



Snow Summit - May 5th 2026





From First Turns to Podiums: Building the Snow Pipeline

A focused discussion on how the Australian snow industry builds and sustains participation from first exposure through to lifelong engagement. It will consider the role of athlete pathways, from grassroots to elite, in shaping aspiration, visibility and long-term connection to the sport, and why this matters beyond high performance. With a practical lens, the discussion will identify where stronger alignment between resorts, clubs, schools and national bodies can better support participation, progression and the overall health of the industry.



SESSION OUTLINE

1. Who is Snow Australia
2. Pathway Outlines
3. Roles in the Pathway
4. Athlete Pathway
5. High Performance
6. Facilities
7. Panel and Questions

SNOW AUSTRALIA PANEL

- Rebecca Clark
 - Community Engagement Manager (Snow Australia)
 - Northern Interschools Event Manager
 - Developed the Snow Australia FTEM documentation
- Sami Kennedy –
 - National Pathways Coordinator (Snow Australia) and
 - 3 x Winter Olympian in Skicross
- Dave Speirs –
 - Victorian Interschools Event Manager
 - Former Chair of the National Freestyle Discipline Committee (20+ years)
 - Current member of the Freestyle NDC, and Freestyle coach with Team Buller Riders.

SNOW AUSTRALIA PURPOSE

“To support athletes and develop champions.”

2026 – WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES AND WINTER PARALYMPIC GAMES



Australia's Milano Cortina 2026 medallists Josie Baff, Cooper Woods, Scotty James, Matt Graham and Jakara Anthony. AOC



Ben Tudhope – Silver and Bronze medalist

OUR INTERSCHOOLS ALUMNI

The Australian Olympic Team for the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Games includes 31 athletes who started their competition days at the Interschools Championships. This continues a legacy where 106 Olympians and Paralympians are former Interschools competitors.

INTERSCHOOLS OLYMPIANS AND PARALYMPIANS LIST



JAKARA ANTHONY



SCOTTY JAMES



MATT GRAHAM



VALENTINO GUSELI



WHO IS SNOW AUSTRALIA?

- Snow Australia is the nationally and internationally recognised National Sporting Organisation (NSO) for competitive snow sports in Australia.
- Snow Australia manages athlete pathways, conducts events and programs in Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Freeride, Snowboarding, Ski Mountaineering, Para-alpine, Para-snowboard and specialty sub discipline activities within each.
- To meet this responsibility, Snow Australia engages with many different organisations including the resorts and Snow Resorts Australia, Federal & State Governments, State Sporting Organisations, Clubs, sporting institutes and industry peak bodies.

A SPORT FOR ALL

- Snowsports is a sport for all, whether it's participating recreationally with family and friends, or competitively in snowsports events. It is one of Australia's largest and most popular participation sports.
- There are two pathways in snowsports:
 - The Participation Pathway
 - The Performance Pathway

PARTICIPATION PATHWAY ACTIVITY



PERFORMANCE PATHWAY ACTIVITY



ROLES - RESORTS

- Where does the journey begin?
- Resorts provide the starting point in the journey for participation in snowsports
 - Resorts provide:
 - Active marketing campaigns
 - The first snowsports experience
 - Access to skilled instructors
 - The first layer of snowsports coaching
 - Initial sport introduction
 - Sport Facilities
 - Sport Racecourses, Trails and Terrain Parks
 - Race Clubs
 - Access to accommodation for participants

SNOW AUSTRALIA

- Snow Australia is responsible for managing the participation and high-performance sport programs of the sport.
- Snow Australia has the overarching responsibility for the entire national athlete pathway, from entry level through to elite, across all disciplines in Alpine Skiing, Cross Country Skiing, Freestyle Skiing, Snowboarding, Para-alpine & Para-snowboard



OLYMPIC WINTER INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

- The OWIA is a high-performance arm within the winter sport pathway, to develop and prepare elite athletes for success at Olympic Winter Games, World Championships and World Cup events.
- The OWIA works closely with Snow Australia and NIN partners to identify and support the Performance Pathway



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING PARTNERS



Vision 2038

By 2038, Snow Australia will be a driving force in a unified and globally respected Australian winter high performance sector — contributing to sustained Olympic and Paralympic success, national alignment, and inclusive growth across all levels of snow sport.

