

SOFTBALL NEW ZEALAND

# 2017/18 NATIONAL FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIP

Rules and Explanations



13/11/2017

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# **National Fastpitch Championship**

## **Introduction and Key Dates**

SNZ has a responsibility to provide significant opportunities for our elite players, coaches and umpires. The elite National Fastpitch Championship (NFC) domestic competition should focus on quality not quantity.

***Objective:***

**To provide significant and quality opportunities to our elite players, umpires, scorers, administrators, coaches to perform at the highest level domestically.**

In the attempt to meet the stated objective a maximum entry of eight (8) teams in each of the men's and women's competitions has been set.

Key dates for the 2017/18 NFC held at Rosedale Park, North Harbour:

- Fri 1 Dec 2017: Entry form due along with half the entry fee
- Fri 1 Dec 2017: Overseas player registration forms due
- Thurs 7 Dec 2017: NZ player registration forms due
- Thurs 4 Jan 2018: List of protected players from each team due
- Mon 8 Jan 2018: Player draft is undertaken
- Wed 10 Jan 2018: Full payment of entry fee due
- Wed 14 Feb 2018: Managers Meeting at 8pm at Rosedale Park
- Thurs 15 Feb 2017: NFC Tournament begins

## **National Fastpitch Championship**

The NFC for the 2017/18 season is to be based on the following principles:

1. Association based with a maximum entry of eight (8) teams in each of the Men's and Women's competitions.
2. Format to be a 4 day tournament
3. To be held 15<sup>th</sup> Feb – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 in North Harbour

### **Entry Fee**

The Participation Fee for the 2017/2018 NFC is set at \$510.00 incl. GST.

Payment of the half the determined Entry Fee is to accompany the Entry Form by no later than **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2017**. Failure to pay half the Entry Fee by the due date will render the entry null and void. Late entries will not be accepted. The full payment should be made no later than **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018**, otherwise the entry will be null and void and there will be no refund on any monies already paid.

### **Player Eligibility**

All prospective players must register for the NFC if they wish to be selected for an Association team. Registration for NZ players must be submitted to SNZ by 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2017. All players must be registered to a SNZ association.

NZ Players who wish to play in the tournament who are based overseas and who are not affiliated to a NZ association, can register to play but must enter the draft to then be possibly selected by a participating team.

Only one overseas player (this means any player who is not a NZ Citizen, does not have NZ Residency status, or has not represented NZ from U19 and over) can participate in each Association. They must be registered by way of completing and submitting the appropriate form (see Appendix E) to SNZ a little earlier in New Zealand (than an NZ player) and be presented to SNZ by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2017 with appropriate paper work from their international body allowing them to participate in the competition. **The overseas player must have played a minimum of 3 premier club games (Top 2 divisions within a local association competition) within the season (tournaments do not count) before the start day of the NFC.**

1. For this tournament, a NZ Player is defined as a New Zealand Citizen, or NZ Resident, or a player that has played for a Softball NZ National team from U19 and over.
2. Registration for NZ player's inclusion in the NFC is by way of completing and submitting the appropriate form (see Appendix E) to SNZ by **7<sup>th</sup> December, 2017**, which will be available by downloading from the SNZ website ([www.softball.org.nz](http://www.softball.org.nz)). While it is the responsibility of individual players to ensure they are registered, Associations are encouraged to carry out this registration process on behalf of the players and submit the forms in bulk by the due date.

***Note: The NFC is for the development of New Zealand's elite players. We also do not wish to allow players to take the New Zealand season off if they are interested in participating at the elite or International level for New Zealand. If a player wishes to represent New Zealand (as per the SNZ Selection Policy See Appendix F) they must compete in the National Championship.***

## **Protected Players**

Protected Players (PP) are the players that each Association names on the applicable date set by the NFC each year as the base of players that will make up that NFC team. It can range from a minimum of 10 to a maximum of 15.

Each Association team can protect/select a minimum of 10 and a maximum of up to 15 players from their region "only". A maximum of three of those PP can be pitchers. Note: all PP pitchers must be clearly designated in any team list submitted.

Protected Players (PP) for the 2017/18 NFC must be named by 5pm, Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018.

