



NATIONAL TEAM SQUAD and SELECTION POLICY

Effective 01 January 2017

(Updated 03 October 2016)

Supersedes version dated February 2016

1. Background Information

In an effort to develop a clear pathway for athletes aspiring to represent New Zealand, Tenpin Bowling New Zealand (TBNZ) is changing its focus for athlete development to be at regional or centre level:

- a. To have a base set of athletes who are committed to continuous improvement from which representatives for international competitions will be selected
- b. To select the best possible athletes to represent New Zealand

It is expected that an athlete's development and training will be through their own personal coach with whom the traveling coach will liaise with when selected for national representation.

The principles by which this policy is written are:

- a. Opportunity for youth
- b. Challenge for the open athletes
- c. Continuous interest in the sport for the seniors

2. Eligibility

The athletes who meet the following pre-qualification criteria are eligible for an invitation to be included in the pool of athletes who may be selected for national representation:

- a. In each year, ALL current New Zealand Team representatives from the previous year. This clause excludes invitees to the team.
- b. Top 3 members of the All-Star teams from the Adults, Seniors and Youth National Team Championships.
- c. Top 3 in the TBNZ National Championships for the Adults, Seniors and Youth
- d. Athletes who have achieved one of the following through the Ranking System (separate male and female categories) are eligible for an invitation subject to the requirements outline in the next section:
 - **Top 12 in the Open** Ranking as at 31st December of the previous year
 - **Top 10 in the Seniors** Ranking as at 31st December of the previous year
 - **Top 8 in the Youth** Ranking as at 31st December of the previous year

3. Determining Yearly Ranking Points for Aspiring Squad Members

- a) As outlined in the Ranking Policy, an athlete's best six (6) points scoring events in addition to their Age Group's Nationals will count towards their overall rankings position.
- b) In the age group that an athlete wishes to be considered for national representation, at least THREE of an athlete's ranked events MUST BE outside of their main geographical region. The four geographical regions with corresponding known centres are:

- Northern (Manukau, Auckland, Henderson, North Harbour, Botany, WestGate)
- Central (Hamilton, Tauranga, Hastings, Rotorua, Palmerston North, New Plymouth)
- Lower North (Wellington, Kapiti, Porirua, Hutt Valley)
- Southern (whole of the South Island)

Note: For the Youth Division, it is at least TWO instead of THREE ranked events outside their main geographical region

4. Selection into Respective TBNZ National Teams

The following criteria will be used by the designated Selection Panel in determining a National Team. Input from the designated traveling coach will be included in the evaluation of the athlete.

- a. **Overseas experience** – how the athlete coped in said event or other similar overseas events. An athlete’s performance in any tournament they participate in (either through team selection or their own initiative will be taken into account)
- b. **Current form** – based on the athlete’s performance in TBNZ nationally ranked events and any international events the athlete has participated in up to 6 months prior to the selection date.
- c. **‘Coach-ability’** – this considers factors such as how receptive the athlete is to recommendations from their regional/personal coach, general attitude towards the coaches, and other athletes
- d. **Overall Attitude** – The athlete’s overall attitude toward all things bowling, the squad and training
- e. **Training Ethics** – assesses the athlete’s commitment to training and tournament play.
- f. **Make-up of the team** – i.e. the ability to perform as a member of the team on and off the lanes.
- g. **Athletes Overall Skill Level** – how well rounded an athlete is
- h. **Mental Game** – How solid is the athlete with their mental game. Are they able to handle the pressure that these events produce?
- i. **Equipment and Lane Play Knowledge** - this concerns the athlete’s ability to match up equipment and play different types of shots and different areas of the lane dependent on what’s needed to score on any given condition.
- j. **Physical Fitness** – The athlete’s level of fitness will be taken into account when selecting teams due to the enormous stress and physical toll representing NZ entails in international events
- k. **General Behaviour** – assesses the athlete’s overall attitude and considers issues such as whether the athlete is a good ambassador for TBNZ and the sport of tenpin bowling. Consideration will be given to any reported issues of poor conduct or poor sportsmanship as well as whether the athlete is generally regarded as a good team athlete whose inclusion is likely to enhance team morale.

These rules will generally apply for all national teams. Roll-off or other methods may be included to determine the team members.

