



Player Development and Representation Policy

Purpose: To provide clear pathways and opportunities for player development and to assist players aiming for high performance within the sport. To identify, support and enable Northland players to reach their full potential. To clarify selection criteria for Northland representation and Squash Northland's commitment to these Representative teams.

Background:

Squash Northland has a duty to provide pathways for our higher performing, competitive junior, senior and masters players with the aim to represent Northland in the SNZ Inter-district team competitions. Squash Northland can also support players to strive towards higher individual honours, such as achievement at national or international level. *Squash Northland also recognises the need to work closely with Squash New Zealand in Player Development. Excerpt from the SNZ High Performance Programme: "District programs work along similar lines to Squash NZ in Player Development"*

Junior Training Squad Structure:

The management and implementation Junior Squad Programme lies with the SN Executive Management Committee.

1. Junior Representative Squad

Purpose: To develop a pool of players from where immediate representative needs will be filled. Players deemed to have the ability, desire and potential to represent Northland at the National Inter-District Junior Teams Championships in the current year (or possibly extending to the next calendar year) will be considered for Representative Squad membership. Participation in the squad will introduce them to, and prepare them for, the demands of competitive age group and open squash events."

Composition: This squad is to include up to 8 males and 8 females that meet the following selection criteria:

- Be aged 18 or less on the last competition day of the next NZ Inter-District Junior Teams Championships
- Graded C2 or higher
- Actively playing tournaments and other competitive squash events
- Affiliated to a Northland squash club
- Committed to reaching and maintaining a high level of fitness

2. Junior Development Squad

Purpose: To develop a pool of players from where future representative needs will be filled. The squad should provide skill development opportunities for our younger players and help to develop a healthy junior squash culture. These players will have squad training sessions and coaching sessions with a Northland coach and are also encouraged to seek further coaching and development from their own club or elsewhere. A key goal is to develop young players who are likely to contribute towards future Northland Junior Representative teams.

Composition: This squad will include players that meet the following selection criteria:

- Affiliated to a Northland squash club
- Players who have expressed or shown a desire to commit to a squash skills development and improvement programme
- Have shown (from preceding season) they were active in playing tournaments and other competitive squash events
- Commit to regular tournaments

Junior Representative Teams:

Selection criteria for Northland's team to compete at the NZ Junior Inter-District Team Championships

To be eligible for selection for a Squash Northland Junior Representative Team a player must:

- Be aged 18 or less on the last competition day of the next NZ Inter-District Junior Teams Event
- Be a full financial member of a Northland-affiliated squash club
- Have shown commitment to the game of squash throughout the current season by participating in tournaments and other competitions
- Preferably be a member of the Squash Northland Junior Representative Squad, but allowances may be made if all other criteria are met
- Attend and participate in all designated selection events (identified at the start of each season) unless illness, injury or personal circumstances prevent this and approval of absence is granted by the SN Junior Sub-committee
- Be on the SNZ grading list and hold a current grade of C1 or higher
- Players will not be considered if they are in arrears of fees to Squash Northland and no effort to reduce these has been made by the player and/or their family.
- **Squash Northland has a zero alcohol tolerance for junior players representing Squash Northland at junior events or any adverse behaviour by any player. If a player is found to be bringing Squash Northland into disrepute the player in question will be sent home from the event at their own expense. Any damages incurred will also be payable by the player in question.**

Provided that, in special circumstances, the selected team may include one only "import" player, eg a player affiliated to SNZ through another district, if it is considered to be in the best interests of the team and the development of the game of squash in Northland.

Responsibility for appointment of Team Selectors, Managers and Coaches lies with the SN Executive Management Committee. The Executive Management Committee must ratify team selections and manager/coach appointments.

Senior Training Squad:

The management and implementation of the Senior Training Squad Programme lies with the SN Senior Convenor.

Purpose: To engage a group of players from where it is intended senior representative needs will be filled. To provide an opportunity for motivated, senior players to further develop/improve their game. Players deemed to have the ability, desire and potential to represent Northland at the National Inter-District Senior Teams Championships in the current year (or possibly extending to the next calendar year) will be considered for Senior Training Squad inclusion. Participation in the squad will prepare them for the demands of competitive open squash events.