*Note:*

*With only seven days between the naming of Protected Players and the actual Draft no changes to the PP list will be accepted unless due to exceptional circumstances and agreed to by Softball NZ.*

*All NFC team player requirements from the time of the draft must be drawn ONLY from the list of draft players.*

*Pitchers must be named and clearly designated in the PP list.*

## **Player Draft**

All players who are not designated Protected Players (PP) by an Association on 4<sup>th</sup> January, 2018 who have completed registration for the NFC will be submitted for the draft. The draft selection will take place on Mon 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2018.

For the purpose of the draft all NFC teams will be seeded according to the ***order of finishing in the NFC of the previous season***. The purpose of the seeding is to ensure that the lower seeded teams have the first call on players.

*Note:*

*Seedings for the 2017/18 NFC will be determined by finishing order in the 2016/2017 NFC. Any team entering in the 2017/18 NFC not represented by an entry in the previous season will be treated as if they had finished in "first" place in the 2016/17 NFC and thereby automatically assume the last position in the draft order. In the case of more than one team being a new entrant in any given year, the place in the draft would be as above with the order amongst those teams determined by ballot.*

## Draft Process

Players will be placed in one of two categories determined by the position stated as their main interest. Registered pitchers will be placed in one category, with all others (specialist catchers, infielders, outfielders and utilities) making up the other.

Pitchers are the only position that can refuse to be selected for a team as a utility (i.e. where it is clear they are not named as a pitcher) if they wish to be considered as a *pitcher only* in the draft. All other players must play as selected.

The bottom seeded NFC team will have first pick of a player in each category. In the general player category Franchise's can select two players, in the first round only. Subsequently all teams will select one at any time in rotation to a maximum of 5. They cannot exceed max. for pitchers (3) or the total draft allowance (5).

Each team will select in order of the established seeding. For example, the 7<sup>th</sup> seed first, the 6<sup>th</sup> seed second, etc, up to a total of six selections each. All seeds have the right to enter the draft. (*Attention is drawn again to the provision in the Note to **Player Draft** above regarding the place in the draft order of a team which had not been entered in the competition in the previous season.*)

*Note: The draft should ensure that the bottom seeded teams will be given the potential to compete by having early access to the Draft List.*

Where a player has a natural affinity (birth, played in that area, etc) with an association then a negotiation may take place between coaches but the team with the choice in the draft has final call. If nothing is negotiated then the selection stands. Example: Coaches agree to swap selections based on the fact that one of the persons was born in the Association zone.

*Note: If players are not chosen as a 'Protected Player' by their home association they then go into the draft. On the registration form these players can choose that if they are not picked up by their home association they will not play for another association team. However, where a player refuses to play for a Franchise team then he/she is ineligible for any other team in the tournament.*

All seeds can potentially enter the draft as even the top seed may have a requirement that should not be overlooked.

**The draft will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> Jan, 2018** by phone conference. The Draft meeting will be coordinated by the Event & National Teams Manager.

*Note: Players not registered on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2017 for Overseas Players), cannot be considered for the draft. Softball NZ is trying to develop as close a competition as possible and needs to ensure that every team has current or potential elite players in their numbers. Four associations have a strong base for selection of their teams and may not need to utilize the draft, outside of an emergency. The attempt is also being made to ensure that there is transparency in players getting onto the diamond and that the main basis for participation is the players wish to represent New Zealand.*

## **Replacements**

After the draft, teams will be permitted replacements if players need to pull out due to injuries or extreme circumstances which prevent them from attending the tournament. Any replacements need approval from SNZ. These replacement players must come from the player draft.

Once a player has been replaced as above they may not return to the team.

## **Payment of Entry Fee (or Participation Fee)**

The Participation Fee for the 2017/18 NFC is set at \$510.00 incl. GST.

Acceptance of the invitation to enter the NFC will only be confirmed when the Entry form (see Appendix E) is signed and returned and the payment of half the entry fee to have been paid on 1 Dec 2017. The Participation Fee to be paid in full on or before 10 Jan, 2018.

