

25 January 2018

The Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) respects the rights of all sporting Federations to nominate athletes, including teams, for Olympic competition.

Under the Olympic Charter, the AOC has no power to select athletes for the Olympic Games if a sporting federation determines the athletes have not achieved the necessary qualification criteria.

However, the AOC believes a sensible balance can be achieved between upholding the appropriate standard of achievement for Olympic competition and the benefits of developing Australian athletes through Olympic experience for greater achievement in the years ahead.

In this instance, the AOC believed there was a strong case for the inclusion of a Women's Bobsleigh team on developmental grounds, indicating to Sliding Sports Australia (SAA) that a team, if nominated, would be selected by the AOC for the PyeongChang games.

In the past, similar discretion in other winter disciplines has turned Australian Olympic rookies into established world class performers.

During talks with Sliding Sports Australia in the past week, the AOC re-affirmed its view that the athletes deserved nomination based on their long-term commitment to the sport, two years of self-funded training and competition, the potential for athletic development and the exposure the sport would receive via Olympic participation.