Composition: This squad is to include up to 5 males and 5 females that meet the following selection criteria:

- Graded B1 or higher (exceptions may be made for fast improving B2's)
- Actively playing tournaments and other competitive squash events
- Affiliated to a Northland squash club
- Committed to reaching and maintaining a high level of fitness
- Committed to representing Northland at Senior level

Senior Representative Teams:

Selection criteria for Northland's team to compete at the NZ Senior Inter-District Team Championships

To be eligible for selection for a Squash Northland Senior Representative Team a player must:

- Be a full financial member of a Northland-affiliated squash club
- Have shown commitment to the game of squash throughout the current season by participating in tournaments and other competitions
- Attend and participate in all designated selection events (identified at the start of each season) unless illness, injury or personal circumstances prevent this and approval of absence is granted by the Senior Selectors
- Be on the SNZ grading list and graded B2 or above.
- Players will not be considered if they are in arrears of fees to Squash Northland and no effort to reduce these has been made by the player and/or their family.
- **Squash Northland has a zero alcohol tolerance for junior players representing Squash Northland at Senior and Junior events or any adverse behaviour by any player. A junior player is someone under 18 at the time of the tournament. If a player is found to be bringing Squash Northland into disrepute the player in question will be sent home from the event at their own expense. Any damages incurred will also be payable by the player in question.**

Provided that, in special circumstances, the selected team may include one only "import" player, eg a player affiliated to SNZ through another district, if it is considered to be in the best interests of the team and the development of the game of squash in Northland.

Responsibility for appointment of Team Selectors and Managers lies with the SN Executive Management Committee. The Executive Management Committee must ratify team selections and manager appointments.

Masters Representative Team:

Selection criteria for Northland's team to compete at the NZ Masters Inter-District Team Championships

To be eligible for selection for a Squash Northland Masters Representative Team a player must:

- Be aged 35 or more on the last competition day of the next NZ Inter-District Masters Teams Event and meet specified competition age group criteria
- Be a full financial member of a Northland-affiliated squash club
- Have shown commitment to the game of squash throughout the current season by participating in tournaments and other competitions
- Attend and participate in all designated selection events (identified at the start of each season) unless illness, injury or personal circumstances prevent this and approval of absence is granted by the Masters Selectors
- Be on the SNZ grading list.
- Players will not be considered if they are in arrears of fees to Squash Northland and no effort to reduce these has been made by the player and/or their family.
- **Squash Northland has zero tolerance for any adverse behaviour by any player representing Squash Northland at a national event. If a player is found to be bringing Squash Northland into disrepute the player in question will be sent home from the event at their own expense. Any damages incurred will also be payable by the player in question.**

Responsibility for appointment of Team Selectors and Managers lies with the SN Executive Management Committee. The Executive Management Committee must ratify team selections and manager appointments.

Selection Events for Squash Northland Representative Players

	<u>Juniors</u>	<u>Seniors</u>	<u>Masters</u>
Northland Junior Champs	Required	-----	-----
Northland Open	Required	Preferred	Preferred
Northland Masters Champs	-----	-----	Preferred

NB. Dispensation for non-participation in these events can be sought by applying to the Squash Northland District Manager, email: admin@squashnorthland.co.nz

Player Contribution

Player contribution must be paid upon selection and before team departure.

The player contribution for each representative event will vary from \$100 - \$500 depending on location and team budget.

Each team will be notified the player contribution amount upon selection.

Squash Northland's Commitment to Representative Teams for National Events:

Squash Northland will endeavour to obtain some financial assistance to meet team costs for the national events, which will include: travel and accommodation, playing uniforms, event entry fees, manager/coach fees. Playing uniforms will be available for use and should be returned to the Squash Northland office clean and dry within one week after the event. Food and any other costs will be the responsibility of the players.

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29.2.2022 (Amended)

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