



Tenpin Bowling Australia Ltd

National Training Squad Policy

VI.4
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TENPIN BOWLING AUSTRALIA LIMITED NATIONAL TRAINING SQUAD POLICY

Background

In an effort to develop a clear pathway for athletes to progress from grass roots through to elite level competition, Tenpin Bowling Australia Limited (TBA) introduced the National Training Squad (NTS) in 2011.

TBA through its High Performance Committee consistently evaluates feedback from current athletes, coaches, State Associations and the wider community and makes changes to our programs to strengthen the pathway to elite level competition with the ultimate goal of developing world class athletes. The vision of TBA's High Performance Program is simply:

To develop and deliver programs and pathways that produce world class bowlers and coaches that enrich the Australian Bowling Community.

Given many countries have well developed high performance programs, the introduction of the NTS is imperative if Australia is to achieve TBA's strategic objective of being ranked in the top 10 in the world by 2018.

The NTS concept aims to provide the best opportunities available to develop our athletes whilst effectively managing the budgetary constraints of both TBA and the bowlers.

The squad will remain current from 1st January to 31st December each year, commencing from the 1st of January in the year in which the athlete was inducted into the squad.

Number of Athletes

TBA will select a National Training Squad consisting of several pools of athletes to a maximum of:

- 12 adult male bowlers
- 12 adult female bowlers
- 12 male and 12 female Youth bowlers over 18 years of age but under 21 years of age as at 1st January
- 12 Junior boys and 12 Junior girls who have not reached the age of 18 years on January 1st of the current year
- 12 male and 12 female Senior bowlers who have attained or will attain the age of 50 years of age or above in the current year

The number of positions ultimately selected in some squads may be less than the maximum numbers nominated above. This will be at the discretion of TBA and the appointed Head Coaches. TBA reserves the right to only offer positions to athletes who they believe satisfy the eligibility and 6 National Training Squad Criteria for Consideration outlined below, as well as other considerations.

Eligibility

TBA will invite all Silver level TBA members, who fit into at least one of the below criteria, to apply:

1. In each year, all current Australian team representatives (including Asian Championships, Commonwealth Tenpin Bowling Championships, Men, Women and Senior World Championships, Asian & World Youth Championships, Asian Schools and QubicaAMF World Cup)
2. The top 20 ranked bowlers in the Adult, Female, Youth (Male and Female), Senior (Male and Female) and Junior (Male and Female) Divisions in the final rankings results from the preceding year. The top 10 ranked bowlers in the Grand Senior (Male and Female) in the final rankings results from the preceding year. *
3. In each year, members of the respective All Star teams from Rachuig, Youth Team Challenge, Seniors Challenge and President's Shield
4. Male and Female winners of the following events:
 - a. Australian Masters
 - b. TBA National Youth Cup
 - c. TBA Australian Junior Masters
 - d. TBA National Seniors Cup

* Rankings eligibility dates are subject to change to suit additional intake dates. These will be published on the TBA website when applicable.

Athletes who wish to be considered for the NTS, but due to extenuating circumstances such as injury, illness, significant time competing overseas or other significant reasons are unable to satisfy any one of the above 4 criteria listed above - may apply to the High Performance Committee for an exemption. Please note that exemptions will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

Intake

TBA shall conduct one annual NTS intake. No further intakes will be made throughout the year.

Athletes who fulfil one or more of the above criteria are eligible for selection into the NTS.

Eligible athletes will be invited to submit a preliminary Expression of Interest for inclusion into the NTS Intake – for athletes relying on Ranking Points as their prime criteria, these invitations will be based on Ranking Points as at 31st December; and will be subject to verification after all Ranked events have been completed for that year.

Overseas Based Students & Professional Athlete Consideration

TBA understands that some of our best athletes may be based overseas, or unable to commit to the NTS requirements here in Australia due to their professional competition schedule.

Not being part of the NTS may affect their ability to be selected into National Teams. Therefore, the High Performance Committee may determine and appoint certain athletes as “NTS Exempt” players.

To be eligible, an athlete must fall into one of the following two categories:

- A Professional Athlete (bowler) competing in the PBA and other major events around the world (whether based in Australia or overseas).
- An athlete who is living, studying, training and actively competing in another country (under a bowling related scholarship or program).

Any athlete appointed as NTS Exempt would already be of NTS standard by falling under one or both of the above categories. NTS Exempt athletes may be required to satisfy requests made by the NTS head coach and HP committee at any time. Failure to respond to such requests may result in losing the exempt privilege.

The inclusion of a NTS Exempt athlete to a specific NTS squad allows the size of a squad to expand to greater than the 12 athlete cap implemented on all squads. This ensures that the limited spots are not blocked to other applicants here in Australia.

An NTS Exempt Athlete does not automatically receive a spot in National Teams. They are considered NTS Squad Athletes who are eligible for National Team selection. An NTS exempt athlete nominates their availability to compete, and needs to be selected by the Head Coach and HP Committee as part of the normal team selection process.

NTS Exempt Status is appointed yearly, lasting until the next intake. This status may be reviewed or changed throughout the year if an athlete’s situation changes.

