



National Selection Criteria

Incorporating Squad and Team eligibility and selection requirements

Squad Selection Criteria

This document sets out the criteria by which Table Tennis Australia (“TTA”) will select athletes in 2011 and beyond for TTA squads and supersedes and replaces any prior selection criteria in respect of such squads. This document does not relate to selection of athletes for either team or individual international representation.

1. Philosophy.

- 1.1 The general philosophy of TTA in selecting athletes to its squads is to choose athletes who have the likely potential of international success (as the aims of each squad may require) in the short, medium and longer terms as determined by the National Selection Panel.
- 1.2 The National Selection Panel has a wide and absolute discretion in selecting athletes to the squads. The approach taken by the National Selection Panel may vary between squads depending on what is considered to be in the interests of TTA and its aims for the respective squads.

2. General

- 2.1 Except where the Board of TTA considers extraordinary circumstances exist and it is in the best interests of TTA, in order to be eligible to be selected to a squad, athletes must meet the eligibility requirements set out or as otherwise issued by TTA. Where the Board considers that extraordinary circumstances exist in relation to any athlete and it is in the best interests of TTA, the Board may determine that athlete is eligible for selection to a squad despite that athlete’s failure to otherwise meet any eligibility requirement.
- 2.2 It is a condition of selection to and membership of any squad that the selected athlete sign and abide by TTA’s standard athlete agreement pertaining to membership of the relevant squad.
- 2.3 The provisions below will apply to membership in squads for both male and female athletes.
- 2.4 The selection criteria for each squad have been determined with the philosophy in mind however it is not a ground for appeal of any selection decision that the philosophy has not been considered or afforded due weight in the National Selection Panel’s deliberations.
- 2.5 TTA may amend the selection criteria from time to time for purposes that may include drafting errors and oversights, or following consideration of any requirements of any team for any Games or event, or because of any other reason considered by the Board of TTA to be in the best interests of TTA.
- 2.6 The Board of TTA may, with or without or despite the advice of the National Selection Panel, at any time amend the composition of any TTA squad by adding or removing any person to or from a squad due to any reason the Board in its absolute and unfettered discretion deems fit or appropriate.

- 2.7 Without in any way limiting the matters that the National Selection Panel may consider in exercising its discretion, or the weighting to be given to such matters, the National Selection Panel in considering an athlete's likelihood of success in international competition may consider:
- a) the athlete's current performances in international events (if any), national events and open state and territory events;
 - b) the athlete's fitness;
 - c) the athlete's style and technique;
 - d) the athlete's temperament including the athlete's effort and dedication to success, and his or her sportsmanship and attitude; and
 - e) the athlete's ability to fit in and work with the other squad members and the national head coach or coaches and positively affect the squad and its balance.
- 2.8 Selections to squads will normally be announced by direct email to eligible athletes by 31 December and to Paralympic Preparation Program athletes by 30 June in the year proceeding the year for which the squad is named however there is no requirement that the selection be made or announced at that time. The National Selection Panel will normally review and make selections to squads once per year; this does not however limit the ability of the National Selection Panel to request the TTA Board ratify additions to the squad as identified below at any time.
- 2.9 Selections for the Tier 1 High Performance, Tier 2 High Performance and Junior Squads will be for a specified period commencing 1 January to a date advised by the National Selectors Panel specific to that year of competition and for the Paralympic Preparation Program Tier 1 & 2 Squads will be for the period of July to June.
- 2.10 Athletes selected to squads will enter into an athlete agreement with TTA for the specified period. Squad agreements may be terminated as per the process and for the reasons identified in said athlete agreement.
- 2.11 National Junior Squad members may also be included in High Performance Tier 1 or Tier 2 squads as long as they have fulfilled the requirements for selection in the respective aged squad as set out in clause 5.
- 3. Tier 1 High Performance Squad**
- 3.1 The Tier 1 high performance squad will consist of elite level Australian athletes. The aim of the Tier 1 high performance squad is to prepare squad members for international competition.
- 3.2 To be eligible for selection, athletes must:
- a) be a Participant Member of TTA in accordance with its Constitution;

