



Age Group Selection Policy

– March 2005

Objective of this policy

The objective of this policy is to provide a rigorous process for the selection of Wairarapa representative players, to provide the best teams at each age group level and to protect the integrity of the selection process.

Wairarapa Hockey Selection Objectives

Wairarapa Hockey (WHA) has a target of having all its representative teams finish their national or regional tournament in the top half. To achieve this objective, selectors are required to select teams on the following basis:

1. The A team should be the 16 best players available in the age group, with reference to team formation and player position requirements.
2. The Development team must comprise at least 50% (8 players) of the team who are eligible to represent Wairarapa in the same age group, in the following season. (This does not apply to Under 11 selections, being the first age group for representative selection.)
3. Selectors are encouraged to look at ALL trialists with “fresh eyes”. As players grow and develop, their skill, speed, and physical characteristics change, and from season to season a player’s form may improve or decline.

Wairarapa Hockey Selection Process

Trialists

- All trialists must be eligible to play for Wairarapa under New Zealand Hockey Federation (NZHF) Tournament Rules for their age group.
- All trialists must be able to provide proof of eligibility including date of birth, residential address, school and/or club affiliation that comply with NZHF Tournament Rules.
- Trialists attending primary school (years 1 – 8) are only eligible for selection for national U13 competitions, and are not eligible for secondary school age group teams.



Team Selections

- A team shall be selected for both boys and girls in each age group, by an open trial process and by nomination of players for trial by clubs and schools. A development team will be selected depending on numbers.
- After nominations for the trial close, trial lists will be published in the paper and sent to all associated clubs/schools.
- These teams being named as an “A” team and a Development team.
- Teams can be named up to the maximum number of players for the age group under NZHF Tournament Rules. Where not covered under NZHF Tournament Rules the maximum size of a team is 16 players.
- Up to three non-travelling reserves can be named. These players may train with the A Team or Development team, but not travel to tournaments.
- Players carrying injuries at the time of selection must be identified by the selectors to WHA. An appropriate medical certificate passing the player as fit to play shall be presented to WHA before the player can be named in a team to attend tournament.
- All player selections are to be ratified by the Wairarapa Hockey Association before publication of team selections.
- Players who have previously been disciplined as representative players for Wairarapa or another association, or who have outstanding unpaid accounts with Wairarapa Hockey may not be ratified, at the sole discretion of the WHA Executive.
- A trial date is set by the coach, RDM and EO. The EO & RDM will then ensure that the relevant information regarding the trials are sent out to associated clubs / schools.
- All players who made Rep teams in the previous year are automatically given the right to trial for their respective age-group the following year. It is the responsibility of the RDM & EO to ensure that these players are notified of any Representative Trials that they are eligible for. These players must complete the nomination process in the same way as all other nominees.
- Team lists will be made up by the RDM & Coach/es of the team for convenience and number bibs allocated to players (available from RDM) and these are made available to all selectors present where they can write comments about players (see attached ‘Rep Trialists Form’).
- In the event of there being more than 40 players nominated for a trial. It will be at the discretion of the RDM, EO & Coaching Coordinator as to whether another trial needs to be held to ensure that all players are given a fair opportunity at a trial. There will be no selecting of a team at this trial is will simply be held to reduce the number of trialists.
- All selectors will meet immediately after the trial to decide on a squad for the age group being selected. A list of the squad signed by all selectors must be given to the EO to advertise the successful squad members in the paper. **IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES is a team to be named in front of the trialists immediately following the trial** (see attached Rep Squad Notification Form).



- The squad named after the trial shall consist of no less than 15 players and no more than 22 players. In the event of a player being dropped from the final team prior to tournament due to injury or disciplinary reasons, any player brought into the team must be one that was named in this initial squad or must have attended the trial. The only exception to this rule would be if a goalie needed to be brought into the team and a second goalie was not named in the initial squad.
- The final team must be named either a maximum of 4 weeks after the trial or 6 weeks before attending National Tournament, whichever date is sooner.
- Any trainings that the coach of an age group wishes to commence prior to the trials must be of an open format. **IN NO CIRCUMSTANCES are coaches to select individual players to attend training sessions before a formal trial has taken place and the squad has been selected.**
- The NZ Hockey Federation suggest that a sufficient build up for any representative team is 12 weeks before attending National Tournament.

Team Selectors

We recognise that objectivity about the ability of your own child when acting as a selector can be difficult for some. (Selectors often can be tougher on their own child than on other trialists.) The pressure to do what is right and fair, and the perception of this can make the process unfair on both the parent and child. To avoid this pressure and to maintain a level of integrity in the selection process, WHA has introduced an independent selector policy.

- Age group team selectors shall comprise a panel of either three or five selectors. This will be determined by whether or not the coaching staff of a particular team have children involved in the trial.
- The selectors shall be:
 - The Team coach for the age group
 - The Team Assistant Coach for the age group (if applicable)
 - The Regional Development Manager
 - Independent selector(s), approved by the WHA that has no /affiliation to the team in question
- **The number of selectors on the panel that do not have children (Independent Selectors) involved in the trial must be greater than the number of selectors that do have children in the trial.**
E.g – If the Coach and Assistant Coach both have a child in the trial then the RDM and two other Selectors must not. These are the independent selectors.

Player Commitment

- Trialists are to confirm to the selection panel that they are available to play tournaments, specifically the national or regional tournament.
- All players and their parents/caregivers are required to sign and return the “Player & Parent Commitment to Wairarapa Hockey” letter within 1 month of being named in a Wairarapa representative team.
- Non-travelling reserves are to confirm that they are available for team selection should they be called up into a team by WHA.