

Hunter Hurricanes Water Polo Club

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT SQUAD AND REPRESENTATIVE TEAM SELECTION POLICY

Our commitment

Our club supports an open and fair process for the selection of squads and teams. Selection will be based on clear criteria that are communicated with all players prior to the season commencing.

What we will do

Criteria

Selection decisions will be based mainly on performance, however they will also consider:

- attendance at competition, training and club / team events (commitment)
- good sportsmanship and ability to work with their team (values)
- water polo specific fitness and a commitment to ongoing development
- coachability (development)
- abiding by our club's Code of Behaviour on and off the field (behaviour).

In addition, players or athletes:

- must attend trial/s, exemptions can be sought in extenuating circumstances.
- must maintain 75% attendance at all squad trainings in order to be eligible for team selections. Exemptions can be sought in extenuating circumstances (e.g. clash with school events, representative water polo). Exemptions can be applied due to medical reasons when supported by documentation. Athletes who do not hold a 75% attendance without an exemption at the time of selections may not be considered. Exemptions must first be discussed with the squads coach and then approved by the coaching coordinator prior to non-attendance. Exemptions, other than for medical reasons will not be applied retrospectively.
- must be financial members of the club.
- will be selected on their performance, commitment, values and behaviour, not their personal characteristics or attributes (e.g. race, sexuality, religion).

- may be precluded from selection if there is a concern about their ability to compete safely or if their participation poses a risk to others.

Process

- Selectors will be appointed by the Board of Directors and be responsible for pre-season selection decisions. Selectors will generally consist of the appointed coach and coaching coordinator.
- Where possible, there will be more than one selector, especially where parents, partners or other family members are involved.
- As requested, or as necessary, players will be provided with reasons for non-selection and areas to improve in order to be considered for selection.
- Coaches will be responsible for all decisions about team selection once the season commences.
- The coach is not obliged to take the maximum allowable players to any specific tournament. Coaches will select their most competitive combination of players in line with the above criteria
- Selection criteria will be reiterated during the season so that players are clear about how teams competing in tournaments will be given game time.
- Athletes from lower age groups will only be considered for a tournament team if the team in question is unable to field a team of players of suitable ability for the tournament that they are competing in. If adequate athletes of suitable ability are available for selection, athletes outside of that age group will not be eligible. Any athletes selected up for a tournament are done so for that tournament only. Board approval needs to be sought first via the coaching coordinator.
- Coaches may request lower age athletes be brought up to a higher age group to assist in quality of training via adequate numbers, or provide exposure to higher levels of training for development purposes. This needs to be approved by the board via the coaching coordinator.
- In the event an athlete is called up from a lower age group to a squad or team, the athlete's priority remains with their "of age" team. Dropping training sessions and/or games in order to manage the athletes load should come from their "non-age" squad / team.
- Concerns about team selection should be discussed with selectors/coach in the first instance. A formal written complaint to the Board of Directors (via coaching coordinator: coaching@hunterhurricanes.com) should be made within seven (7) days of selection announcement, if these concerns cannot be resolved and the player believes s/he has not been treated in accordance with the selection policy.

What we ask you to do

Selection committee

- Ensure players are informed about and understand the selection criteria and processes.
- Make fair and unbiased decisions based on the selection criteria.

Players

- Make yourself familiar with the selection criteria and clarify any concerns with the club prior to trials.
- Attend trial/s and squad training.
- Talk with your coach about any concerns and seek feedback about how to improve your performance.