5. International Events

The TBNZ Board will determine any additional International events in which New Zealand will participate. The events selected will be based on the ability of the athletes available for selection matched to the event, and whether the event is beneficial to the overall development of tenpin bowling in New Zealand.

TBNZ may offer National Squad athletes the opportunity to travel to other international events as a squad with a designated coach as part of their development.

In the first quarter of the year where possible, the National Team members for specific tournaments will be announced to give the teams an opportunity to train together.

All National Team members must be New Zealand citizens for the Asian Zone or World events.

As a general rule, there will be an automatic team selection based on the following rules:

- For 6-person team (except Walter Rachuig) the highest two National Squad members in the TBNZ Ranking for the age group's tournament
- For 4-person team, the highest ranked National Squad athlete for the age group's tournament

The Selection Panel may override the automatic selection rule for any given tournament. For this to happen, the Selection Panel will have to provide the reasons and seek approval from the TBNZ CEO and the TBNZ Board. **The Board's decision will be final.**

All TBNZ National Team members preferably will come from the pool of athletes who met the pre-qualification criteria. The exceptions to this rule are:

- a) If the squad of athletes available for selection is depleted. In such circumstances the TBNZ Selection Panel, in consultation with the CEO will determine the athlete(s) for inclusion into the national team and this selection must be ratified by the TBNZ Board.
- b) Teams traveling to Australia for the Youth Team Challenge, Walter Rachuig and the Seniors Team Challenge may have members that were recommended by the Selection Panel. These members must be endorsed by the athlete's personal coach, CEO and the TBNZ Board.
- c) Seniors team members traveling for the bi-annual Seniors Asian Zone tournament

6. General Selection Notes

World Bowling, ABF and CTBF run Championships require all team members to be New Zealand citizens and meet all visa requirements for travelling. If they do not already have citizenship, all team members must obtain citizenship at least 3 months prior to travelling.

Athletes will primarily be selected from the division they were eligible for an invitation. The selection panel may in certain circumstances select athletes from other division who may be suitable on the proviso that the athlete meets the requirements for the tournament.

All National Team selections will need to be ratified by the TBNZ CEO and the TBNZ Board before announcement.

7. National Squad Rules

When accepting a place in a New Zealand National Squad, athletes are stepping up to become an Ambassador for both New Zealand as a Country, and the Sport of Tenpin Bowling. This role comes with responsibilities and obligations to ensure a certain image and reputation is upheld at all times, it is an honour which should not be taken lightly.

When part of the Squad or Team, accountability for one's own actions extends to and directly affects every other member of that squad or team. Your performance is crucial for overall Squad or Team success. We acknowledge individual rights and preferences, and freedom of choice, however, we must also consider the rights of others in the squad or team, and our overall Squad and Team image and objectives.

With this in mind, all squad members have a responsibility to demonstrate *Moderation, Sensibility and Self - Control* in relation to their actions and behaviour whilst representing their Sport and Country. Therefore, to ensure certain standards are maintained, it is important that all training squads have a set of rules or guidelines which should be followed at all times. These rules will ensure that all members of the training squads are committed to the sport of tenpin bowling, and their respective team.

Squad members are expected to:

- a) Comply with this policy.
- b) Be a New Zealand resident.
- c) Be a registered athlete in good standing with the National body.
- d) Comply with the national body's anti-doping policy at all times (*training squad members may be subject to out of competition testing at any time*).
- e) At all times as a member of the National Squad, either in New Zealand events or on international team duty you must listen to and be open to the advice given by the TBNZ appointed coaches.
- f) At all times as a member of the National Squad, either in New Zealand events or on international team duty, you must take and adhere to all instructions from the TBNZ appointed coach and/or manager
- g) Be solely responsible for the costs for their training and national camps. For all International selected team training camps, the equalisation of costs, refer to the New Zealand Squad Management Policy.
- h) Maintain a high level of behaviour at all times. The following will not be tolerated:
 - Swearing in public.
 - Fighting or confrontations with other squad members.
 - Childish pranks or dangerous actions which may result in injury.
 - Socially unacceptable behaviour.
 - Any other conduct deemed inappropriate by the TBNZ appointed Coach or Squad Management.
- i) Will comply when requested to not use their mobile phones, iPods or similar gadgets during training sessions and tournament play.