# **Appendix A**

## **National Fastpitch Championship Rules**

### **Playing rules**

2015 Softball NZ Rules will apply with the following additions for the NFC. Further rules or regulations, if required, will become effective when each Franchise secretary or team manager is notified in writing by the National Fastpitch Championship (NFC) Commission.

### **Team numbers**

All games in the NFC will involve a maximum of 15 players per team.

### **Points**

Points will be awarded on the basis of 5 for a win, 2 for a tie breaker loss and 1 for a loss by 2 or less. Where tie breaker points are awarded no other points can be gained.

### **Points for cancellations/rainouts**

Where possible all games will attempt to be played, the STR has the final decision on if it is practical and achievable to fit in all un-played games. Where games are rained out or unable to be played, there will be a split point's situation. This means each team will be awarded 2.5 points.

### **Seven Innings Games**

All games will be standard regulation games. The finals day may be restricted to time games so as to keep to strict Sky TV live coverage.

### **Protected players**

All associations must name between ten and fifteen protected players.

### **Pitchers**

All teams must name three pitchers. These three named players are the only three who can play in that position in the NFC. Where one pitcher becomes injured 1 reclassification is allowed. The team with the injured pitcher may be required to show a medical certificate before a reclassification can take place, this is up to the discretion of the STR for the tournament. If you can't put a pitcher (either one of your 3 named pitchers or your 1 reclassified pitcher) on the mound you default the game.

NB: – If the pitcher is injured and the team reclassifies then the injured pitcher may not be brought back into the tournament as a pitcher. They may however continue to play in a different position.



**Eligibility A – NZ Players (NZ Citizen, NZ Resident, Represented NZ from U19 & over)**

All prospective players must:

- Be registered prior to the start date of the tournament with a club within the Association or composite team you represent
- Register in writing for the NFC if they wish to be selected and play for an Association.
- Player must be financial with their own respective associations

**Eligibility B – non NZ Players**

- Only one non-New Zealand player can participate in each Association team.

**Replacements**

After the draft, teams will be permitted replacements if players need to pull out due to injuries or extreme circumstances which prevent them from attending the tournament. Any replacements need approval from SNZ. These replacement players must come from the player draft.

Once a player has been replaced as above they may not return to the team.

**Protests**

All protests shall be decided by a Protest Committee formed by the STR who will render decisions in accordance with the Official Playing Rules and NFC Regulations.

The Protest Committee shall consist of three persons, of whom one member shall be the NFC STR who shall be the Convener of the protest, one member shall be the local Tournament Organiser or his/her nominee, while the third member shall be the fixtures Chief Umpire or his deputy.

The Protest Committee shall have judiciary powers to deal with matters requiring disciplinary action including the imposition of the necessary penalty when a player, manager or coach is ordered out of a game.

Video evidence is acceptable as evidence in a judicial hearing. Such evidence shall be available to both parties. If the Protest Committee considers that the offence warrants a penalty greater than that available to it, the Committee shall provide full details of the matter to Softball NZ for its attention.

Whenever a matter of protest arises during a game, the Captain, Manager or Head Coach of the protesting team shall immediately notify the Umpires, the opposing team's Head Coach and the Official Scorer, that the game is under protest. Protests shall be accompanied by a fee of \$100 which shall be returned only if the protest is upheld.

All interested parties will then be able to note the conditions surrounding the making of the protest and will aid the proper determination of the protest.

Immediately following the notification of an Official Protest being lodged in a game, the play shall be suspended and the protest shall be dealt with immediately by the NFC Protest Committee.

### **Penalties**

The Protest Committee can impose any penalties that are reasonable or appropriate to the circumstances warranting action by the Protest Committee or where no penalty currently exists. Appeals to the Protest Committee must be accompanied by \$100.

### **Appeals to Softball NZ**

Appeals can be lodged with Softball NZ under the conditions outlined in the New Zealand Softball Association's latest Constitution. All such appeals are final.

### **Dress code and behavior**

Coaches and players must at all times be dressed appropriately where they can be identified as representatives of an NFC team. On diamond dress shall be as prescribed in the SNZ Rule Book with all players attired in uniforms alike in colour, trim and style. Coaches must be neatly attired and dressed in team uniform or in suitable clothing in accordance with the team colours.

