

NZIHA Selection Guidelines

(updated January 2011)

Aim:

To establish a consistent method of selecting representative teams for all grades at Regional and National levels.

Process

Each region appoints a coach and a selection panel in each grade they will be competing in at the Interregional competition. The regional committee or a sub-committee should take responsibility for the selection process within each region.

It is recommended that the selection panel for Interregional teams and NZ teams is a minimum of four financial senior members of NZIHA clubs. This includes the Coach. For the Interregional teams all members should be from different clubs and for NZ teams, ideally all from different Regions.

Ideally members of the selection panels should not be involved in grades where there are players with whom they have a close relationship. At times this may not be possible if we wish to ensure we appoint an experienced and qualified person to the position. To eliminate the perception of conflict when appointing coaches and selection panels, we need to accept the inevitability of some conflicts of interest and ensure disclosure prior to appointments, decision making and discussion.

Each regional is responsible for scheduling their trial and trainings dates. These should be scheduled so that they do not interfere with scheduled inter-club fixtures.

It is recommended that players in Regional representative squads shall be selected in their correct age grade. Girls in the Under 16 year age bracket should be encouraged to play in the Junior Women's grade wherever possible.

Each Selection Panel should have a convenor (preferably someone who is not a member of the grade panel) whose is responsible for ensuring all selectors have input into the final team selection and selection of reserve players.

The Regional Committee shall be responsible for notifying players individually of their Inclusion or exclusion. Team lists should not be published until individuals have been advised.

The Regional Secretary should notify the final representative team rosters to NZIHA Executive Officer by October 5th along with payment of team entry fees for the Inter Regional championships.

If circumstances prevent players from attending Interregionals, specific circumstances may enable players to request consideration for New Zealand team placement, despite not attending Interregionals. (eg medical etc)

Applications will be considered on a case by case basis. Applications for consideration should be submitted to the NZIHA Executive Officer prior to the Interregional event to allow time for consideration.

It is acknowledged that given the geographical distances between venues and regions coaches and selectors will be unable to view players from across New Zealand during the year thus making the Interregional Championships a critical event for selection squads to be determined.

In addition, if extra ordinary circumstances prevent the hosting on Inter Regional Championships, NZIHA, in this case, will advise the process for selection of NZ teams to regions and clubs.

The NZ trial Squads for the following year will be selected at the Interregional Championships by NZIHA appointed selection panels. Letters will be sent to those players who are invited to trial.. The trial list is not published as it can place unnecessary pressure on players, parents, coaches and selectors.

Players who do not hold NZ citizenship may be selected to trial for a NZ squad if they are eligible and willing to apply for NZ citizenship should they successfully gain a place in a NZ team. Participation in a NZ team is dependent of the player being a NZ citizen prior to the event. Please contact NZIHA for clarification. (NZIHA must comply with citizenship criteria governed by international bodies)

The NZ squads in each grade shall generally number 30 (26 players and 4 goalies). It is recommended that final teams will consist of a minimum of 10 field players and 2 goalies (plus player reserves and a goalie reserve where available). NZIHA reserve the right to determine and confirm final team numbers depending on factors such as number of trialists available, skill sets available, coach and selector consultation and inter-national rules governing maximum roster numbers

It is necessary to establish the final teams at the Nov/Dec Camp because of:- timeframes required to organise airline bookings, uniform orders, accommodation etc. Plus it allows players time to budget for their costs and make their own arrangements for training camps.

Two training camps for each grade will be held in the two months leading up to the Oceania event. Additional training camps will be arranged linked to the timing of other international events.

Teams selected to represent New Zealand will be advised of international events as they come to hand to seek expressions of interest for attending. There is an opportunity for other players to be added to teams where there are insufficient numbers.

Selection Criteria and Process

Coaches bring different visions, methods and strategies to their team coaching approach however there are some basic performance and attitudinal criteria that should be considered when selection panels select representative teams. These criteria if applied across the country will provide a useful tool for selection panels and the process and will give the players an indication of the areas they should work on during the season.

Relevant factors to be considered include:

- individual skills and abilities, (such as skating, stick and puck, shooting etc),
- the players physical, psychosocial and cognitive skills, (such as ability to read the game. positional play, reaction under pressure etc)
- ability to play a specific position ie defence or forward. This helps to ensure a well rounded team and one that ensures the team has the ability to perform in all situations
- attitude to training, reliability, commitment.

The team make up in terms of numbers from a specific club or region is irrelevant and not a factor that should be considered. Any Coach or Selector who has a conflict of interest must declare that interest to the Selection Convenor. Selections are to be objective and non-partisan.

Each selector is to independently compile a list of players they believe are up to the standard required for regional/international level.

Selectors and coaches should not discuss players with parents, other players or other spectators.

The outcome and all selection discussions are to remain confidential.