THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF TEAM FOR OLYMPIC GAMES
RIFLE AND PISTOL DISCIPLINES — LA 2028

CRITERIA STATEMENT

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) believes that athletes must earn their place on the Olympic team. This criterion is intended to provide a level, just and fair playing field for sportspersons seeking selection across the shooting disciplines.

1. SCOPE OF THE SELECTION CRITERIA

a) This criterion applies exclusively to the Rifle and Pistol events at the LA 2028 Olympic Games in USA.
b) The criteria shall come into force with the commencement of the ISSF World Championship in Doha in November 2026 and remains applicable only till the selection of team for the LA 2028 Olympic Games.
c) This criterion is binding on all athletes seeking to represent India in Rifle and Pistol events at the LA 2028 Olympic Games.
d) The main National Selection Criteria, as approved by the NRAI Governing Body from time to time, continues to apply to the selection of national teams for international competitions.

2. BASIS OF THE CRITERIA

a) Selection is based on each athlete's Final Average Score (FAS). The FAS is calculated using the average of the athlete's three highest Olympic Selection Trial (OST) scores, together with the applicable Quota Bonus Points (QBP).
b) The NRAI has sole discretion to select the venues for the Olympic Selection Trials. Once a venue has been designated, all athletes are required to attend and undergo the selection trials in accordance with this criterion, irrespective of their personal circumstances or profile.
c) The NRAI intends, where possible and appropriate, to use a range of venues across the country for the Olympic Selection Trials.
d) The NRAI is committed to always ensuring compliance with standard ISSF rules.
e) Eligible athletes must participate in at least three of the four OSTs to be considered for selection. The FAS will be calculated only for athletes who have at least three OST scores. If an athlete enters a trial but subsequently withdraws before completing it, for reasons known to the athlete, the athlete's score shall be treated as the exact arithmetic total standing at the point of withdrawal for selection purposes.

3. QUOTA PLACES FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES

a) Under the NRAI's existing criteria, any Olympic quota place won by an Indian athlete belongs to the NRAI and the country. The athlete who wins a quota place will receive due consideration under this criterion, but winning a quota does not, by itself, guarantee that the athlete will represent India at the 2028 Olympic Games. Quota winners, along with other qualified athletes, must participate in the selection trials in accordance with this criterion.

b) Notwithstanding clause 3(a), a quota place awarded to an athlete through the World Ranking for the Olympic Games shall remain with the athlete to whom it was awarded.

c) The NRAI may request the transfer of a maximum of one quota place in one event to one quota place in another event within the same gender, where a quota is available and the NRAI does not already hold the maximum number of quota places in that event. This may apply to all quota places except World Ranking quota places awarded to individual athletes, where the NRAI determines that the change offers greater potential to win an Olympic medal.

d) To recognize the individual achievement of winning an Olympic quota place, quota points shall be added when calculating FAS, as set out in clause 4(e): Firearm events — 3 points; Air Gun events (Air Rifle and Air Pistol) — 1.5 points. The same points shall be available to an athlete who was eligible to win a quota but did not receive one because India had already obtained the maximum of two quotas, provided the athlete ranked within the top three. Such athletes shall be deemed quota holders and shall receive the same privileges and benefits. This also includes an athlete who was eligible for a quota place but did not receive it under the ISSF "one country, one quota" rule, wherever applicable.

e) A quota point shall be awarded only once to the quota winner in the event in which the quota was won. It shall not be awarded for subsequent performances in the same event or in another event (double start) and shall not be considered for selection to other international competitions.

f) This criterion is intended to ensure that selection is based purely on merit and that the best available athletes are selected.

g) The NRAI shall determine, in accordance with this criterion, which individual athlete in each event will ultimately represent India at the Olympic Games.

4. SELECTION AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

a) To participate in the Olympic Selection Trials, athletes must meet the eligibility requirements in the "Qualification System — XXXIV Olympic Games LA 2028". Details are available on the NRAI website: www.thenrai.in.

i. Athletes must have participated in at least two ISSF Championships (ISSF World Championship, ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships with quota places) for the period from 1st November 2026 to 30th April 2028 in each individual event for which they are to be entered at LA 2028.

b) For selection to the Rifle and Pistol events at the LA 2028 Olympic Games, the NRAI shall conduct four Olympic Selection Trials. The NRAI will determine the dates and venues in due course.

c) The following athletes are eligible to participate in the Olympic Selection Trials:

i. All quota holders and deemed quota holders in the relevant event.

ii. An athlete whose domestic ranking is 1st to 4th as on 1st February 2028 and must have participated in atleast two ISSF Championships (ISSF World Championship, ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships with quota places) during the period from 1st November 2026 to 31st January 2028.

iii. Athletes whose World ranking points rank them among the top four Indian athletes in the World Ranking as on 1st February 2028, provided they must be amongst top 10 of domestic ranking as on 1st February 2028

iv. If fewer than six athletes are available in a particular event for participation in Olympic Selection Trials, additional athletes ranked within top 8 in the national rankings of that particular event may be considered for participation, strictly in order of their ranking in the concerned event, until a maximum of eight athletes are reached, provided they must have participated in atleast one ISSF Championships (ISSF World Championship, ISSF World Cups, Asian Championships with quota places) during the period from 1st November 2026 to 31st January 2028. This clause will be applicable only if less than six athletes are available in a particular event.

v. A maximum of eight athletes for each event will be allowed to participate in the Olympic Selection Trials

d) Each athlete must record at least three scores in the Olympic Selection Trials for calculation of the Final Average Score (FAS). If an athlete records only three scores, all three shall be used. If an athlete competes in all four OSTs and records four scores, the three highest scores shall be used. An athlete with fewer than three scores shall not be considered for selection.

e) The FAS shall be calculated using the three highest OST scores plus the applicable quota bonus points specified in clause 3(d), divided by three. The criteria illustrate the calculation as follows:

Firearm events: FAS = (OST 1 + OST 3 + OST 4 + 3 quota points) / 3. Example: (590 + 588 + 593 + 3) = 1774 / 3 = 591.33.