**Any action or behavior that brings the game into serious disrepute will not be tolerated. In the first instance a report will be sent to the Association by the STR after the tournament for them to take appropriate action. However if the behavior should continue this may result in a loss of points if the STR deems this appropriate.** Both Coaches and players MUST abide by their respective SNZ codes of conduct (See appendix B). The manager should report any breaches of the codes to the association to take appropriate action. The association should then provide SNZ with a written account of the action taken.

## Appendix B

### SNZ Coaches Code of Conduct

- 1. Respect the rights, dignity and value of every individual athlete as a human being**
  - Treat everyone equally regardless of sex, disability, ethnic origin or religion.
  - Respect the talent, developmental stage and goals of each athlete in order to help each athlete reach their full potential
- 2. Maintain high standards of integrity**
  - Play within the rules of softball and in the spirit of fair play, while encouraging your athletes to do the same.
  - Advocate a sporting environment free of drugs and other performance enhancing substances within the guidelines of the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency and the World Anti-Doping Code.
  - Do not disclose any confidential information relating to athletes without their written prior consent.
- 3. Be a positive role model for softball and your athletes. Act in a way that projects a positive image of a coach**
  - All athletes deserve equal attention and opportunities
  - Ensure the athlete's time spent with you is a positive experience
  - Be fair, considerate and honest with athletes
  - Encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle – refrain from smoking and drinking alcohol around athletes.
- 4. Professional Responsibilities**
  - Display high standards in your language, manner, punctuality, preparation and presentation. Display control, courtesy, respect, honesty, dignity and professionalism to all involved within our sport - this includes opponents, coaches, officials, administrators, the media, parents and spectators.
  - Encourage your athletes to demonstrate the same qualities.
  - Refrain from criticism of other coaches and athletes.
  
  - Be reasonable in your demands on your athletes time and ensure there is an appropriate balance between sporting involvement, family, education and career objectives
- 5. Commit to providing a quality service**
  - Seek continual improvement through ongoing coach education, and other personal and professional development opportunities.
  - Provide athletes with planned and structured training programmes appropriate to their needs and goals.
  - Seek advice and assistance from professionals when additional expertise is required.
  - Maintain appropriate records.
- 6. Provide a safe environment for training and competition**
  - Adopt appropriate risk management strategies to ensure that the training and/or competition environment is safe.
  - Ensure equipment and facilities meet safety standards.

- Ensure equipment, rules, training and the environment is appropriate for the age, physical and emotional maturity, experience and ability of the athletes.
- Show concern and caution toward sick and injured athletes.
- Allow further participation in training and competition only when appropriate.
- Encourage athletes to seek medical advice when required.
- Maintain the same interest and support toward sick and injured athletes as you would to healthy athletes.

**7. Protect your athletes from any form of personal abuse**

- Refrain from any form of verbal, physical and emotional abuse towards your athletes.
- Refrain from any form of sexual and racial harassment, whether verbal or physical.
- Do not harass abuse or discriminate against athletes on the basis of their sex, marital status, sexual orientation, religious ethical beliefs, race, colour, ethnic origins, employment status, disability or distinguishing characteristics.
- Any physical contact with athletes should be appropriate to the situation and necessary for the athlete's skill development.
- Be alert to any forms of abuse directed towards athletes from other sources while in your care.

## **Softball New Zealand Players' Code of Conduct**

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As a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball New Zealand you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event

1. Be a positive role model for Softball at all times, and accept responsibility for your actions.
2. Must not Smoke or drink alcohol in 'on Diamond' Softball Uniform
3. Participate within the competition conditions and rules, and in the spirit of fair play.
4. Respect opposition players and officials and treat them with proper regard for their rights, obligations and position held in Softball or the community.
5. Refrain from offensive or abusive language and gestures.
6. Comply with Umpires' decisions in a professional manner.
7. Cooperate with all official requests to promote and market Softball in a professional manner.
8. Must not make derogatory or demeaning remarks about any athletes, coaches or participants.
9. Do not commit acts of aggression.
10. Perform any duties and responsibilities where you are a representative of Softball New Zealand in a mature, fair and professional manner.

