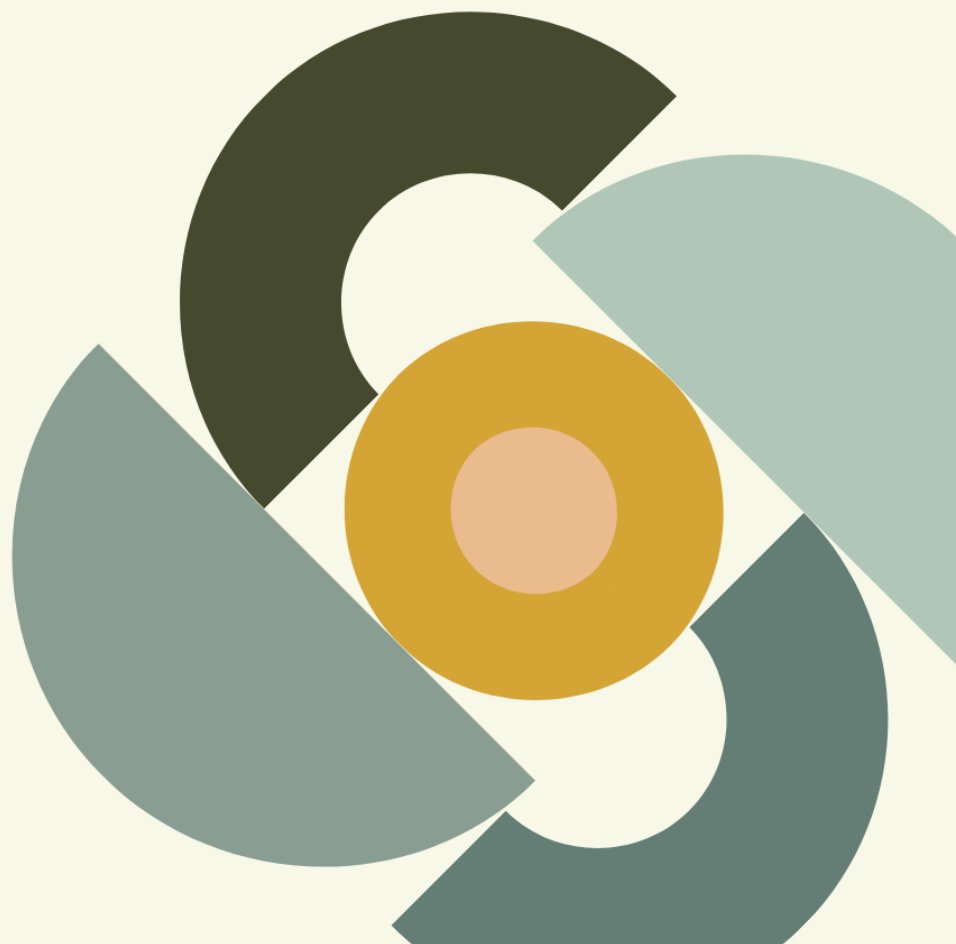


ACF NATIONAL COMPETITION & EVENTS FRAMEWORK

NATIONAL SDG TITLES | NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
CONSULTATION GUIDE

25 MAY - 29 JUNE 2026



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QUICK CONSULTATION GUIDE

What We Are Asking

The ACF is seeking targeted Member State feedback on the ACF National SDG (Solo, Duo, Graceful) Titles & ACF National Team Championships proposals for July 2027. Your expertise helps us get this right.

These proposals are the result of more than two years of work — reviews, consultation, and co-design with States, working parties, the ACF IDEA Panel, and the broader calisthenics community. We're now asking for your focused input as we move to finalise the 2027 national competition guidelines.

What Feedback We Are Looking For

We're not reopening the model. We're strengthening it. Specifically, we want to know:

- Whether the formats, eligibility and entry criteria are clear and easy to understand
- Whether anything needs refinement or clearer presentation
- Any gaps, ambiguities, or operational risks your State can see

How to Use This Consultation Guide

We recommend reading the one-page visual summaries first (pages 3 & 8) — they map the structure of both proposals clearly and will make the detail much easier to follow. A short overview video is also available [HERE](#), which walks through both proposals and is a great starting point before reading

Consultation Timeline

25 May – 29 June 2026	Member State consultation period — conducted through the State Reference Council (SRC) and your State's SRC representative.
July 2026	ACF consolidates and refines proposals based on Member State feedback.
Late July / Early August 2026	Release of the 2027 National SDG Titles & National Team Championships Guidelines, including confirmed dates and venue.

