

# Junior Athlete Development Policy



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This policy is to cover all aspects of Player Development within NTNA and provide procedures and guidelines for the NTNA operational staff, NTNA Representative Team selectors, NTNA Representative Coaches and athletes.

Representative netball at NTNA seeks to provide an outlet for the community of NTNA to play netball at an elite junior level. Our representative athletes, coaches, umpires, families and supports are expected to respect and be loyal to the uniform and strive towards developing a strong and competitive Association. All participants are expected to adhere to the relevant codes of behaviour. (attached as Annexures to end of policy)

## 1. Club Responsibilities

- 1.1 Clubs will promote development opportunities to players, coaches and umpires.

## 2. NTNA Responsibilities

- 2.1 The NTNA is responsible for strengthening player development opportunities for all players within the NTNA, including but not limited to:
  - Selections of NTNA Representative Teams
  - Representative Team structures
  - Age and skill-based clinics
  - Representative Team Coaches and Team Manager
- 2.2 In partnership with the NTNA Coaching Development and Umpire Development Officers, will organise development clinics throughout the year.
- 2.3 Build partnerships with NTNA State League affiliated teams.
- 2.4 Where possible ensure NTNA participation in other Netball Tasmania affiliated Associations carnivals.
- 2.5 Promote Netball Tasmania and Netball Australia's initiatives.

## 3. Player Development Eligibility

- 3.1 Only full NTNA registered players are eligible to participate in any representative teams.

## 4. NTNA Representative Netball

- 4.1 Nominations to trial for any NTNA representative netball will be advertised and promoted to Clubs annually via the NTNA, with an advertised due date.

- 4.1.1 The NTNA will circulate the nomination form for representative team selections to Clubs to forward onto their members.
- 4.1.2 NTNA junior representative netball selections will occur between 1<sup>st</sup> November and the 1<sup>st</sup> May each year.
  - 4.1.2.1 Secondary selections may occur during the season via TID (talent identification) by the NTNA.
  - 4.1.2.2 This process is applicable should the need arise during the playing year with current team lists being exhausted.
  - 4.1.2.3 Final approval will be given by the NTNA for inclusion in any team.
- 4.2 The selection process shall follow the NTNA selection process as detailed in Clause 6 of this policy.
- 4.3 Selected representative athletes will be invoiced a player fee which covers all association costs, and compulsory uniform items. Failure to adhere to the terms of the invoice may result in athletes not being able to play.

## 5 Nomination for Selection

- 5.1 Athletes must have current registration with the NTNA prior to nominating for selection.
- 5.2 Athletes may only participate in the selection process after completing the appropriate nomination form.
- 5.3 All nominations for NTNA selections must be received by the NTNA by the advertised due date.
- 5.4 All nominated athletes will have the opportunity to trial for selection, on the advertised trial dates.
- 5.5 Athletes will nominate a maximum of 2 preferred court positions for trials and will trial a minimum of once in one of their preferred positions.
  - 5.5.1 The selectors may request an athlete to play in a position not listed as one of their nominated playing positions.
- 5.6 Nomination forms will require athletes to confirm their commitment to the full program
- 5.7 Late nomination forms will not be accepted. Extenuating circumstances may be looked at the by the NTNA.

## 6 Selection Procedure

- 6.1 All athletes will be allocated a unique identity number by the NTNA and this number will remain the same throughout the trial process.
- 6.1.1 The NTNA will appoint one or more officials to physically number the athletes.
- 6.2 Athletes are requested to wear plain black shorts and plain white shirts for trials. No Club or representative attire is to be worn. Failure to adhere to this policy will exclude the athlete from participating until such time as they meet the requirement.
- 6.3 Athletes will be notified within 7 days via email of the outcome of each of the trial phases.
- 6.4 Trials will consist of both a warm up and game play.
- 6.5 If the minimum number of athletes trialling as deemed by the NTNA, all athletes in that age group will automatically go through and commence training as a squad.
- 6.6 All athletes are required to trial on advertised trial dates.
- 6.6.1 Should an athlete be unable to attend a trial date; they must notify the NTNA prior to the day of selections and provide supporting documentation relevant to their unavailability.
- 6.6.1.1 The athlete must also complete and return to the NTNA an "Unable to Trial" form.
- 6.6.1.2 The NTNA will determine if players unable to attend selections are eligible to stand for inclusion in the representative team/squad.
- 6.6.1.3 Grounds that the NTNA may consider, but are not obliged to accept automatically could include: -
- a) Participation in NTNA Representative Policy approved event
  - b) Participation in Netball Tasmania endorsed State program or event
  - c) Significant health issue
  - d) School event
  - e) Work commitment
  - f) Significant event

- 6.7 The NTNA reserves the right to select an athlete who is unable to attend a trial phase on the basis that the player has been identified as having the skill level expected at trials.

## 7 Conflicts and Bias

- 7.1 Athletes names, Club and teams of origin will only be known to the NTNA.
- 7.2 No person who has a vested interest in the outcome of selection trials can have any involvement in the selection process for the age group that their interest is in.
- 7.3 Should an unavoidable conflict arise the conflict of interest will be declared to the NTNA prior to selections.

