



SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SQUASH AUSTRALIA 2021 WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIPS TEAM

1. Background

- a. The Squash Australia (**SqA**) World Doubles Team (**Team**) will compete at the World Squash Federation (**WSF**) World Doubles Championships which are to be held on 1 – 5 July 2021 at the National Squash Centre, Gold Coast, Australia. This selection policy (**Policy**) details the process and criteria by which SqA will nominate players for the Team to compete at the Championships.
- b. SqA will select players and/or pairings in the Team who they consider, in their absolute discretion, to have the best chance of achieving one or more of the following performance objectives, in weighted order:
 - i. Winning medals at the 2021 World Doubles Championships.
 - ii. Winning medals at Commonwealth Games and World Championship events between 2021 and 2026.
 - iii. Contribute to Australia achieving a high finishing position at the 2021 World Doubles Championships.
- c. This Policy can be amended at any time by SqA if SqA is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary for any of the following reasons:
 - (i) as a result of any change in Team eligibility criteria or rules;
 - (ii) as a result of any change in the rules governing a particular event;
 - (iii) to give effect to the Policy following a drafting error or oversight;
 - (iv) to clarify any ambiguity or otherwise give effect to the intended meaning of the Policy
- d. SqA shall not be responsible or liable in any way to anyone as a result of any such amendment.

2. Team composition

- a. The SqA High Performance Selection Panel (**Selection Panel**) will select the Team. When selecting the Team, the Selection Panel will select the Team based on this Policy, which, subject to **2.e.**, is to consist of:
 - (v) up to six (6) male players (two pairs of men's doubles and two men to play mixed doubles); and
 - (vi) up to six (6) female players (two pairs of women's doubles and two women to play mixed doubles).
- b. The Selection Panel will rank the pairings for each event in order of ability.

- c. The Selection Panel will select two (2) male and female reserve players. These reserve players will not be ranked in order of selection priority.
 - i. Should a reserve be required to replace a selected player in the Team, the National Coach will select the most suitable reserve player, subject to the approval of the Selection Panel.
 - ii. Enacting **2.c.i.** may require pairings in the selected Team to be changed in order to satisfy the performance objectives outlined in **1.b.** Should this be necessary, the National Coach will make suitable changes to the pairings, subject to the approval of the Selection Panel.
- d. Neither this Policy, nor SqA or WSF require SqA to nominate the maximum of six males and six females to the Team. Final Team members and composition of the Team are at the absolute discretion of SqA as set out in this Policy.
- e. For the avoidance of doubt, players selected to the Team in the doubles event are also eligible to be selected for the mixed doubles event.
- f. SqA may enter a maximum of two pairs per event and this is dependent upon the total number of entries in that event. WSF may limit the number of entries in some events to one pair per nation. If WSF do limit entries to one pair per nation for an event, then only the highest-ranking pair will be selected for that event. WSF will notify Squash Australia of the number of entries it is permitted per event.

3. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for selection in the Team for the Championships, a player:

- (a) Must declare their interest in representing Australia at the Championships in writing to the High Performance Management Team (hp@squash.org.au) by the 15 March 2021.
- (b) Must be affiliated, and in good standing with, SqA.
- (c) Must be eligible to represent Australia in the Championships. This requires that a player be born in Australia, or be a citizen of Australia, or a permanent resident of Australia, or have resided in Australia for at least the three years immediately preceding the Championships; and,
- (d) Must not have represented another country in the three (3) years preceding the start date of the Championships in a recognised international Squash Team Championship in any age group. Players who have previously represented another country in a recognised international squash tournament may represent Australia only with the prior approval of the WSF Competitions Committee.
- (e) Categorised athletes must be up to date with completing and submitting their Individual Performance Plan and Athlete Agreement as per the requirements of categorised athletes.

4. Player Selection Criteria

The Selection Panel will consider the following player selection criteria when selecting the Team.