## Appendix C

### Application Criteria for new association teams

The criteria below provides a framework for Associations that wish to be part of the NFC. SNZ are mindful that there are other priorities at this time and as such are only calling for 2 pages with an additional cover letter and appendix (e.g. Strategic Plan and Balance Sheet).

SNZ are aiming to create an elite sustainable competition and as such need the ability to assess applications. As mentioned above composite teams will be accepted and encouraged.

If required please do not hesitate to contact SNZ for guidance and advice.

In order of priority;

1. Development Pathways, Juniors, Men and Women **(20%)**
  - Provide a development model for players of both genders, officials and coaches
  - Recruitment and retention strategies
2. Playing Strength – current numbers **(15%)**
  - Juniors Men and Women Team Numbers
  - Current National players
3. Financial ( **15% - 10% Balance Sheet and 5% Budget**)
  - Most recent Balance Sheet
  - Budget for the upcoming year (on a yearly basis)
  - We require this information to ensure that the association has sustainability to enter for the 3 years required
4. Population – this reflects the possibility for growth in the area. Potential growth is key to growing Softball in New Zealand. **(12.5%)**
5. Tournaments attended/Past performance **(12.5%)**
  - NPC, National League entries over the past 5 years to prove the ability to enter tournaments consistently and competitiveness within those competitions.
6. Strategic Plan (for combination teams from the base association or from the composite organisation) or operational plan moving forward to develop the association.**(10%)**

7. Association Governance **(10% - 5% for each)**

- Board Structure and make-up of your board and the process involved in appointing them.
- Staff Structure (paid and unpaid)

8. Team Management Structure **(5%)**

- Process for appointing coach, assistant, manager

NB: A supporting letter to accompany application criteria as to why your association(s) should be accepted into the National Fastpitch Championship.

## Appendix D - Players Registration Form

### NATIONAL FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIP "PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM"

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: MALE / FEMALE (*circle one*)

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible to play for NZ: YES / NO (*circle one*)

First choice position: \_\_\_\_\_ Second choice position: \_\_\_\_\_

Current team: \_\_\_\_\_ Association: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not chosen as a 'protected player' or 'draft pick' by your home association, do you want to play for a different association. YES / NO (*circle one*)

#### Code of Conduct

As a participant in any activity held by or under the auspices of Softball New Zealand you must meet the following requirements in regard to your conduct during any such activity or event

11. Be a positive role model for Softball at all times, and accept responsibility for your actions.
12. Must not Smoke or drink alcohol in 'on Diamond' Softball Uniform
13. Participate within the competition conditions and rules, and in the spirit of fair play.
14. Respect opposition players and officials and treat them with proper regard for their rights, obligations and position held in Softball or the community.
15. Refrain from offensive or abusive language and gestures.
16. Comply with Umpires' decisions in a professional manner.
17. Cooperate with all official requests to promote and market Softball in a professional manner.
18. Must not make derogatory or demeaning remarks about any athletes, coaches or participants.
19. Do not commit acts of aggression.
20. Perform any duties and responsibilities where you are a representative of Softball New Zealand in a mature, fair and professional manner.

I have read the players code of conduct and confirm I will abide by this whilst at these championships.

Signed (Player): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE:** All forms must be e-mailed to [eugene@softball.org.nz](mailto:eugene@softball.org.nz) or mailed to Softball NZ at PO Box 30 322, Lower Hutt. Overseas players must submit their form by Friday 1 Dec, 2017, and **NZ Players must submit their form by Thurs 7 Dec 2017.** All registrations are copied to your local association for verification of eligibility. Extra copies can be downloaded from: [www.softball.org.nz](http://www.softball.org.nz)



## Appendix E - Entry Form

### NATIONAL FASTPITCH CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY FORM

*The entry fee for the tournament is \$510 incl GST per team*

**This page to be in the hands of Softball NZ by Fri 1<sup>st</sup> Dec, 2017**

NAME OF TEAM \_\_\_\_\_

DETAILS OF UNIFORM:

(TOPS) \_\_\_\_\_

(KNICKERS) \_\_\_\_\_

DETAILS OF ALTERNATIVE UNIFORM:

(SHIRTS) \_\_\_\_\_

(KNICKERS) \_\_\_\_\_

*Manager's Contact details:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work and hm) \_\_\_\_\_

*Head Coach Contact details:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work and hm) \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed) Manager: .....

