



## **Hockey Wairarapa**

TRUST HOUSE HOCKEY WAIRARAPA COMPLEX,  
CHESTER ROAD, CARTERTON

PO Box 712 Masterton 5810

Phone: (06) 379 8133 Fax: (06) 379 5520

Email: [hockeywairarapa.org.nz](mailto:hockeywairarapa.org.nz)

# **NATIONAL AGE GROUP**

# **POLICY**

# National Age Group Policy

## Hockey Wairarapa's policy on playing in National Age Groups

<b>Policy owner</b>	Hockey Wairarapa
<b>Administering this policy</b>	Rep Coordinator Regional Development Officer
<b>Date policy comes into effect</b>	The first day following the date of approval by the Association
<b>Related Policies – Hockey Wairarapa Hockey Hockey New Zealand policies</b>	Strategic Plan Team Selection Policy Hockey NZ Tournament Manual
<b>Policy Review date</b>	By 31 December 2010

**Approved: Committee Meeting**

**Dated: 16/4/2009**

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## **1 Hockey Wairarapa Commitment**

- 1.1 Hockey Wairarapa to provide the environment and infrastructure to allow players of all ages, to experience the fun and thrill of hockey at all levels of the game from primary school to the representative level.

## **2 Purpose**

- 2.1 To have a consistent and fair policy that allows both players to reach their full potential and where possible, Hockey Wairarapa to have a strong presents in the top National Age Group Tournaments - Premier Division.

## **3 National Age Group Tournament**

- 3.1 National Age Group Tournaments are all age group tournaments sanctioned by Hockey NZ.

## **4 Discussion**

- 4.1 At times the smaller Associations like ours may struggle to muster the desired number of quality players to participate in the older national age group tournaments. This policy gives guidance on how to achieve the best outcome for both players and Association.
- 4.2 In practice this policy will only effect Hockey Wairarapa's Under 16 & Under 18 age groups, in that Under 16s could play in both or just the Under 18 Tournament.
- 4.3 It is unlikely that the majority of players could perform to the best of their ability at two tournaments that run back to back. If the Under 18 tournament takes place after the Under 16, then perhaps players could play in both. (That's not the current situation)
- 4.4 Players are more likely to be noticed for possible selection for National honours while playing within their age group where their skill levels will be fairly matched rather than at the higher age group level.
- 4.5 Hockey Wairarapa endeavours to have as stronger as possible representative teams in the national age tournaments without compromising a team's ability to perform well due to bias team selection.
- 4.6 Hockey NZ recommends, *that a player should play in only one age group representative team per year i.e. U16 or U18 (as many of these players will also participate in a National Secondary School tournament). Hockey NZ does not have any issue with players playing in a higher representative age group if they are capable to do so.*

- 4.7 For Age Group team selection, consideration must be given firstly to: trial players, and if necessary followed by Player of Origin and Guest Players.
- 4.8 Coaches need to apply to Hockey Wairarapa so that it can consider a possible dispensation if seeking a change to selected team members.

## **5 Application of Policy**

- 5.1 Players must play in their age group and would only be allowed to play in both under U16s & U18s or at the higher age group level in exceptional circumstances, these being:
- 5.1.1 That they had previously been selected for a Hockey NZ Age Group Team.
  - 5.1.2 For the betterment of Hockey Wairarapa Representative Teams. (Restrictions may be imposed).
- 5.2 Before the above will be considered by Hockey Wairarapa, coaches with the assistance of HW must have attempted to get players of Origin, and or Guest players where practical.

## **6 Costs**

- 6.1 Player funding to age group tournaments will generally be by the usual process ie Team fund-raising, sponsorship and individual contribution.
- 6.2 Hockey Wairarapa may consider a contribution to funding a player in exceptional circumstances and including, if a player is asked to attend two tournaments for the betterment of Representative Hockey for Wairarapa, though this may depend on budgets and finances at the time.