



SENIOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION POLICY - ATHLETES

Date of Issue July 2017
Controlling Body VWA Board

The Senior National Championships Selection Policy (**Policy**) is made under the Rules and Regulations of VWA and is binding on all members of VWA. Without limiting the Board's power under the Rules and Regulations, this Policy or otherwise, the VWA Board may review, amend and enforce this Policy as it deems necessary or appropriate.

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The Volleyball WA Inc. (**VWA**) is required by Volleyball Australia (**VA**) to endorse (and consequently complete an entry procedure for) all teams that will represent Western Australia in the Australian Volleyball League (**AVL**) in accordance with the rules mandated by the event organiser.

1.2. VWA aims to foster a quality competitive experience for its athletes. Under clause 2 below, VWA has appointed a Selection Panel to select who/which teams will compete in this event (**Selection Panel**).

1.3. Where possible, the Selection Panel will select teams for events that are appropriately commensurate with the team's stage of development and ability. Consideration may also be given to the selection of athletes or teams based on their potential to achieve success at the current events and/or in international competition in the future.

1.4. Selected athletes must sign the Volleyball WA – Athlete Code of Conduct.

2. SELECTION PANEL

2.1. The Selection Panel will be comprised of the following:

- VWA AVL Executive Officer (Chair)
- VWA Board of Management Representative
- VWA AVL Team Coaches

2.2. The VWA AVL Executive Officer (Chair) represents the Volleyball WA office and the VWA Board and is responsible for the following;

- Ensuring that the Selection Panel adheres to this Policy.

- Advising members of the Selection Panel of any factors which, in the view of the Selection Panel, is relevant to the evaluation of the athlete, including eligibility criteria.
- Officially informing athletes of their selection status and ensuring selected athletes fulfil the Conditions of Representation.

2.3. In addition to the Selection Panel, specialist technical and support staff (i.e. performance analyst(s), additional coaches, VWA Executive Director etc.) may be called upon to provide information to the Selection Panel which is relevant to the evaluation of individual athletes or teams against the selection criteria

2.4. All members of the Selection Panel will be required to declare any 'conflict of interest'. For the purpose of this Policy, a 'conflict of interest' is defined as any factor, which could lead the AVL Executive Officer to consider that a member may not bring an impartial mind to the selection process. These factors may include, but are not limited to, a continuing coach/athlete relationship or any form of close personal relationship. In the event that a conflict of interest is declared, the AVL Executive Officer or VWA Board or Management Representative can require the selector to cease taking part in the selection process, or authorise the selector to continue involvement in the selection process but not take part in any exercise of discretion with respect to the relevant athlete.

3. ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

3.1. To be eligible for endorsement by VWA to represent Western Australia at targeted events, each athlete must:

- Be a registered member of a Volleyball WA;
- Be involved in the VWA training squad;
- Be involved in the Western Australian Volleyball League (WAVL);
- Meet any other eligibility criteria set out in the VWA Players Handbook or otherwise advised by VWA or event organisers;

unless the athlete has received an Approved Exemption from VWA.

3.2. For Junior athletes to be eligible for endorsement by VWA to represent Western Australia in the AVL the athlete must:

- Be an U23 Athlete;

- Be new to the VWA AVL program;
- Be involved in the WAVL;
- Be a past WA State Representative of any age group and if age eligible, has nominated to represent Western Australia at AJVC and / or AJBVC in the current year.

unless the athlete has received an Approved Exemption from VWA.

4. SELECTION OF TEAMS

4.1. The Selection Panel shall convene a selection meeting. This can be done in person or via electronic means.

4.2. The Selection Panel shall assess the merits of targeted Senior athletes that are currently engaged in the FTEM pathway. The criteria listed below will be applied in each selection decision. However, the weight given to each criterion will be totally at the discretion of the Selection Panel, and the weight may vary dependent on the selection decision being considered, and the timing of that decision.

Future success

- The perceived ability of the athletes to achieve the best results in the event concerned in the Selection Decision
- The potential of the athletes or team to achieve success at the national or international level over the medium to long term, with a particular focus on developing potential for strong performances in future national/international seasons.

Past success

- The performance of the athletes or teams in the AVL or AJVC;
- The performance of the athletes or teams in WAVL;
- The athletes' commitment to playing in VWA domestic events during the season;
- The performance of the athletes in VA and VWA volleyball camps and activities;
- The athletes' commitment to training in a 'High Performance Daily Training Environment'. For the purpose of this Policy (a) 'High Performance Daily Training Environment' is defined as training which:
 - Is Coach driven;
 - Is Athlete focussed;

- Involves athletes training for at least 90 minutes per session;
- Incorporates at least one session per week.

Other

- Injury status and competition readiness
- Any justifying circumstances which may have impacted on the eligibility or performance of an athlete or team (despite anything else set out in this Policy);
- Any other factor which, in the view of the Selection Panel, is relevant to the evaluation of the athlete.

5. CONDITIONS ON REPRESENTATION

5.1. All forms required for the event (including the VWA Player's Agreement) must be completed and submitted to the AVL Executive Officer. A scanned original copy of the athlete's birth certificate is also required for players who have not previously represented VWA.

5.2. The entry/withdrawal of teams will be completed by the AVL Executive Officer (according to the respective event regulations).

5.3. Athletes attending the event are responsible for all costs associated with entering and attending the event; including (but not limited to): flights, accommodation, ground transport, meals and tournament entry costs.

6. REMOVAL FROM REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES

Any athlete who:

- Breaches or fails to observe this Policy;
 - Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the VWA Anti-Doping Policy; or
 - Breaches or fails to observe the VWA Code of Conduct which they have signed;
- may in the discretion of VWA, be made ineligible for selection to, or continued membership of a selected team to represent Western Australia and/or Australia.

7. APPEALS

7.1. An athlete or team may only appeal against their non-selection for Western Australia representation on the basis that clause 4 of this Policy was not adhered to.

7.2. Any appeal from an athlete against their non-selection by VWA will be resolved according to the following procedure

- The appeal will be heard by VWA's Board.
- The appellant must be the athlete who has not been selected.
- The appellant must give written notice, including grounds of his or her appeal to the VWA Executive Director within 48 hours of the being informed of the Selection Panel's decision.
- The VWA Board will convene a hearing as soon as possible after the submission of the grounds of appeal. The VWA Board is not bound by the rules of evidence but must observe the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.
- Prior to the hearing, the Selection Panel will provide the VWA Board and the appellant with a written statement as to the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made.
- The VWA Board will give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and may provide the VWA Executive Director and the appellant with a statement of the reasons for its decision.
- The VWA Executive Director or the Chair of the VWA Board may impose any other procedure for the appeal, which in either's belief, is fair and appropriate in the circumstances.

7.3. The decision of the VWA Board will be final and binding on the parties.

7.4. Failure to observe the above time limits will render any appeal a nullity provided that an athlete may apply to the VWA Executive Director for an extension of time in which to commence an appeal. VWA Executive Director has discretion whether to grant an extension of time, although shall only do so in circumstances where the delay is caused by justifying circumstances outside the control of the athletes concerned.