- b) not have breached the TTA Anti-Doping Policy or have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed;
- c) be an Australian permanent resident or Australian citizen;
- d) have competed in the men's or women's singles event at the most recently held Australian Open Championships;
- e) have made themselves available for selection, in the player's resident State or Territory men's or women's team and if selected had represented the State or Territory in the men's or women's team event of the most recently held Australian Teams Championship
- f) have made themselves available for selection in the President's team if they had not been selected in the players State or Territory men's or women's team, and if selected had represented the Presidents team in the men's or women's team event of the most recently held Australian Teams Championship; and
- g) Be currently financially un-incumbent with TTA

3.3 In exercising its discretion the National Selection Panel will consider:

- a) the athletes' recent performances and results; and
- b) the athletes' likelihood of success at international competition in the short to medium term..

3.4 The National Selection Panel will be under no obligation to select a maximum or minimum number (or any at all) of male and female athletes in the High Performance Tier 1 Squad.

4. Tier 2 High Performance Squad

4.1 The High Performance Tier 2 Squad will consist of elite level Australian athletes with a view towards developing the squad members in the medium to long term and prepare them for success at international competitions.

4.2 To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- a) be a Participant Member of TTA in accordance with its Constitution;
- b) not have breached the TTA Anti-Doping Policy or have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed;
- c) be an Australian permanent resident or Australian citizen;
- d) have competed in the men's or women's singles event at the most recently held Australian Open Championships;

- e) have made themselves available for selection, in the player's resident State or Territory men's or women's team and if selected had represented the State or Territory in the men's or women's team event of the most recently held Australian Teams Championship
- f) have made themselves available for selection in the President's team if they had not been selected in the players State or Territory men's or women's team, and if selected had represented the Presidents team in the men's or women's team event of the most recently held Australian Teams Championship; and.
- g) Be currently financially un-incumbent with TTA

4.3 In exercising its discretion the National Selection Panel will consider:

- a) the athletes' recent performances and results; and
- b) the athletes' likelihood of success at international competition in the medium to long term..

4.4 The National Selection Panel will be under no obligation to select a maximum or minimum number (or any at all) of male and female athletes in the High Performance Tier 2 Squad.

5. Junior Squad

5.1 The Junior Squad will consist of Australian athletes qualified by age to compete in Australian junior events. The aim of the junior squad is to develop squad members in the longer term and prepare them for international competition.

5.2 To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- a) be a Participant Member of TTA in accordance with its Constitution;
- b) not have breached the TTA Anti-Doping Policy or have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed;
- c) be an Australian permanent resident or Australian citizen;
- d) have competed in the boy's or girl's singles event within their age category or an older age category at the most recently held Australian Junior Championships;
- e) have made themselves available for selection, in one of the player's resident State or Territory junior boy's or girl's team and if selected had represented the State or Territory in one of the junior boy's or girl's teams event of the most recently held Australian Junior Teams Championship
- f) have made themselves available for selection in the President's team if they had not been selected in one of the players resident State or Territory junior boy's or girl's team, and if selected had

represented the Presidents team in one of the boy's or girl's teams event of the most recently held Australian Junior Teams Championship; and

g) Be currently financially un-incumbent with TTA

5.3 In exercising its discretion the National Selection Panel will consider:

a) the athletes' recent performances and results; and

b) the athletes' likelihood of success at international competition in the medium to long term.

5.4 The National Selection Panel will select male and female athletes for each age category of the Junior Squads. These age categories will consist of Under 13, Under 15 and Under 18. There is no obligation on the National Selection Panel to select a maximum or any minimum number of squad members in total or in relation to any age group or gender (or any at all).

6. Tier 1 - Paralympic Preparation Program ("PPP") Squad

6.1 The Tier 1 PPP Squad will consist of elite level Australian athletes with a disability. The aim of the Tier 1 PPP Squad is to prepare squad members for international competition with a focus on short to medium term.

