



Squash WA

AJC State Team Policy



Purpose

This policy guides the selection of the WA State Junior Squash Team to compete in the Australian Junior Championships, which traditionally takes place in the Term 3 School Holidays each year.

Scope

This policy covers the eligibility criteria, selection process, officials, travel, uniforms, funding and associated expenses of the WA State Junior Team travelling interstate or within WA for the Individual and Teams component of the Australian Junior Championships.

State Team Officials

It is desirable that the cohort of State Team Officials reflects an appropriate ratio of adults to juniors and an appropriate gender mix.

State Team Official Roles:

- Team Coaches (1 x Head Coach & 2 x Assistant Coaches)
- Parent Helpers / Carers
- Referee

Team Management Selection Process

- In January or February of each year, Team Coach positions will be called for via Expressions of Interest (EOI) sent to the coaches in the squash community. A selection panel will review applications and appoint the Coaches. The panel will consist of three people, independent of the Junior Pathway, and will include at least one Squash WA Board Member.
- After the State Titles, Parent Helpers/Carers will be called for via Expressions of Interest (EOI) sent to the parents of players selected in the State Team. These will be selected by the State Coaches / Squash WA Office based on the needs of the team.
- Squash Australia will call for referees to cover National events. Should this not occur, after the State Titles, one referee will be called for via Expressions of Interest (EOI) sent to eligible referees, and the Selection Panel will appoint the Referee.

State Team Athletes

- The team will comprise of three male and three female athletes in each of the four age groups (U13, U15, U17 and U19) – totaling 24 athletes. Depending on selections and the competition structure, some players selected in the team may compete in the B Division, if offered by Squash Australia.
- At the discretion of the Squash WA Selection Panel and ratified by the Board, fewer athletes may be nominated to represent WA, particularly when there are insufficient athletes in age groups who meet the criteria.

Playing Up Across Age Groups

Whilst selection is generally based on athletes competing within their age group, the Selection Panel reserves the right to select a younger athlete in place of an older athlete. In exceptional circumstances, an athlete from a younger age group who is not selected in their own group may be considered for

selection in an older age group, provided that:

- The younger athlete has clearly demonstrated superior results, ability, and potential at the higher age group level; and/or
- The younger athlete's selection strengthens the overall State Team's competitiveness at the Australian Junior Championships; and
- The younger athlete meets all other eligibility and selection requirements.

This provision does not increase the total number of athletes in any age group and is only exercised in exceptional cases.

Athlete Selection Eligibility

To be eligible for selection in the WA State Junior Team, athletes should:

- Be a financial member of Squash WA to a Local Level on Revo (to upgrade to Compete upon selection).
- Be an Australian Citizen or Australian Resident to compete, as defined in the Squash Australia AJC regulations.
- Not be under suspension from Squash WA or Squash Australia at the time of the Australian Junior Championships.
- Have participated in the WA Junior State Championships (Individuals and Zone Teams event) *.
- Have competed in a minimum of five (5) junior tournaments and/or junior pennant competitions during the selection period. The selection period runs from the announcement of the previous year's WA State Junior Team through to the final day of the State Junior Titles Teams Event. Eligible tournaments are listed on the official Squash WA calendar and juniors must compete in the designated junior division*.

Events with multiple entries via divisions (eg. Juniors and seniors), or individual and team formats (such as the AJC or WAJC) are considered a single event for this purpose.

Selection Considerations

All athletes who meet the above eligibility criteria will be considered for selection. If there are no three athletes that have met the eligibility criteria (or applied for an exemption), then an athlete who has not met the criteria may be selected in the team.

The Selection Panel will consider an athletes':

- State Junior Ranking (as per SquashLevels) at the conclusion of the WA Junior State Championships.
- Tournament results and head-to-head performances during the 12 months prior to selection, with particular emphasis on results from the WA Junior State Championships and Zone Teams event.
- Commitment and engagement, including attendance in the Squash WA Pathway Program and tournaments during the selection period. Whilst being in the Pathway Program is not essential criteria, it will be highly regarded by selectors.*
- Attitude and sportsmanship, including the ability to contribute positively to a team environment.

Match-Ups

Selectors may require a match-up to be played to supplement an athlete's performance data.

- Athletes required to play match-ups will be notified at least seven days prior, along with the opponent, time and location of the match up.
- Athletes may select one support person, such as a coach or parent for the match-up.
- Match-ups will otherwise be closed to parents and spectators.
- Where possible, these match-ups will be held prior to the WA State Junior Titles.

Exemptions

Athletes who are unable to meet Athlete Selection Eligibility marked with an asterisk (*) above may apply in writing for an exemption. Exemptions may be considered for reasons including, but not limited to:

- Illness or injury (with medical documentation).
- Lack of access to eligible tournaments due to geographical or logistical barriers (i.e. country players).

Exemption requests must be submitted on the official Exemption Form (available from the Squash WA Office) before the commencement of the WA State Junior Titles.

