

2025 New Zealand Trans-Tasman Test Series Team Selection Policy

This policy outlines the selection process the Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa (SNZ) Masters Selectors will follow to select players for the New Zealand Masters team, who will represent New Zealand in the 2025 Trans-Tasman Test Series to be held in Perth, Australia. The tentative dates are 29 August – 6 September, which is in conjunction with the Australian National Masters Individual Championships.

The underlying expectation is that the selection criteria will allow a team to be selected that best represents the vision of SNZ at this time, that is “New Zealanders enjoying squash from grassroots to excelling on the world stage”.

Team Selection

Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa will select members for the team who have the best chance of contributing to winning the Trans-Tasman Test series. Players selected for the team who will compete in two events

1. Trans-Tasman Test series,
2. Australian National Masters Individual Championships tournament.

One male and female player in each age group will be selected (35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65+) for a total of 14 players in the team.

Selection Criteria

The Masters Selection Panel will consider the following criteria in determining their selections, with a focus on performances which have demonstrated the player’s ability to contribute to a winning performance. This includes:

- Performances at Premier and Major National Events, and District Masters or Open tournaments’ between May 2024 to May 2025.
- Head-to-head results at the 2024 NZ Masters Individual Championships & Inter-District Masters Team Championships.
- NZ grading list ranking, including grading list ranking trajectory using SquashLevels (consideration will be given to the calibre of competition).
- Player’s ability to successfully complete the full test series (appropriate fitness levels).
- Previous winning performances in National Senior and/or Masters events over the last three years.
- All previous performances at Masters Trans-Tasman Test series events.
- Willingness to promote SNZ in a positive manner.
- Any other factor(s) the Selectors consider relevant.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for selection in the New Zealand Masters team, a player:

1. Must be a member of an affiliated SNZ club, and in good standing with their district and SNZ,
2. Must be eligible to represent New Zealand in the Championships. This requires that a player be born in New Zealand, or be a citizen of New Zealand, or have resided in New Zealand for at least the three years immediately preceding the Championships; and,



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3. Must not have represented another country in the three (3) years preceding the start date of the events in a recognized international Squash Team Championship in any age group.

4. Age qualification is to be at the date of the commencement of the first Test.

Selection

- The Masters Selectors will select the team. Selectors will be elected for 2024 and 2025 for continuity.
- The weighting of the criteria will be at the discretion of the selectors.
- The team will be selected and announced late May/early June 2025.

Player Commitments

Once selected to the team, and to remain selected, players shall:

- Demonstrate commitment to the team by maintaining or improving their fitness levels and ensuring that their competitive performances are maintained at a high standard appropriate for competition at the Championships.
- If an injury occurs to a selected player after nomination, they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness (as determined by SNZ) to remain as a selected player on the team.
- Athletes must provide medical clearance when requested by SNZ as per the player agreement.
- Failure to satisfy the above criteria by a player may result in the player being removed from the team.
- Participation, behaviour and performance of players will be constantly reviewed, and continued selection will be dependent on these factors.

Suspension

A player selected for the team may be suspended or deselected if the SNZ High Performance Manager and Selectors, at its absolute discretion, considers that the player:

- Due to illness or injury, becomes unable to perform to a standard deemed satisfactory by SNZ. SNZ may obtain and act upon medical advice for determining whether a player's physical condition warrants deselection for this purpose.
- Demonstrates a lack of training or tournament preparation required to perform to the best of their abilities, this includes but not limited to non-participation in regular and/or selected events.
- Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the Anti-Doping or Match-Fixing policies of SNZ, WSF or other approved agencies.

Dispensation

If players are unable to meet components of the selection criteria, they must provide evidence satisfactory to the NZ Masters Director and then receive written permission from the Selectors and SNZ High Performance Manager.

Exemptions may be granted to players at the discretion of the Selectors and SNZ High Performance Manager for valid requests supported by evidence. Granting exemptions is a standard procedure at junior, elite senior and master levels.

The provision of an exemption for a player is in no way indicative of their selection or otherwise, nor does it preclude any player from fair consideration for selection.

Appeals

Any player who is aggrieved by the SNZ Selectors' decision not to select them in the team may appeal the decision initially to the NZ Chief Executive through the SNZ High Performance Manager, and if still not satisfied, to the Sports Disputes Tribunal of New Zealand.

An appeal to the Sports Dispute Tribunal may only be made on one or more of the following grounds:

- The selection criteria have not been properly followed and/or implemented.
- The person seeking selection was not afforded reasonable opportunity to satisfy the applicable selection criteria.
- The selection decision was affected by actual bias, or
- There was no basis on which the selection decision could have reasonably been made.

The selection appeal must be filed within ten days of the selectors' decision being published. The decision of the Sports Disputes Tribunal shall be final and there shall be no further right of appeal.

Additional Information

SNZ reserves the right to withdraw from national teams' events when there are issues around international travel and government restrictions.

