the 13th – 23rd of August.

Note: Certain dates or program phases may alter from time to time due to international scheduling changes or other unforeseen circumstances. ABF will update athletes as soon as possible in regards to any changes to this schedule.

Attachment 4

2008 AUSTRALIAN OLYMPIC TEAM

ABF Tool Rating System

A method of scouting baseball athletes for Olympic Shadow Team and Olympic Team nomination, the ABF utilises the Major League Scouting Bureau "8 to 2" scouting scale. The 8 to 2 Scouting Scale uses both objective and subjective measures and is used mainly to assess and project athletes "tools" required to compete at the highest level, be that professional or Olympic baseball. The 8 to 2 Scouting Scale is not the sole determinant in nominating athletes to the Olympic Shadow Squad or Final Team, as other performance and team requirements are also considered. The 8 to 2 Scouting Scale actually is a "world's best" baseball athlete benchmarking system.

The Scouting Scale

8 - Excellent; 7 - very good; 6 - good; 5 - average; 4 - below average; 3 - well below average; 2 - poor

Grading Speed - Home to First in Seconds

RH Hitter:	4.0 - 8; 4.5 - 3;	4.1 - 7; 4.6 - 2	4.2 - 6;	4.3 - 5;	4.4 - 4;
LH Hitter:	3.9 - 8; 4.4 - 3;	4.0 - 7; 4.5 - 2	4.1 - 6;	4.2 - 5;	4.3 - 4;

Grading Velocity - Miles P/H

96 - 8; 94/95 - 7; 92/93 - 6; 89/91 - 5; 87/88 - 4; 85/86 - 3; 83/84 - 2

Grading Hitting (Projected performance Major League level)

.320 - 8; .300/.319 - 7; .286/.299 - 6; .270/.285 - 5; .250/.269 - 4; .220/.249 - 3
.219/below - 2

Grading Power (Projected Home-run potential at Major League Level)

35 - 8; 27/34 - 7; 20/26 - 6; 15/19 - 5; 10/14 - 4; 5/9 - 3; 0/4 - 2

Note: Tool rating to be used in conjunction with written athlete performance reports.