Air Gun events: FAS = (OST 1 + OST 3 + OST 4 + 1.5 quota points) / 3. Example: (590 + 588 + 593 + 1.5) = 1772.5 / 3 = 590.83.

f) Selection for the LA Olympic Games shall be based on FAS. If FAS is tied, the athlete with the Quota holder status shall be ranked higher. If it's still a tie, the higher final bonus points (combining final points of all eligible OST's for selection) will act as the tie breaker.

g) Finals shall be conducted at every OST, and participation is compulsory for every athlete. Final points up to third place shall be awarded as follows:

i. Firearm events: 1st place — 1 point; 2nd place — 0.67 points; 3rd place — 0.33 points.

ii. Air Rifle and Air Pistol: 1st place — 0.50 points; 2nd place — 0.33 points; 3rd place — 0.15 points.

h) The final points shall be added to the qualification score achieved by the athlete in that OST when calculating the average under clause 4(e). For example, if an athlete scores 590/600 in the 3P Men qualification in OST 1 and finishes second in the final, the OST 1 score shall be 590.67.

Similarly, if an athlete scores 580/600 in the Air Pistol Men qualification in OST 1 and finishes second in the final, the OST 1 score shall be 580.33.

i) Finals shall be conducted in accordance with ISSF Rules.

j) The LA Olympic team shall be determined after completion of the Olympic Games Selection Trials and the release of World ranking quotas by the ISSF.

5. PARTICIPATION BY QUOTA HOLDERS

a) A quota holder shall not be eligible to enter any further ISSF quota events until India has secured the maximum permitted quotas in the respective event.

b) A quota holder shall, however, be automatically included in every Quota Competition in RPO category in which the Indian team participates during the year 2027/2028, until such time, India has achieved its maximum quotas of "two" in the respective events. However, an athlete who wins a quota place at an early stage will be allowed to participate in one or two designated World Cups in the year 2027, as per the decision of the Selection Committee of the NRAI, provided such an athlete should be ranked amongst top 3 domestic athletes on the day of selection of the designated World Cup.

6. MIXED TEAM EVENTS

a) The male athlete ranked first, and the female athlete ranked first in their respective events shall form the Mixed Event pair.

b) Mixed Event teams shall be selected according to the rankings under the Olympic Games Selection Criteria, not the National Ranking.

c) If two athletes in each event are selected under Olympic Selection Criteria, they shall form two teams for the Olympic Games in accordance with clause 6(a) and ISSF Rules.

d) The NRAI reserves the right to determine the final composition of the team.

7. RECOGNITION OF ISSF INDIVIDUAL RANKING AND WORLD RECORD

a) No merit points shall be awarded for any World Ranking or World Record.

8. OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

a) Strict compliance with WADA, IOA, ISSF and NRAI rules is mandatory. An athlete who violates these rules shall not be considered for team selection and shall be deemed suspended pending a ruling under the applicable appeal procedures of the relevant forum.

b) In the event of a medical or other exigency/emergency, the President or Secretary General may permit an athlete to take a trial on a later date, at the athlete's expense. This provision is intended only for the rarest of rare cases and is not a routine option. Medical grounds must be verified through medical records by the Sports Injury Centre, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. For applications based on non-medical grounds, the President and Secretary General shall jointly decide on merit. There shall be no forum of appeal against such a decision, which shall be final and binding.
c) An athlete must be medically fit. Subject to event-specific guidelines, the NRAI reserves the right not to select an athlete for the Olympic team at any time if the athlete is medically unfit to compete due to injury or illness. Fitness shall be verified by a medical professional appointed by the NRAI for this purpose.
d) If a selected athlete must be replaced due to illness, injury or other exceptional circumstances, the NRAI Selection Committee shall have authority to make the replacement. The next eligible athlete from the Olympic event selection process shall be included strictly on objective merit, as assessed by the Committee. The decision shall be supported by a written explanation of the circumstances.
e) Reserve athletes shall be selected in accordance with the Olympic Games Selection Criteria. Each reserve athlete must train with the main team, and the relevant section coaches shall prepare training plans for them.

9. CODE OF CONDUCT

a) An athlete whose conduct or dress-code behavior violates the ISSF, NRAI, SAI or IOA code of conduct, and is considered to bring the sport into disrepute, may be excluded from team selection and/or penalised by the NRAI Disciplinary Committee.
b) Athletes must comply with the programmes prescribed for them by the NRAI or High-Performance Managers in consultation with the coaches.

10. CONCLUSION

a) The NRAI reserves the right to amend the selection procedure whenever it considers an amendment appropriate or necessary. Athletes are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the selection procedure applicable to their event and all related documents. Any change shall take effect from the date it is published on the NRAI website.
b) Notwithstanding anything contained in this criterion, the decision of the NRAI Selection Committee shall be final and binding.