8. Removal from the National Squad

- a) Any recommendation to remove a member by National Squad Manager or as reported by the Traveling Coach and/or Team Manager must be submitted in writing to the TBNZ CEO and must be upheld by the TBNZ Board and CEO prior to an athlete's expulsion.
- b) The athlete will be given the opportunity to appear before the TBNZ Board and CEO to discuss their case should they desire to remain a member of the NTS. An expelled NTS athlete also has the right of appeal to TBNZ. All decisions as a result of an appeal made by the TBNZ Board and CEO is final.

- c) After the suspension period, the athlete can re-qualify to the National Squad as per Eligibility criteria.

9. Smoking, Drinking, Language and Behaviour:

Tenpin Bowling is a Sport, struggling to be recognised and acknowledged by the wider sporting community. With Media coverage, sponsorship and recognition in short supply, we must strive to limit any negative image or appearance national representatives might give in regards to our sport or their country. Athletes have an important image to uphold.

Smoking and drinking are not associated well with healthy practice, athletes or sport. World Bowling Rules and regulations strictly state that “athletes must not use tobacco products” or “consume alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol” during an entire block of games.

Poor “language, behaviour and sportsmanship” are not appropriate, and have the same negative effect on image when promoting our sport.

National Squad members are individuals, and have control over their own actions and behaviour. However, by accepting a place in the National Training Squad, members must display “moderation, sensibility and self-control” in the areas of Smoking, Drinking, Language and Behaviour at all times when they can be identified as National Athletes or Ambassadors for the Sport or Country.

The following rules apply directly to the above requirements:

- a. As per current World Bowling rules and regulations, athletes must not smoke or consume alcohol while in competition; during the entire period of a block of games (series). This includes when lane changes are being made or delays are taking place and when the event is finished and wearing a national team shirt. It covers both competition and training events, both locally and internationally.
- b. Avoid using inappropriate language or displaying poor behaviour whilst competing, or wearing identifiable team uniform. This includes but is not limited to swearing, inappropriate comments or behaviour, loud and annoying gestures, throwing objects in anger, kicking or hitting objects. Image must be considered.

The above rules apply to all regional and national team camps as well as all TBNZ sanctioned tournaments.

Failure to abide by these rules above will result in disciplinary action, and may result in an athlete’s expulsion from all training squads, and any teams the athlete has been selected for as well as the possibility of any future selection, regardless of whether or not they have earned an automatic selection.

10. International Representation Rules

While representing New Zealand in any international events all National Training Squad rules as above are to be upheld as well as the following additions:

- a) At all times as a member of a New Zealand team on international duty, you must take and adhere to all instructions from the appointed Coach and/or Team Manager.
- b) Not, whilst on National representation duty, allow anyone to alter their drilling specifications without the prior approval of the TBNZ appointed coach.
- c) Submit a report to the TBNZ CEO in the required format within 21 days of returning from each international tournament which they represent New Zealand.
- d) May be permitted to drink alcohol in moderation after the completion of their day's training or competition. The term "moderation" refers to sensible consumption, such as Drink Driving Laws, or Responsible Serving of Alcohol Laws. Note that if any squad member turns up to an international tournament hung over or visibly intoxicated/impaired, that squad member will be expelled from the national squad with immediate effect, for a minimum period of 12 months and may also be subject to further sanctions from TBNZ.
- e) We are extending the right to drink and smoke in moderation. The Team Coach and Manager are ultimately in charge of all teams, and have the right to allow or deny these rights at their discretion, based on moderation, responsibility, overall team performance and if the athlete is of legal age in the country which they are competing. All directions in relation to drinking or smoking must be followed.

The above rules apply to all NZ Team International representation regardless of location.

Failure to abide by these rules above will result in disciplinary action, and may result in an athlete's immediate expulsion and removal from the team. On return to New Zealand, TBNZ will hold an inquiry into the incident and may issue further punishments or suspensions.

Any matters arising that are not covered by these rules will be decided by the TBNZ CEO in consultation with the Board, with the best interests of Tenpin Bowling New Zealand and all its' members.

Updates made after initial release of rules on 31 January 2016

Date of change & approval	Section	Reasons for change
21 February 2016 Board Meeting	Annual Requirements for NTS Members	Remove inconsistency with Eligibility Rule (d) and the restrictive nature of the rule around exemptions
02 October 2016 Board Meeting	Various	Updates post general review of policies.