How To Submit Feedback

Submit your consolidated State Association feedback through your SRC representative, who will table it at the SRC meeting on Monday 29 June 2026. Responses received after this date can't be included in the July refinement phase.

NCEF Event Cycle From 2026

Odd years (2027, 2029...)	National Team Championships Australian Masters Games
Even years (2026, 2028...)	Club Carnival Pan Pacific Masters Games
Future cycle TBC	National SDG Titles — post-2027 consultation pending

Scheduling approach

The schedule groups each age-group's team and SDG events into a concentrated block of days. The aim is to minimise extended stays, reduce downtime between events, and create a more efficient, family-friendly national experience. Final scheduling will depend on entry numbers.

We value the expertise and insight of Member States and look forward to your feedback.

National SDG Titles 2027

| Competition Structure & Entry Criteria Proposal |



NCEF VALUES

MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Inclusive participation opportunities

CLEAR PATHWAYS

Structured, transparent progression for all

TRANSPARENT GRADING

Consistent, evidence-based grading across States

COMPETITIVE PARITY

Fair, balanced competition for every State & Participant

2 ENTRY PATHWAYS | 3 COMPETITION TIERS



NATIONAL TITLE TIER

ENTRY PATHWAY	REPRESENTATIVE - State Selected
AUTOMATIC PATHWAY	Automatic selection for State Champions (Ranked 1st)
SECTIONS	By Age-Groups - Sub-Juniors to Seniors
ENTRY CAPS	5 per State for each Age-Group Item
ITEMS	Graceful Solo Calisthenics Solo Calisthenics Duo



OPEN & NOVICE TIERS

ENTRY PATHWAY	SELF-NOMINATED for any Eligible Participant
SECTIONS	Year of Age (e.g., 11 yrs, 12 yrs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior bands: 18-19 yrs, 20-21 yrs, 22+.
ENTRY CAPS	2 per State for each age year item, per Tier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EOI's required. ACF Conducts ballot to uphold State caps: Ballot continues to evenly allocate any remaining places
ITEMS	Graceful Solo Calisthenics Solo

ELIBILITY CRITERIA

- All participants must be registered with their State Calisthenics Association.
- States may link eligibility for all Tiers to State Team participation, except State Champions, who receive automatic National Title Tier entry.
- States may determine their own National Title Tier selection process, including selection of State Champion (automatic pathway) when Championships are run by year of age.
- States may not limit the number of items a participant may enter.
- All competitors must meet the required ACF Calisthenics Skills Level (per Policy).
- Eligibility for each Tier is determined by the participant's grading for that item from the most recent State competition season (see table below).
- Competitors without a grading from their previous State's competition season must apply to the ACF Grading Committee.
- Any competitor moving from the National Title Tier to another Tier through a State eligibility variation counts toward that State's Tier cap. The vacated National Title place is not transferable.
- SA & WA State eligibility variation requests are assessed at the discretion of the ACF Grading Committee; all decisions are final.

	NATIONAL TITLE TIER	OPEN TIER	NOVICE TIER	STATE ELIGIBILITY VARIATIONS
ACT & QLD Grading	Champ /Open Div	Champ / Open Div	Div 1 / 2nd Highest Div & Below	4th & 5th ranked State selected representatives may elect to enter the Open Tier
NSW & NT Grading	Highest Division	Highest Division	Any Division	State selected representatives may elect to enter any Tier
SA & WA Grading	Champ Division	Champ & Div 1	Div 2 and Below	5th ranked State selected representatives may request re-grading into the Open Tier

NOTES

Entry fees will apply

Calibilities sections to also be offered.

ACF NATIONAL SDG TITLES

The ACF National Solo, Duo & Graceful (SDG) Titles are Australia's premier national SDG event. The proposed format introduces a two-pathway, three-tier structure that provides clear progression, transparent eligibility, and carefully managed State eligibility variations to support competitive parity across the country.

SDG TITLES - TWO PATHWAYS

The 2027 National SDG Titles introduces two distinct entry pathways — one for State-selected representatives, one open to self-nominated competitors — to balance high-performance excellence with broad, inclusive participation.

Representative Pathway – State Selected

Each State selects its top five competitors for every age-group section. This pathway reflects the traditional National SDG competition model, where States put forward their strongest performers to compete for the national title.