## 8 Teams

- 8.1 All selected athletes be notified via email within 7 days through the NTNA Operations Manager at the completion of the selection trials.
- 8.2 A "Division 1" team and a "Division 2" team will be selected where numbers of trialling players and officials allow.
- 8.3 **Squad/Team Structure:**
- 8.3.1 Selectors will choose athletes for each of the specified age groups.  
11&Under – turning 10 or 11 in the current calendar year.  
10 year olds standing for selections must be playing in the 11&Under NTNA Junior competition.  
12& Under – turning 12 in the current calendar year  
13& Under – turning 13 in the current calendar year  
14& Under – turning 14 in the current calendar year  
15& Under – turning 15 in the current calendar year  
17& Under – turning 16 or 17 in the current calendar year.
- 8.3.2 Two team model: A squad of 20 athletes will consist of 6 Goalers, 6 Defenders and 8 Centre Court.
- 8.3.3 One team model: A squad of 10 athletes will consist of 3 Goalers, 3 Defenders and 4 Centre Court.
- 8.3.4 After sessions, athletes will be ranked by the Representative Netball Coaches based upon both netball skills and player values. Such values are, but not limited to – Commitment, Responsibility, Communication, Respect, Support and Encouragement.
- 8.3.4.1 Before each tournament, athlete rankings will determine selections in a Division 1 team and Division 2 team.

8.3.4.2 Players will be ranked by squad coaches at each training to determine team placement.

Division 1: Athletes ranked from 1-3 as per court position.

Division 2: Athletes ranked from 4-6 as per court position

8.4 All teams will be allocated a Coach, Assistant Coach and Team Manager, where possible.

## 9 Training

9.1 All age group squads will be allocated a set training schedule

9.2 All training sessions set by the NTNA and Representative Coach will be advised by the Representative team calendar are compulsory.

9.2.1 Failure to attend may result in the players positions in the squad/team terminated, loss of court time and/or be excluded from competitions.

9.3 Where possible all training sessions will be held at Hoblers Bridge Netball Centre.

## 10 Athlete Responsibilities and Communication

10.1 All athletes of NTNA Representative Teams will agree to the Netball Australia codes of behaviour and abide to the NTNA Representative Player Agreement.

10.2 Players must commit to attending all scheduled training sessions, games and Carnivals as stated in the NTNA Representative Team Calendar.

10.3 To immediately disclose to the Representative Coach or NTNA any injuries or illnesses that may impact the athlete's full participation in training or games.

10.3.1 If an athlete cannot fulfil their commitment to the squad, due to injury or illness, the athlete must be cleared by a qualified medical practitioner to recommence training/playing with the squad..

## 11 Official Induction Session

- 11.1 All athletes and parent/guardians must attend the team induction session.
- 11.2 Representative Coaches will be introduced to athletes and parents/guardians.
- 11.3 NTNA Representative Players & Officials Protocol Handbook and will be provided to all selected athletes.
- 11.4 A calendar of tournament dates will be provided to all athletes as soon as known.
- 11.5 Representative Coaches will provide training programs, as approved by the NTNA.

## 12 Tournaments

- 12.1 It is an expectation that all Players within a Team are to sit together and encourage and support other NTNA teams
- 12.2 Coaches will endeavour to play all athletes evenly across all tournaments.
- 12.3 If an injury occurs at a Tournament-then the injured athlete must seek first aid and follow the advice given.

## 13 Grievances

- 13.1 All grievances are to be addressed as per the NTNA Complaint Procedure. A copy of this can be obtained from the NTNA.

## 14 Representative Uniform

- 14.1 All Representative athletes will be issued a competition uniform by their Team Manager for tournament participation. The uniform must be returned to the Team Manager at the conclusion of each individual tournament.
- 14.2 Representative athletes must wear NTNA briefs under their playing dresses and NTNA socks when competing and to wear their NTNA training singlet to all training sessions.
- 14.3 Additional Representative uniform items may be available for purchase however are not a requirement.

## 15 Representative Fees and Expenses

- 15.1 All Player Development fees are payable by Clubs/athletes by issue of a non-refundable invoice which is payable upon registration, or by details described within the registration process



- 15.2 In the event a registered player is unable to attend a NTNA conducted activity, they may forward a request in writing to the NTNA asking for a transfer to the next available activity.
- 15.3 Refunds will be provided on activities cancelled by the NTNA.
- 15.4 A Representative Fee for each athlete selected will be as per the NTNA Schedule of Fees.
  - 15.4.1 Selected Representative athletes will be invoiced a representative fee. Failure to adhere to terms may result in the athlete not being able to participate further.
  - 15.4.2 Compulsory uniform items as noted on the nomination form may be invoiced separately to the representative fee.

## 16 Penalties

- 16.1 The NTNA has the right to apply a penalty from the levels within the NTNA Schedule of Fees for any breach of these rules.