- A recognised winter HP sector as a major NF partner
- Most successful Olympic & Paralympic Games ever
- Year-round HP infrastructure including the NSTC
- Strong partnerships with government, resorts, institutes & clubs
- Participation growth captured via a connected participant framework
- Digitally enabled for smart performance & operational decisions
- Financial independence backed by commercial capability
- Inclusive and anchored in community
- A respected national voice for winter sport
- A skilled, diverse, supported workforce and volunteer base



THE ATHLETE PATHWAY



SNOWSPORTS PARTICIPATION

What does the Snowsport Participation Pathway look like?

- Ski School Holiday Programs (skill development)
- Ski School races (skill development / sport sampling)
- Interschools
 - Primary Schools (Divisions 6,5,4)
 - Secondary schools (Divisions 3,2,1)
- Intervarsity Games / Uni Games
- Club racing (Diverse age range)
- Masters racing
- OR - Revert to lifelong recreational skiers and snowboarders

INTERSCHOOLS

- Grass roots entry point for sport pathway.
- Sample 9 disciplines of the sport:
 - Alpine GS and Snowboard GS
 - Skicross and Snowboardcross
 - Moguls
 - XC Classic
 - XC Freestyle / Skate
 - Ski and Snowboard Slope Style
 - Multiclass Competitions
- Sport formats and rules are diluted to provide a safe and enjoyable experience.
- Emphasis is on a level playing field to encourage repeat participation.

THE ROLE OF SCHOOLS IN THE PARTICIPATION PATHWAY

- Schools are one of the biggest recruiting partners for the sport.
- We work with the schools to:
 - Encourage more children to try snowsports
 - Help prioritise talent moving into Clubs / structured snowsports programs
- The schools assist in making snowsports FUN

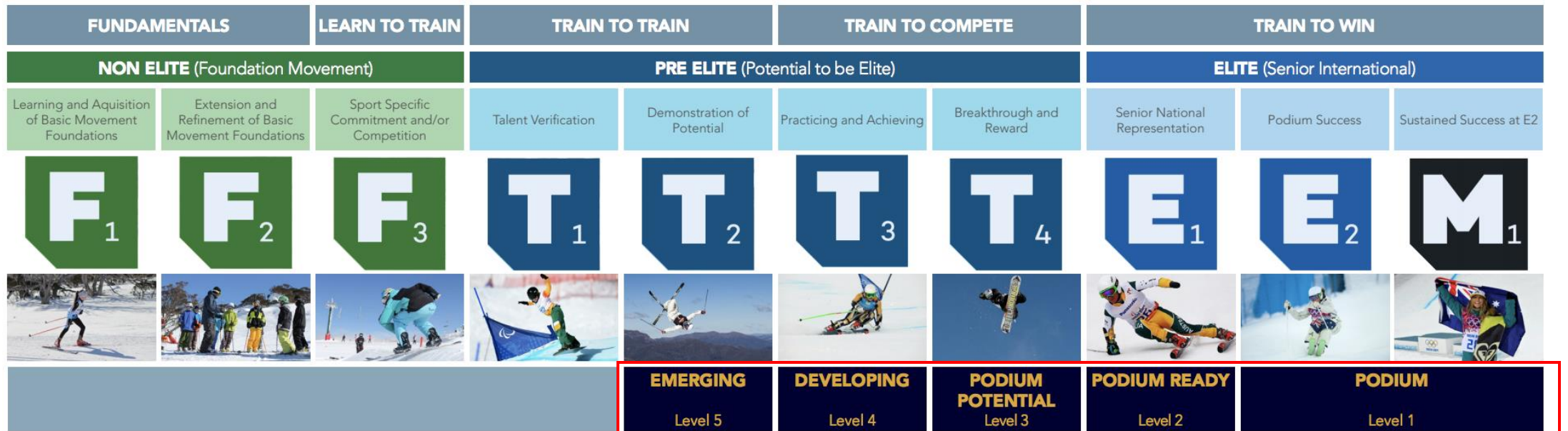
What is our challenge?

- Educating athletes and families where the Interschools sits in the pathway.

THE FTEM MODEL

- Snow Australia has developed discipline specific Pathway 'blueprints', informed by the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS)
- Foundation, Talent, Elite, Mastery (FTEM) athlete framework.
- The blueprint provides an evidence based and practicable approach for supporting the 'whole of sport' pathway continuum and the three key outcomes of sport:
 - Active Lifestyle
 - Sports Participation
 - Sporting Excellence
- Each stage of the Snow Australia Athlete Pathway provides an overview of athlete preparation, programs, on and of snow development, equipment, competition, leadership and support.