Maintaining this high-performance pathway is essential to:

- Preserve the prestige and competitive integrity of the National Titles
- Recognise and reward excellence at State level
- Provide a clear national progression for State Champions
- Support competitor development through exposure to elite-level competition
- Strengthen the sport's national identity and performance standards

Self-Nomination Pathway

The Self-Nominated Pathway reflects the ACF's commitment to More People, More Ways. This pathway is open to all competitors who meet the eligibility criteria, providing a nationally consistent opportunity for broader participation beyond State-selected representatives.

This pathway:

- Expands access to national-level participation for a wider range of competitors
- Supports inclusivity by offering opportunities across grading levels
- Responds to strong community demand for more flexible and accessible national pathways
- Provides meaningful progression for developing competitors
- Strengthens retention by offering additional aspirational experiences
- Ensures fairness through clear eligibility criteria

SDG TITLES - THREE TIERS

The three-tier structure groups competitors according to grading, experience, and performance readiness. It preserves the prestige of the traditional National Titles while expanding participation opportunities across all levels.

National Tier – Representative Pathway

The National Title Tier continues the long-standing purpose of the traditional National SDG competition: showcasing each State’s highest-performing competitors at a premier national level.

Key changes in this proposal:

- State Champions receive automatic selection — the top-ranked performer in each State is guaranteed a place at the national event.
- The number of representatives per State per age-group section has increased, expanding participation while maintaining competitive integrity.

This is the only Tier where entry is determined exclusively through State selection processes. Competitors at this level represent the highest calibre of performance within their State.

Open Tier – Self-Nominated Pathway

The Open Tier provides a competitive environment for strong performers who are not State representatives. Entry is self-nominated, subject to eligibility criteria and State caps. This Tier supports:

- High-quality competition for competitors performing at strong State levels
- Development of emerging talent who may progress to the National Title Tier in future years
- A clear progression pathway toward the National Title Tier

Novice Tier – Self-Nominated Pathway

The Novice Tier is designed for competitors in lower divisions. It provides:

- Appropriate competitive grouping that reflects their current grading and experience
- A positive, confidence-building national experience
- A clear entry point into the national system, supporting retention and long-term development

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility settings for the National SDG Titles are designed to ensure fairness, national consistency, competitive integrity, and clear pathways across all States. Each criterion supports the three-tier structure and the two pathways.

WHY	WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR STATE
Competitors must be registered with their State Association	
Ensures all competitors are recognised members of the sport, covered by insurance, and participating within the formal governance structure.	States are responsible for verifying registration status and ensuring all entrants are current, eligible members.
Eligibility determined by most recent State grading	
Grading is the most consistent national indicator of performance level. The most recent State grading determines Tier placement (National Title, Open, or Novice).	States must ensure grading records are accurate and up to date — these directly determine Tier eligibility.
Required ACF Skills Level must be met	

WHY	WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOUR STATE
<p>Skills Levels provide a nationally consistent benchmark for technical readiness and safety.</p>	<p>States must confirm Skills Levels before endorsing entries and communicate this requirement clearly to all competitors.</p>
<p>States may link eligibility to State Team participation</p>	
<p>Feedback from multiple consultation processes showed that connecting SDG participation to State Team pathways strengthens representative programs. State Champions always retain automatic National Title entry regardless.</p>	<p>States may choose to apply this linkage. If they do, they must submit their procedures to the ACF for endorsement before publishing.</p>
<p>States may determine their own National Title Tier selection processes</p>	
<p>States operate different competition structures. Flexibility ensures the model works nationally without forcing structural changes at State level.</p>	<p>States may use traditional age-group Championships, year-of-age models, ranking systems, or panels — provided the process is transparent and aligns with the intent of the National Title Tier. Procedures must be submitted to the ACF for endorsement before publishing.</p>
<p>Competitors without a grading must apply to the ACF Grading Committee</p>	
<p>Ensures fairness for competitors who have moved States, changed divisions, or are new to the grading system.</p>	<p>States must direct ungraded competitors to the ACF Grading Committee and support them in providing evidence (e.g. performance history, video if required).</p>
<p>State-applied variations moving a competitor from the National Title Tier count toward the State's Tier cap; vacated places are not transferable</p>	
<p>This prevents States from increasing Open Tier numbers by shifting competitors downward, preserving competitive parity and ensuring State caps operate as intended.</p>	<p>Any downward movement uses one of the State's Tier places automatically. The competitor is accepted without entering the ballot, but this uses one of the State's ballot-eligible places. The vacated National Title place cannot be reassigned under any circumstances.</p>
<p>SA & WA variation requests assessed by the ACF Grading Committee; decisions are final</p>	
<p>Case-by-case assessment for SA and WA ensures any requested changes maintain competitive parity and align with national standards.</p>	<p>SA and WA may submit variation requests where individual circumstances warrant consideration. The ACF Grading Committee provides an independent assessment. Decisions are final.</p>
<p>States may not limit the number of items a competitor enters</p>	
<p>Limits on SDG items created one of the most significant national inconsistencies in the previous system, in some cases preventing State Champions from entering more than one item. The National SDG Titles must be open to all eligible competitors.</p>	<p>States may not impose limits on how many SDG items a competitor may enter. All eligible competitors must be able to enter any SDG item for which they meet the criteria.</p>

