



# HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS TOUCH FOOTBALL

## PLAYER SELECTION POLICY

### **Introduction**

This policy outlines the guidelines that will be in place for the selection of Hunter Western Hornets Touch Association (Hornets) squads and teams. This policy will be used as the starting point for selection of all representative teams as it will ensure the selection process is consistent at all levels and is not compromised in any way. The aim of this policy is to ensure that selections are objective, are seen to be fair by all and ensure that all aspiring athletes are given a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities.

### **1. Selection Process - overview**

- 1.1. Any disputes in relation to the selection process or decisions of the selectors shall be overseen by the Hornets Technical Director.
- 1.2. The final selection process shall be completed on a date determined by the Hornets Board which considers all relevant factors. This information will be communicated to participants via the Hornets website and social media.

### **2. Selection Team Appointment**

- 2.1. The selection team will ideally consist of the following:
  - Two (2) Qualified Independent Selectors (as appointed by the Director of Selectors)
  - One (1) Head Coach
- 2.2. The appointed coach is to be included as one of the appointed selection team.
- 2.3. The appointed selection team will select the team based on the criteria below, in consultation with the appointed coach/es game criteria.

### **3. Eligibility Criteria**

- 3.1. All players must be a registered member with their home affiliate, based within the Hornets regional boundary, as set out by New South Wales Touch Association (NSWTA) from time-to-time.
- 3.2. All players must be financial members of their affiliate, Hornets, NSWTA and Touch Football Australia (TFA).
- 3.3. Players must participate in the
  - Hornets Championships and/or NSWTA Country Championships (senior players)
  - Peter Wilson Memorial Championships and/or Don Green Western Junior Championships (junior players)
- 3.4. Nominate for identification at the selection tournament.

### **4. Ineligibility Criteria**

Failing to meet any of the following criteria means the player is ineligible for selection or continued membership of a squad and/or team:

- 4.1. Are deemed unfinancial within the members affiliate, Hornets, NSWTA and/or TFA
- 4.2. Are banned/suspended from any competitions run by the members affiliate, Hornets, NSWTA and TFA
- 4.3. Breach or failure to observe the Hornets Selection Policy

- 4.4. Breach or failure to observe and/all other Hornets policies
- 4.5. By reason of illness or injury is unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the executive, coach/es and/or selectors (after receiving advice from a medical practitioner)
- 4.6. Failure to observe the members affiliate, Hornets, NSWTA and TFA Code of Conduct and relevant policies
- 4.7. Failure to adhere fully to the specified training program (With a minimum of 75% attendance of scheduled training sessions)
- 4.8. Other unforeseeable circumstances which are at the discretion of the Board

## **5. Dispensation, Injury or illness During Selection**

- 5.1. If players are unable to attend any of the nominated selection tournaments (as listed in the Eligibility Criteria) or the final team selection day, they must submit an Inability to Trial letter (Part H) to the Hornets Technical Director (technical@hornetstouch.com.au) by 5:00pm Friday prior to the selection tournament or final team selection day, whichever is applicable. Inability to Trial forms are available on the Hornets website.
- 5.2. For medical dispensation, a medical certificate must also be provided, stating the nature and extent of the injury/illness, along with the expected recovery time.
- 5.3. It is the responsibility of the player (parent/guardian) to provide the form prior to the selection tournament or final team selection day. Verbal notification for dispensation will not be accepted, unless under extenuating circumstances (eg compelling family reasons, illness), which must be approved by the Board.
- 5.4. Inability to Trial requests will be reviewed by the Hornets Board, who will then provide a recommendation for consideration to the Director of Selectors.
- 5.5. All Inability to Trial requests will be ratified by the Board (i.e. that the player meets the criteria within this policy) before being forwarded to the Selectors for their consideration.
- 5.6. Acceptance of Inability to Trial requests does not equate to automatic selection.
- 5.7. Hornets will give consideration based on the information provided and reserves the right to refuse or accept any Inability to Trial request.

## **6. Player Assessment – Squad**

- 6.1. Squads are to be chosen by consensus, not by voting. If the selection team (as set out in Section 2.1) cannot come to a decision on a particular player(s) the Director of Selectors will ensure policy has been adhered to, refer to players(s) information, consult with the Technical Director and together make a decision.
- 6.2. In the case of a player being available for selection via an approved letter, that player will not be denied selection on the basis that any one member of the selection team is not sufficiently familiar with the player's ability. If members of the selection team and/or coach/es can attest to the player's ability, in comparison to others at the event, then that player is to be added to the squad for further assessment.
- 6.3. The Hornets Selection Teams may initially select squads in most divisions with a minimum of 30 players, provided sufficient player interest has been shown.
- 6.4. All squads are to be finalised after completion of the respective division finals. These squads must be signed off by the selectors and respective division coach/es, then immediately forwarded to the Hornets Board for ratification.
- 6.5. Hornets executive reserve the right to add/remove players to the squads. Inclusion in a squad does not guarantee a position in the final team.
- 6.6. The selected players for the squad will be published on Hornets website and advice of publication advertised on social media.
- 6.7. Confidentiality of all selected players must be adhered to by all selection team members, coaches and Hornets executive committee involved in the process.

6.8. Juniors: In respect to selection of juniors, Hornets will select players in their respective age divisions (eg 12s, 14s, 16s, 18s). Consideration of underage players will only be done in exceptional circumstances and must be accompanied by a letter of support from the player/s home affiliate. Inclusion of underage players in a squad does not guarantee a position in the final team. Under age players will be viewed using the same selection criteria of any other player.

## **7. Final Team Selection**

- 7.1. Final team selection will be determined by the selection team and only involve the players in the squads at a designated final team selection day.
- 7.2. Team composition will be determined by the coach's criteria.
- 7.3. Any players selected into the squad can be considered as a replacement/shadow option, unless removed from the squad for a particular reason.
- 7.4. Replacement/shadow players should not be numbered or ranked but should be assessed at the time a replacement is required as to whom is most suitable for the team and coach/es requirements.
- 7.5. Players should be selected in the position and in a division that best suits the need of Hornets.
- 7.6. Player preferences will be considered, but it must be understood that players are making themselves available for Hornets and not for a specific team or coach/es.
- 7.7. The selected players for the team will be published on Hornets website and advice of publication advertised on social media.
- 7.8. Confidentiality of all selected players must be adhered to by all selection team members, coach/es and Hornets executive committee involved in the process.

## **8. Dispute Resolution or Appeal**

- 8.1. Players with grievances about the conduct of the selection process or seeking appeals on their non-selection, must submit a request in writing to the Hornets Technical Director ([technical@hornetstouch.com.au](mailto:technical@hornetstouch.com.au)) within 7 days of receiving notification of the selection outcome, accompanied by supporting evidence or information to assist the grievance.
- 8.2. Inability to Trial forms are available on the Hornets website.
- 8.3. Hornets does not support players or affiliate officials making direct contact with the selection teams or coach/es and encourages players to follow protocol.
- 8.4. All grievances and appeals will be considered by the Hornets Board and will note the need for exclusion should there be any conflict of interest by any member of that Board at that time. The Board will then decide on the matter in accordance with Hornets policies, in particular the Member Protection Policy. The Board will then inform the participant of the process used to consider the grievance or appeal and the outcome of the deliberations, within 30 days of receiving the grievance or appeal decision.

## **9. Board Discretion**

- 9.1. All decision with respect to this policy, and any matters not included within this policy that are relevant to the player selections will be at the sole discretion of the Hornets Board.

## **Policy Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant to club operations and reflects both community expectations and legal requirements.