6.2 To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

a) be a Participant Member of TTA in accordance with its Constitution;

b) not have breached the TTA Anti-Doping Policy or have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed;

c) be an Australian permanent resident or Australian citizen;

d) have participated at the most recently held National Athletes with a Disability Championships; and

e) Be currently financially un-incumbent with TTA

6.3 In exercising its discretion the National Selection Panel will consider:

a) the athletes' performance and results in the 24 months prior to the period for which the Tier 1 PPP Squad is selected; and

b) the athletes' likelihood of success at international competition in the short to medium term.

6.4 The National Selection Panel will be under no obligation to select a maximum or minimum number (or any at all) of squad members in the Tier 1 PPP squad.

7. Tier 2 – PPP Squad

- 7.1 The Tier 2 PPP Squad will consist of elite level Australian athletes with a disability with a view towards developing squad members in the medium to long term. The aim of the Tier 2 PPP Squad is to develop squad members in the longer term and prepare them for international competitions.
- 7.2 To be eligible for selection, athletes must:
- a) be a Participant Member of TTA in accordance with its Constitution;
 - b) not have breached the TTA Anti-Doping Policy or have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed;
 - c) be an Australian permanent resident or Australian citizen;
 - d) have participated at the most recently held National Athletes with a Disability Championships; and
 - e) Be currently financially un-incumbent with TTA
- 7.3 In exercising its discretion the National Selection Panel will consider:
- a) the athletes' performance and results in the 24 months prior to the period for which the squad is selected; and
 - b) the athletes' likelihood of success at international competition in the long term.
- 7.4 The National Selection Panel will be under no obligation to select a maximum or minimum number (or any at all) of squad members in the Tier 2 PPP squad.

National Team Eligibility Criteria

In order to be eligible for selection as a playing member of a national men's or women's senior, youth and or junior team ("the national team"), a player ("the player") must:

- (1) Be a participant member of Table Tennis Australia
- (2) Sign and adhere to the conditions of the Athlete Player Agreement
- (3) Adhere to the by-laws and regulations of Table Tennis Australia specifically but not limited to the membership protection policy and the anti doping policy.
- (4) undergo such coaching and training at such times and venues as is required by Table Tennis Australia;
- (5) agree to accept coaching from the national coach or coaches appointed by Table Tennis Australia in teams and individual matches at any international events in which the player is selected to participate;
- (6) Satisfy the following requirements for the applicable squad in the year prior to selection;
 - 6.1 Seniors –
 - a) refer clause 3.2 and 4.2 in the above squad selection criteria
 - 6.2 Youths – participate in the applicable singles event at the Australian Youth Championships or have competed in the most recent Australian Junior Championship and have met the requirements in clause 5.2 in the above squad selection criteria or have competed in the most recent Australian Open Championships and have met the requirements in clause 3.2 and 4.2 in the above squad selection criteria
 - 6.3 Juniors –
 - a) refer clause 5.2 in the above squad selection criteria

The Board of Management of Table Tennis Australia may waive any of the abovementioned requirements in respect of the eligibility of any player for selection in any national men's or women's team if the Board, in its sole and unfettered discretion, considers it appropriate.

Selection Criteria for all National Senior, Youth and Junior Representation

In selecting players to represent Australia in an international tournament ("the international tournament") other than the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games or an international tournament in respect of which the Board of Management of Table Tennis Australia has expressly resolved to depart from the selection process set out below, the National Selection Panel shall:

1. consider only those players who satisfy the relevant requirements for eligibility for national selection as per above;
2. take into consideration the following factors in respect of each player ("the player") who satisfies the relevant requirements for eligibility for national selection:
 - 2.1 the player's likely degree of success in the international tournament;
 - 2.1.1. factors which are relevant in assessing the player's said likely degree of success include (without limiting the same): the player's previous performances in international events (if any), national events and State and Territory events; the player's previous performances against likely opponents in the international tournament (if any); the player's fitness to participate in intensive competition for the duration of the international tournament; the player's style and technique together with the style and technique of the player's likely opponents (if known); and the player's temperament;
 - 2.2 the player's ability to fit in with the other national players selected to participate in the international tournament, as well as with the appointed national coach or coaches and the appointed national manager, and to interact with those persons in a manner which is likely to enhance the prospects of success of the selected national players and, if applicable, the national team; and
 - 2.3 the player's long term potential for success at an international level.