- a. Performance which demonstrates the player's and/or doubles pairing's ability to contribute to the performance objectives outlined in **1.b**. This includes:
 - i. Podium performance history at the Commonwealth Games.
 - ii. PSA ranking and performances at PSA events, WSF events and AST events. Results at these events from 1 January 2020 to 15 March 2021 will be considered.
 - iii. Podium performance history at previous World Doubles Championship events.
- b. Players in Squash Australia's Winning Edge programme may have priority consideration based their ability to contribute to the performance objectives outlined in **1.b.ii**.
- c. Should a player with an established record of high-level results become injured, the player may be considered for selection based on past performances at Commonwealth Games or World Championships, subject to passing a suitable fitness test and providing medical evidence and updates throughout the process.
- d. Notwithstanding the above, the Selection Panel will consider all relevant factors, results, performances and indicia of high performance training and process at the discretion of the Selection Panel. This discretion is absolute, and it need not be exercised. This includes the ongoing demonstration of the player code of conduct which can be found at <https://www.filepicker.io/api/file/Q6ZvegrRSqafMzFoDZ4o>
- e. In exercising its discretion, the Selection Panel may consider any factor, or combination of factors that is, in the opinion of the SqA High Performance Management Team, may be relevant for consideration when selecting the Team.

5. Player Availability for Preparation and Competition

- a. Upon selection for the Team, each player must confirm their commitment to its objectives and to their individual development plan as agreed with the Squash Australia High Performance Manager.
- b. If a selected Team member withdraws, is withdrawn or is declared unfit to continue as a Team member (for any reason), the SqA High Performance Management Team may replace that Team member. This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised.
- c. Selected players are required to compete at the 2021 Australian National Championships to be held in Sydney from 17 – 20 June, 2021, unless there are extenuating circumstances. Selected players will also be required to participate in media and promotional activities during the Australian National Championships.

- d. Selected players will be required to attend a pre-event training camp at the National Squash Centre from 23 – 30 June, 2020. This training camp will include participation in the 2021 Oceania Doubles Championships from 25 – 27 June, 2021. The SqA High Performance Management Team will determine the pairings for the Team for this event.

6. Deselection and Suspension

A player selected for the Team may be suspended or deselected if the SqA High Performance Management Team, at its absolute discretion, considers that the player:

- a. Due to illness or injury, becomes unable to perform to a standard deemed satisfactory by SqA. SqA may obtain and act upon medical advice for determining whether a player's physical condition warrants deselection for this purpose.
- b. Demonstrates a lack of training or tournament preparation required to perform to the best of their abilities, this includes non-participation in training camps or selected events as outlined by the SqA High Performance Management Team.
- c. Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the Anti-Doping or Match-Fixing policies of SqA, WSF or other approved agencies; or
- d. has breached the requirements of this Policy, any SqA rule, regulation, by-law, team agreement or any other regulation (either SqA or otherwise) applicable to the player by virtue of their membership in the Team and/or their participation in the sport of squash.

7. Selection Panel, Notification and Announcement

- a. The SqA High Performance Management Team will appoint the SqA High Performance Selection Panel, which will be approved by the SqA Board.
- b. Players who are selected to be a member of the Team will be notified via written or verbal communication by the SqA High Performance Manager of their selection.
- c. The Team will be selected after the EOI closing date and then announced on 23 March 2021. If a player has not been personally notified of their selection by that date, that player can assume that they have not been selected for the Team.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, a player is not considered to be a member of the Team until his or her selection has been announced on the above date.

8. Athlete Obligations Once Selected:

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

- a. Agree their training and competition programme with the SqA High Performance Manager and National Coach in preparation for the event.
- b. Maintain status as a member of the Team in good standing with SqA.

- c. 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.
- d. If an injury occurs to a selected player after nomination, they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness (as determined by SqA) to remain as a selected player on the Team.
- e. Athletes must provide medical clearance when requested by SqA as per the athlete agreement.
- f. Failure to satisfy the above criteria by a player may result in the player being moved to the non-travelling reserve position in the Team or being removed from the Team entirely.
- g. Attendance, behaviour and performance of players will be constantly reviewed, and continued selection will be dependent on these factors.

9. Appeals

Appeals will be conducted in accordance with, and governed by, the procedures provided in the Squash Australia Appeal Process.