THE ATHLETE PATHWAY



FOUNDATION AND TALENT TO ELITE



SNOW AUSTRALIA ATHLETE PATHWAY



ATHLETE PATHWAY – KEY INITIATIVES

- FTEM - Developing Snow Australia Athlete Pathway Content for all disciplines
- Community, Club and Interschools information sessions
- Club/Resorts Workshops & Collaboration
- Recognised Pathway Providers (RPP) Accreditation (Includes Private Program Providers)
- Skills Assessments
- Developing Physical Literacy Initiatives & strategy – Schools/Clubs
- Snow Australia Futures Programs in all Disciplines
- Emerging Talent Program (ETP)

EMERGING TALENT PROGRAM

The Emerging Talent Program (ETP) is a Talent Identification and Development program which aims to identify, support and enhance preparation of athletes for transition into High Performance programs.



Sport Specific
Commitment and/or
Competition



Talent Verification



Demonstration of
Potential



HIGH PERFORMANCE

- Aerials
 - Program Model (VIS & OWIA Supported)
- Snowboard Cross
 - Program Model (NSWIS & OWIA Supported)
- Freestyle Moguls
 - Program Model (NSWIS & OWIA Supported)
- Park & Pipe
 - Pro Individual Model for Snowboard and Freeski (NSWIS & OWIA Supported)

HIGH PERFORMANCE

- Cross Country
 - National Cross Country Ski Team (NXCT)
- Alpine
 - National Alpine Ski Team (NAST)
- Para
 - National Para Alpine Team, National Para Snowboard Team
- Ski-Mo



NATIONAL SNOWSPORTS TRAINING CENTRE (NSTC)

Built for performance. Shared with the community.

- The NSTC is made up of two core elements: the NSTC Park and the John Langley Hancock (JLH) Building.
- The NSTC Park features a large High-Performance airbag and a smaller Development airbag. It has quickly become the national centre for Park & Pipe training and attracts elite athletes from Australia and overseas. Importantly, the entire athlete pathway has access to the Park, from grassroots participants to top-tier professionals.
- The JLH Building includes high-performance gym and recovery areas, a learning hub, medical and sports science facilities, coach spaces and more. It supports both winter and summer sports teams and is also open to the wider community through programs like Community Acro.

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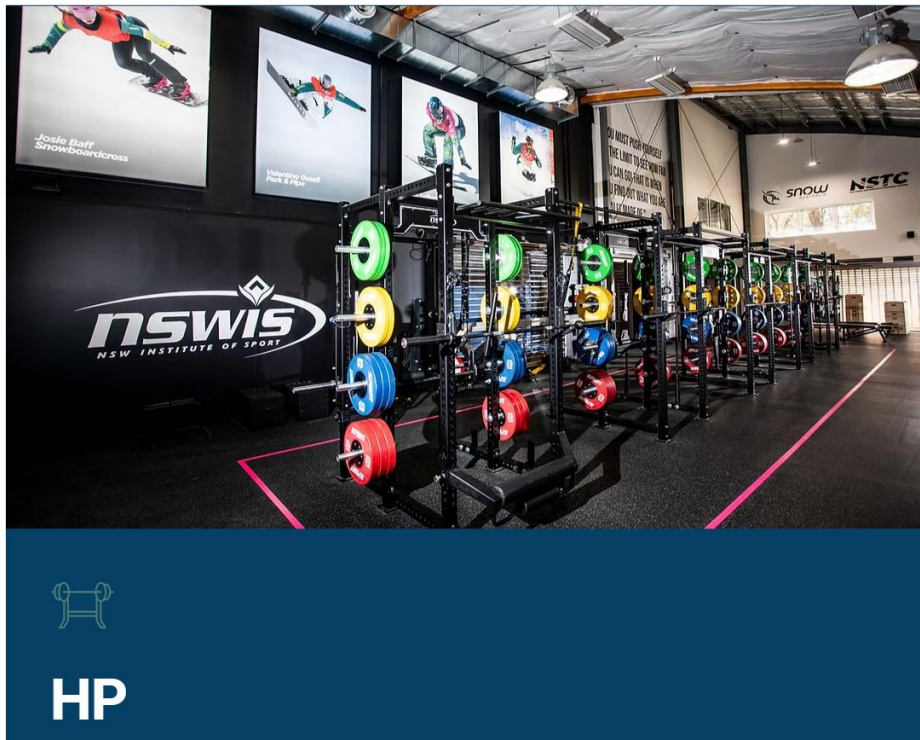


Park



Acro

NATIONAL SNOWSPORTS TRAINING CENTRE (NSTC)



FREESTYLE FACILITIES



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