The form must clearly state which eligibility requirement(s) the athlete cannot meet and provide supporting evidence. Submission of an exemption request **does not guarantee approval**. All exemption applications will be passed on to the Selection Panel and taken into consideration during the selection. Final selection will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel based on all of the above considerations.

National Talent Squad players are automatically exempt from eligibility requirements and considerations denoted with an asterisk (*).

Team Selection Process

Selection Panel

The Selection Panel will be appointed each January or February by the Squash WA Board. The Panel will consist of at least three (3) members:

- Squash WA Head Coach (or designated State Team Coach)
- One independent selector (not a coach or parent of an athlete in contention)
- One Squash WA representative (e.g., Development Officer or Board Member)

Notification of Selection

The public announcement of the WA State Junior Team will be made on Squash WA's social media platforms and website within 72 hours following the conclusion of the WA State Junior Championships Teams Event. Individual players will also be informed in writing (via email) and sent the State Team Player Information Pack.

Appeals

Parents/Guardians wishing to appeal State Junior Team selections on behalf of their child must do so within five (5) days of the announcement. To commence an appeal, the appellant must:

1. Email the Squash WA Office to request an official Appeal Form
2. Provide written evidence and specific reasons why the decision was incorrect and why the junior player should be selected on the team. Forms without specific reasons and evidence will not be considered.

3. Submit the completed form together with a \$200 deposit, which will be reimbursed if the appeal is successful.
4. The appeal will not be considered by the Appeals Panel until all of the above conditions have been confirmed by the Squash WA Office.

Appeals will be considered by an Appeals Panel with the following requirements:

- Consist of three members.
- Members must be independent of the Junior Pathway.
- Include at least one Squash WA Board member.

The Appeals Panel will review the submission and provide a written decision within seven (7) days of receiving the Appeal Form and proof of deposit. If the appeal is successful and a player is added to the Team, the deposit will be reimbursed, and the updated team list will be re-published within 48 hours of the decision.

Playing Order

The AJC Teams Event playing order will be chosen by the State Coaches and may be influenced by performances during the AJC Individual Event. It is not subject to appeal and may change on a day-by-day basis during the event.

Player Vacancies, Withdrawals and Replacements

Up until the final team list is submitted to Squash Australia, the Selection Panel shall select the next eligible player for a vacant position within the team.

If no other eligible player meets the selection criteria (or has submitted an exemption), the Selection Panel may select a player who has not met the criteria, so as not to disadvantage the entire team.

Should a vacancy exist once the final team list is submitted to Squash Australia, the Head Coach may select any available WA Junior who is competing in the Individual Event. These players are classed as non-selected members and are not required to stay or travel with the Team. In circumstances where no WA player is available, players from other states may be utilised. These non-selected players and their playing position will be determined by Head Coach and based on the needs of the Team.

Accepting an Offer

To accept a selection offer, players must agree to abide by Squash WA's terms and conditions of selection, including:

- Travelling to and from the AJC as a team (unless written prior permission is sought and granted from the Head Coach).
- Staying at the arranged accommodation and eating the team meals (dietary needs will be accommodated).
- Wearing the official State Junior Team uniform as directed by the State Team Officials. This includes travelling to and from the event, during the Teams Event, and for official team photos.
- Attending all State Team training sessions.
- Abiding by the Squash WA Code of Conduct, at all times. Failure to comply with the Code of

Conduct may result in a player being removed from the Team and sent home at the parents' expense.

- Providing responses and payments required by the State Junior Team Information Pack in a timely manner.

To accept a Parent Helper/Carer or Official role, adults must:

- Hold or acquire a current Working with Children Card and agree to a set of child safeguarding conditions for the trip.

Parents are not permitted to stay with the team unless appointed as a Parent Helper/Carer.

Team Costs

All information regarding player costs, uniforms and travel arrangements will be outlined in the Junior State Team Information Pack, which is distributed to all selected athletes. Families will be required to pay an upfront player cost (payment plans available) and uniform cost prior to travelling.

Squash WA will continue to seek opportunities to reduce costs and provide financial assistance where possible, but the final contribution from families will be confirmed in the Information Pack each year.

All required payments must be made by the specific dates stated in the Junior State Team Information Pack. Failure to make payment by the stated due dates may result in the athlete being withdrawn from the team.

Payments are non-refundable except in exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical withdrawal), at the discretion of Squash WA.

Document History

Date	Version	Description
01/11/2022	1	Total policy review and rewrite – Michaela Pratt
15/08/2023	2	Policy reviewed and updated by Squash WA Office.
29/10/2025	3	Policy rewrite and approved by the Squash WA Board

Supporting Documentation

- Squash WA Code of Conduct
- Junior State Team Information Pack- available to selected State Team Members
- Squash WA Development Pathway Model
- Performance Pathway Invite
- Development Squad Selection Criteria
- Performance Pathway Selection Criteria
- Squash WA State Team Appeals Form
- Squash WA Junior State Team Exemptions Form