



HUNTER WESTERN HORNETS TOUCH FOOTBALL SELECTION POLICY 2025/2026

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.

Policy aims:

- a. To provide a transparent selection process.
- b. To provide guidelines for the Hornets and affiliated clubs to follow.
- c. To ensure the integrity of the selection process and of the teams that are selected.
- d. To select the best team possible.
- e. To develop selectors across Hornets.
- f. To guide the selection process throughout Hornets region.
- g. Hornets Talent Identification Process.

DEFINITIONS:

“Affiliated Club” means a touch club/association which is recognised as a member of the Association under the NSWTA Constitution Rule 8.

“By-Law” means any by-law, regulation or policy made by the Board under the NSWTA Constitution Rule 32.

“EOI” Expression of interest.

“Hornets” – Hunter Western Hornets Touch Association.

“Member” – A member for the time being of the Association under Part III of the NSWTA Constitution.

“Selection Tournaments” – Event approved by Hornets to act as qualifying event for selection of talent identification.

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, and Director of Selectors.

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. Suitably qualified Selectors for the positions of Team Leader and assistant Selector/s will be nominated by the Director of Selectors and submitted to Hornets Board for ratification. Final appointments will be made by the Director of Selectors.

2.2 A selection team per division will be determined prior to the first selection tournament with the view of the team participating in the process through to final team selection.

2.3 The selection team will consist of the following:-

Team Leader

Coach

Assistant selector/s (where necessary). Necessity will be at the discretion of the Director of Selectors.

N.B. – Assistant coaches are not part of the selection team, however their views and feedback on players can be sort and input provided.

2.4. The appointed selection team will select the team based on the criteria below, in consultation with the appointed coach/es game criteria.

2.5 Juniors - EOI'S are to be submitted by players wishing to be considered for selection by the set closing date. Any EOI's submitted after the closing date and prior to the respective selection tournament will be considered after consultation with the Selectors Panel and the Hornets Executive.

2.6 Seniors – squads will be identified and named prior to the selection day on both the website and social media. Players who are not named in a squad or which to change their position in a squad will need to contact Admin. Any changes will be considered after consultation with the Selectors Panel and the Hornets Executive.

2.7 The team leader needs to be in regular contact with the appointed coach and Director of Selectors.

2.8 Where practical the Team Leader is to direct members of the selection team to various games to view the players that are under consideration.

2.9 The Director of Selectors is to oversee the total selection process and is accountable to Hornets board for the selection of the teams.

2.10 A team or squad may be chosen, this will be determined by the Hornets Board.

2.11 In the case of Injury prior to the tournament/selection trial, it is the duty if the player to notify the Director of Selectors, prior to the event via the inability to trial form for that particular event, with documentation outlining reasons for non-participation. All players with submitted letters that are endorsed by the Director of Selectors will be considered for selection.

2.12 In extenuating circumstances, letters for non-attendance at a selection tournament may be considered. Letters need to be submitted to the Director of Selectors until 12pm on the day of the event, with accompanying documentation.

2.13 Players who suffer an illness/injury during the tournament/selection trial can be taken into consideration when determining the best possible players available, the player must submit an inability to trial for that particular event.

2.14 Advising the selectors of any player suffering injury or illness during the selection event will be the responsibility of the player concerned, through their team management. This information needs to be conveyed to the director of Selectors who will pass it onto the team leader.

2.15 Letters of inability submitted after the event may not be considered.

2.16 It is the responsibility of participating coaches at tournaments to keep in contact with their team leader regarding identified players.

2.17 Teams will be named at a time set by the Hornets board.

2.18 Players behaviour should be taken into account.

A on field behaviour should be reflected in the selector's notes.

B players sent from the field for the duration of the game will not enhance their selection chances. A player sent off for the game at a selection event will be viewed critically when being considered for selection.

C if a player receives a period of time the player is still eligible, however the notes should reflect the period of time and offence.

D items on field that would also reflect a low consideration of performance would be:

Sledging

Phantom Touches

Swearing

Cheating

Poor attitude towards officials, teammates, coaching team.

2.19 Players nominated position on the EOI form is to be used as a guide, however these are not binding.

2.20 Replacement players for those unavailable will be decided upon by the Director of Selectors and team leader and the Coaching Director and Coach. Before final sign off by Board.

2.21 All Conflicts of interest are to be declared to the Executive upon closing of the Players EOI forms.

2.22 Where a conflict arises the selector or coach will be excluded from decisions regarding the player/s identified.

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 following tournaments:

Seniors:

Expressions of interest (EOI's) will be called for for all senior divisions with the view of identifying those interested players at the Hornets Championships, and/or at NSWTA Country Championships.

Juniors:

Peter Wilson Memorial Championships and/or Don Green Western Junior Championships.

Hornets Selection day and Junior State Cup.

Hornets may also conduct Camps/development days/high performance events where TI will be carried out.

3.4. Nominate for identification, via EOI form, 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 currently 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 By reason of illness or injury is unable to perform to the required standard in the opinion of the executive, coach/es and selector (after receiving advice from a medical practitioner)

4.5 Failure to observe the members affiliate, Hornets, NSWTA and TFA Code of Conduct and relevant policies.

4.6 Failure to adhere fully to the specified training program (without Director of Selectors or executive approval)

4.7 Other unforeseeable circumstances which are at the discretion of the Board.

5. Dispensation, Injury or Illness during Selection Process.

5.1 If players are unable to attend any of the nominated selection tournaments 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 on the Friday preceding the selection tournament or final selection day. Inability to trial forms are available on the Hornets.

5.2 For medical dispensation, a medical certificate must also be provided, stating the nature and extent of the injury/illness, along with 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, which must be approved by the board/executive.

5.4 Inability to trial forms/requests will be considered by the Hornets board/executive, who will then provide a recommendation for further consideration by 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 divisions. There may be guidelines around squads sizes provided by the Director of Selectors or the Executive.

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 remove players from the squads, this is to be done in consultation with the Coaches Director and Director of Selectors. 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 or position.
- 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) 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 decisions 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, the Director of Coaching and Director of Selectors.

Policy Review

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

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

The Director of Selectors and Executive Committee, may add a memorandum in relation to development teams for juniors. This will be dependant on whether Hornets sends these in the future and may address specific selection issues faced in 2025.