# Appendix F

## National Team Selection Code

### New Zealand Women's, Men's and U19 Teams/Squads

#### Rationale

This code is to ensure the most suitable New Zealand softballers are selected to play in New Zealand Teams.

*This Code is established to ensure that all athletes selected to play for NZ teams meet the criteria set for such selection and that the process by which this has been carried out is fair and equitable to all.*

This code is to be read in conjunction with ***Policy B024 National Player Selection.***

#### Application

This code applies to all softballers who meet the criteria for eligibility to be selected herein referred to as "athletes".

#### Eligibility for Selection

All athletes must

- 1.1. Be a New Zealand Citizen.
- 1.2. Be a current registered and financial member of Softball New Zealand, **AND**
- 1.3. Have participated in either the Premium Competition run by Softball New Zealand or the appropriate Age Group National Competition, **OR**
- 1.4. Be involved in an overseas softball scholarship programme, with approval from Softball New Zealand, and playing in a regular sanctioned league of a level equal to or better than the appropriate New Zealand Competition, **OR**
- 1.5. Be resident overseas and playing regularly in a sanctioned league of a level equal to or better than the appropriate New Zealand Competition.

Where a player is unable to participate due to illness, injury or other genuine reason, the reason must be put in writing to Softball New Zealand with a medical certificate stating the nature of the illness and anticipated full fitness for decision on eligibility.

Applications for compassionate grounds eg bereavement must be notified verbally to Softball New Zealand.

#### Appointment of Selectors

Selection of all New Zealand teams shall be by a panel of three selectors. The Convenor of the Panel shall be the Head Coach of the relevant team. The team Assistant Coach shall be the second selector and the third shall be appointed (as per the Appointment of Officials Code) by the CEO of Softball New Zealand.

## **Selection Procedure**

- 1.6. The selectors shall have total discretion in selection of teams/squads and may have regard to any one or more of the selection criteria guidelines in clause 6 below.
- 1.7. A consensus decision of selectors is preferred, but where this does not occur the Head Coach shall have the final decision.
- 1.8. Athletes have no right to make submissions or representation to the selectors. Claims regarding natural justice in this regard are expressly excluded, such right being preserved in the Appeal Process set out in Clause 11 below.

## **Selection Criteria**

- 1.9. All athletes must be able to satisfy the eligibility criteria
- 1.10. Performance at past national and international events
- 1.11. Current international and national performances
- 1.12. Demonstrated and/or potential ability to work within a team environment
- 1.13. Demonstrated constructive attitude and commitment to SNZ regarding national representation
- 1.14. Demonstrated ability to meet conditioning and/or fitness standards set by coaching staff
- 1.15. Attendance at all squad camps or training activities established as part of the team programme
- 1.16. Compliance with ISF's eligibility Guidelines
- 1.17. Any other factor consistent with criteria above but not specifically stated

In considering the Selection Criteria the selectors, in their discretion, are able to give weight to extenuating circumstances. Such circumstances may include (but not necessarily be limited to) bereavement, family/work commitments or any current injury or condition which may impair, inhibit or prevent performance to the requisite level.

## **Notification to Relevant Parties**

- 1.18. The selectors shall provide to SNZ the squad/team list as soon as practicable, but no later than the deadlines agreed for ratification by the SNZ President of all selections.
- 1.19. Following ratification in the case of a New Zealand team the Team Manager (or delegate) will notify successful players and the Coach (or delegate) will notify unsuccessful players from the squad. A squad announcement can be made without specific notification.
- 1.20. SNZ shall be responsible for release to the media within agreed timeframes.

## **Removal from a Selected Squad or Team**

This can occur through the following circumstances

- 1.21. Disciplinary processes for breach of contract (refer Disciplinary Procedure Policy)

- 1.22. Injury/illness which prevents the person performing to the required standard (after having received medical advice or a second opinion required and paid for by SNZ)
- 1.23. Breach of, or failure to fulfil, a requirement of the SNZ Anti-Doping Policy.
- 1.24. Breach of, or failure to comply with, any national team agreement.