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

Before publishing any State eligibility, selection, or implementation procedures developed under the flexibility provisions of this framework, submit them to the ACF for endorsement. This keeps language nationally consistent and ensures equitable application across all Member States.

STATE ELIGIBILITY VARIATIONS

State eligibility variations recognise that State grading systems and competition structures differ across Australia. They provide carefully controlled flexibility — without compromising competitive balance or the integrity of the three-tier framework.

What variations are for

Variations serve two purposes:

- **Supporting States with smaller or differently structured competitive pools.** Some States operate with smaller participant numbers, higher divisions, or unique grading distributions. Variations allow these States to manage exceptional circumstances without disadvantaging their participants.
- **Providing a pathway for representatives to move to another Tier.** Where a State determines a competitor selected for the National Title Tier would be more appropriately placed in another Tier, a variation allows this movement without penalising the competitor.

How variations work

States may request to move a competitor from the National Title Tier to another Tier. Who may be moved, which Tier they may move to, and the conditions for movement depend on the State's grading structure and approved variation settings (see State Eligibility Variations table in National SDG Titles one-page visual above).

Key rules:

- Movement requests must be initiated and endorsed by the State Association. Coaches, competitors, parents, and clubs do not approach the ACF directly.
- Any eligible movement is automatically accepted — the competitor does not enter the ballot. This counts toward the State's cap for that Tier.
- The vacated National Title place cannot be reassigned. This preserves the integrity of the National Title Tier and prevents strategic manipulation of entries.

Variations accommodate genuine structural differences between States, protect competitive integrity, support participant fairness, and maintain national consistency. Any exceptions are transparent, justified, and centrally assessed.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

Before publishing any State eligibility, selection, or implementation procedures developed under the flexibility provisions of this framework, submit them to the ACF for endorsement. This keeps language nationally consistent and ensures equitable application across all Member States.

National Team Championships 2027

| Competition Structure & Entry Criteria Proposal |



NCEF VALUES

MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Inclusive participation opportunities

CLEAR PATHWAYS

Structured, transparent progression for all

TRANSPARENT TIERS

Consistent and clear Tier definitions

COMPETITIVE PARITY

Fair, balanced competition for every State & Participant

2 COMPETITION TIERS



CHAMPIONSHIP TIER

TEAM TYPE	Composite State Teams
PARTICIPANT PATHWAY	State's highest calibre/ elite
COACH PATHWAY	Experienced elite-level
PATHWAY ROLE	Apex national competition & benchmark for excellence
SECTIONS	Sub-Juniors to Seniors



FUTURES TIER

TEAM TYPE	Composite State Teams
PARTICIPANT PATHWAY	Emerging & developing-growth focus
COACH PATHWAY	Emerging & advancing levels
PATHWAY ROLE	Structured pathway toward elite participation
SECTIONS	Sub-Juniors to Intermediates

WHO IS THE FUTURES TIER FOR?

- ✓ All States & participants who are developing their skills and performance capacity.
- ✓ Coaches who are building their experience & coaching methodology for elite-level team environments.
- ✗ Teams assembled primarily to be competitive rather than genuinely develop participants & coaches
- ✓ States seeking to develop a strong a strong talent base of future Championship-ready performers & coaching staff
- ✓ Structured, supported competition environment with ACF mentoring, training coach programs, and development opportunities.
- ✗ Elite or higher-graded participants

NOTES

- States self-select the Tier for their teams based on the above definitions and intent.
- States with capacity are encouraged to enter teams across all age-groups and both Tiers to strengthen national competition, participation, and parity.
- Entry fees will apply
- CaliBilities sections to also be offered.