Criteria for Consideration

The below criteria will be taken into consideration when athletes are being considered for inclusion into the National Training Squad – an athlete’s:

1. Satisfaction of the nominated eligibility requirements
2. Current TBA Rankings position
3. Tournament results
4. Coachability
5. Training Ethics
6. Athlete behaviour

Requirements of NTS Members

Upon successful selection into the NTS, athletes must fulfil the following requirements in order to remain eligible to be a member of the squad:

1. Participate in a minimum of 3 TBA ranked events per calendar year for the squad in which you are holding a position.

Athletes may substitute one ranked event for an international event conducted outside of Australia excluding any championship event that the athlete is/was selected to represent Australia.

The substitute events whilst not having rankings points attached to them will be used to evaluate athletes in terms of their continuance in the NTS (criteria for consideration item 4 – tournament results).

2. All athletes must support the State and National pathways by completing at least 2 of the following:

- 2.1. Complete an all events entry in the athlete's respective State Championships
- 2.2. Participate in their respective State team roll-off for either President's Shield, Rachuig, Seniors Challenge or Youth Challenge
- 2.3. Participate in an associated National Masters event i.e. Junior Australian Masters, National Youth Cup, Australian Masters or National Seniors Cup

3. Attend up to a maximum of two training camps as directed by the NTS head coach.

Athletes in the NTS that are selected to represent Australia at World Championship events may be required to attend a weekend camp in preparation for the championship. Athletes will be required to fund the cost of travel to get to the camp however all other costs associated with the camp (excluding some meals) will be covered by TBA.

Up to two intensive weekend training camps (includes camp for World Championship teams) may be conducted each year as directed by the NTS head coach. The camps will consist of a combination of on lane training with the NTS head coach as well as specialist workshops related to high performance. Athletes will be required to fund the cost of travel to get to the camp however all other costs associated with the camp (excluding some meals) will be covered by TBA.

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst attendance at training camps is not mandatory, it is expected that NTS athletes will participate. Athletes that do not attend are at a higher risk of non-selection in the National team (if applicable).

4. Submit Athlete Development Reports as required to document individual progress and development as an NTS Athlete.

As part of being in the NTS, athletes may be required to submit athlete development reports during the year to ensure continuous development and learning. These reports may be required by all athletes throughout the year from the head coach and / or HP committee, and include not just practice and performance results, but other aspects the athlete believes may be important to becoming a more focused high performing athlete such as bowling technique changes, sports science understanding (e.g., strength & conditioning, nutrition, etc.), mental game training and physical development

5. Must maintain Silver Level Sport Registration for the full year (2019)

Benefits for NTS Members

The major benefit for NTS athletes is access to coaching by the NTS Head Coach in conjunction with nominated assistant coaches and the opportunity to train together as the National Squad. Athletes must fulfil the requirements listed within this document and adhere to all relevant TBA Policies to remain in the squad. All NTS athletes will be provided with a NTS training shirt which is required to be worn at all training camps.

Removal from NTS

The Head Coach reserves the right to recommend the removal of a member of the NTS at any time for situations including but not limited to:

- a) Failure to take reasonable direction from the Head Coach;
- b) Failure to adhere to the requirements of NTS members (number 1 to 4 above);
- c) Breach of any TBA Policy;
- d) Poor athlete performance over a sustained period of time; or
- e) Poor athlete training ethics.

Any recommendation by the Head Coach must be submitted in writing to the TBA High Performance Committee and must be upheld by this panel prior to a bowler's removal from the Squad. The athlete will be given the opportunity to appeal this decision, unless the athlete has breached a TBA Policy at which point the matter will be dealt with as per the Policy breached.

International Events

TBA, following recommendations from the HP Committee, will determine the International events that Australia will register and prepare teams to compete at.

Selection of National Teams

All national team representatives will be comprised of athletes from the National Training Squad.

All selections will be initially made by the NTS Head Coach, Assistant Coaches and a nominated representative from the HP Committee. This selection will then be submitted to the HP Committee for approval, abiding by the selection criteria as outlined in the National Team Selection Policy. The criteria considers:

1. Current and past performances (up to 18 months prior to the date of selection)
2. Previous results in international teams (if applicable)
3. General health and physical ability relating to the requirements of the upcoming event, the athlete's current level of skill, and physical fitness (any current injury or condition, which may impair, inhibit, or prevent the athlete's most optimal performance)

4. Team cohesiveness and balance
5. Coachability of individual athletes
6. Consistency in standards of behaviour, attitude and sportsmanship for all selected athletes
7. Athlete must be an Australian citizen
8. Athlete must be a financial Silver member of TBA

For more information, relating to specific Australian Teams please visit the National Team Selection page on the TBA website.

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Modification and Revision Record

Version	Rule	Change	Date
V1.3	Page 1 Page 4 - Point 4.	Number of Athletes - Increased number of Senior Athletes for 2019 intake New requirement added to Requirements of NTS Members	Oct 2018
V1.4	Page 3	Inclusion of Overseas Based Students & Professional Athlete Consideration section.	Dec 2018