Notwithstanding the above criteria:

Any player may be removed from a National Squad/Team by the selectors in consultation with the Head Coach or CEO of SNZ as circumstances may require. This remains a sole discretionary right and cannot be appealed on judgment grounds.

### **National Squad**

A National Squad will consist of up to 30 players. All members of the National Squad must attend all camps and competitions as directed by the Head Coach. An annual calendar of events will be provided to selected squad members at the time of selection and availability to be selected for the National Team is contingent on attending.

### **National Team**

A National Team will be selected from all eligible players according to the **Eligibility for Selection** criteria in this code. Any National Team for a World Championship may consist of up to 17 players. Any National Team for the Olympics will consist of 15 players.

### **Appeals**

- 1.25. An aggrieved person may appeal against a failure of the Selectors to comply with the procedures set down in this code. No appeal is allowed on the merits or otherwise of a particular selection decision.

Any appeal must be made within 2 days of any public announcement as in 7.3 of this code.

The appeal, accompanied by a non-refundable Appeal Fee of \$500, must be lodged in writing to the CEO setting out

- 1.25.1. The alleged procedural failure of the Selectors;
- 1.25.2. The ground on which the appeal is made; and
- 1.25.3. The reasons supporting the alleged ground of appeal; and

Upon receipt of an appeal the CEO must:

- 1.25.4. Immediately convene the *Selection Review Panel* and provide all relevant documents to them.

### **Selection Review Panel**

- 1.26. This panel will consist of any three people available to hear the appeal who meet the following criteria
  - 1.26.1. The panel must be chaired by a barrister or solicitor
  - 1.26.2. A SNZ Board representative

- 1.26.3. A person with a thorough knowledge of the sport and who has had recent international competition experience in the sport
- 1.27. No member of the panel may be party to or directly interested in the matter under consideration.
- 1.28. The review panel has no power of selection or re-selection. Their only power is to refer the matter back to the Selection Panel for reconsideration.
- 1.29. The selection Review Panel will investigate and consider the matter and shall, within 7 days of receiving the notice, determine whether
  - 1.29.1. The appeal be dismissed, or
  - 1.29.2. The appeal warrants further review
- 1.30. Where the matter is dismissed in 12.4.1 above the Selection Review Panel shall inform the CEO who will inform the appellant immediately
- 1.31. Where the matter warrants further review in 12.4.2 above the following procedure will be followed:
  - 1.31.1. Notice will be served in writing on the aggrieved party, the Selectors and SNZ
- 1.32. The notice will set out the following:
  - 1.32.1. The aggrieved party may address the Selection Review Panel at a meeting no sooner than 2 days and no later than 4 days from the date of notice
  - 1.32.2. The time, date and place of the meeting; and
  - 1.32.3. Informing the aggrieved person that he or she may do any one or more of the following:
    - a. Attend that meeting (personally or with a representative or support person), or
    - b. Give the Selection Review Panel, no later than 24 hrs before the time of the meeting a further written statement
- 1.33. The Selection Review Panel may conduct a meeting in accordance with clause 12.7.2 above. Such meeting will:
  - 1.33.1. Be conducted in accordance with the principles of natural justice including but not limited to giving the aggrieved person and the Selectors every opportunity to be heard.
  - 1.33.2. Give due consideration to any written statements provided.
  - 1.33.3. Allow the aggrieved person and or representative support person to be present, and may
  - 1.33.4. Request or require the aggrieved person, the Selectors or any other witness to attend the meeting or provide such evidence as is available
- 1.34. Following consideration of all information in front of the Selection Review Panel, the panel shall arrive at a unanimous finding.
- 1.35. The Selection Review Panel shall notify the CEO of its finding immediately
- 1.36. The Selection Review Panel can

- 1.36.1. Recommend that the Selectors again consider the selection of the relevant squad, team, individual or official, such recommendation shall be complied with; or
- 1.36.2. Dismiss the appeal
- 1.37. Any further selection decision of the Selectors under the direction in 12.11.1 shall be final.

**This code is subject to any review/appeal rights under the NZ Sports Disputes Tribunal.**