ACF NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ACF National Team Championships are Australia’s premier national team event for Sub-Junior to Senior age-groups within the NCEF. The proposed structure introduces two distinct competition tiers — Championship and Futures — providing clear progression, transparent eligibility, and equitable participation opportunities across all States.

Developed through extensive State and community consultation, the Championships framework balances tradition with innovation: preserving the prestige of elite competition while expanding opportunities for growth, mentoring, and long-term national development.

NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP - TWO TIERS

Championship Tier

The Championship Tier is the elite national team competition. It embraces the long-standing traditions of the ACF National Team Championships and showcases the highest-calibre performers and most experienced coaches. It serves as:

- The national benchmark for excellence in choreography, technique, and performance quality
- A high-performance environment for advanced technical and artistic work
- A pathway for elite-level coaching development
- A representative platform where Composite State Teams ensure every State can field its strongest possible team, regardless of club distribution or population size

Futures Tier

The Futures Tier is a purpose-built environment designed to nurture the next generation of national-level competitors and coaches. It provides:

- States building a strong talent base, where depth is still developing or elite numbers fluctuate
- Competitors developing skills and performance capacity who benefit from national exposure without elite competition pressure
- Coaches building experience and methodology, including those stepping into leadership roles or working under mentor coaches
- Teams focused on development rather than competitiveness, where the priority is growth, learning, and pathway progression

WHO IS THE FUTURE’S TIER FOR?

The Futures Tier is designed for:

- States building a strong talent base, where depth is still developing or elite numbers fluctuate
- Competitors developing skills and performance capacity who benefit from national exposure without elite competition pressure
- Coaches building experience and methodology, including those stepping into leadership roles or working under mentor coaches
- Teams focused on development rather than competitiveness, where the priority is growth, learning, and pathway progression

States with larger participant pools are to draw Futures Tier representatives from lower divisions, or from development-stream participants within higher divisions. This ensures participation reflects genuine developmental pathways and supports competitive parity.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Before publishing your State's Futures Tier eligibility and selection procedures, submit them to the ACF for endorsement. This ensures consistent language and fair application across all States.

A STRUCTURE DESIGNED FOR FUTURE GROWTH

The National Team Championship two-tier model is intentionally scalable. As the structure becomes embedded and capacity increases within and between States, the model allows for the introduction of bridging tiers between Championship and Futures. These additional tiers can be added when the national landscape demonstrates sufficient depth — ensuring the system evolves in line with participation growth, performance progression, and State capability.

FEEDBACK

Your feedback should identify where the proposed formats may need refinement or risk mitigation. We're strengthening the draft — not reopening or redesigning the model.

Consider how the proposed structures would operate within your State and how they contribute to a cohesive, nationally consistent system.

HOW TO SUBMIT

Submit your consolidated State Association feedback through your SRC representative, who will table it at the SRC meeting on Monday 29 June 2026. Responses received after this date can't be included in the July refinement phase.

Clarity

- How does your State interpret the purpose and intent of the Championship and Futures Tiers, and how does this interpretation align with the broader national vision for team pathways?
- In what ways does the description of who each Tier is *for* and *not for* support consistent national understanding, and where might further clarity be needed?
- How well do the pathways, eligibility rules, and movement processes translate into both your State's operational environment and the national context?

- Which terms, definitions, or distinctions may be interpreted differently across States, and what clarifications would support national consistency?
- How does your State view the explanation of future scalability (e.g., bridging tiers), and what additional clarity would help ensure shared national understanding of long-term growth?

Refinement

- Which aspects of the rationale or tier descriptions could be refined to better reflect both your State's needs and the collective national landscape?
- How workable are the operational steps for State-initiated movement from the National Title Tier, and what refinements would support consistent implementation across all States?
- How effectively do the models communicate the distinction between development intent and elite intent in a way that supports national alignment?
- Which elements of the variation process may require further detail to ensure they can be applied consistently and fairly across all States?

Gaps or Risks

- When considering both your State and the national system, what potential gaps or unintended consequences become apparent in the proposed formats?
- What operational risks might arise within your State or across the national landscape?
- How well do the proposed formats support States with smaller or developing talent pools, and what national-level considerations should be addressed to ensure equity?
- From a national perspective, what risks or considerations should be addressed now to support future expansion?