

AFL Canada National Team Selection Policy

Last revision: June 23, 2016

1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to set out a fair and transparent process that will be used by the coaching staff appointed by AFL Canada (AFLC) to select players to represent its respective national teams for any international competition, tournament or game.

This selection policy aims to ensure that whilst providing the national teams with the best opportunity for success at the international level, we foster and support growth and development amongst our players. It also aims to set out a minimum standard that is to be followed by AFL Canada coaches to ensure a fair and balanced process that allows us to achieve these aims.

2. Eligibility

Players must satisfy the following to be eligible for selection to an AFLC national team

- Member of AFLC in good standing in the current year of selection. Good standing refers to the member having paid their AFLC membership fee in full
- Be deemed eligible based on the responsible international competition, tournament or game's organizing body's eligibility criteria.
- Be eligible for release by their club to the national program, which may include having fully paid any membership fees.

3. Authority for Selection

AFLC Board has delegated authority for all decision making under this policy to the Head Coach of the respective national team.

The Head Coach has final authority for all selection decisions, including selecting and removing players from a national team, and selecting replacement players to a national team where applicable. In making selection decisions, the Head Coach may consult with coaching staff, defined for the purposes of this document to include assistant coaches, provincial coaches and club/team coaches. The Head Coach may also consult with leaders identified within club teams.

4. Selection Criteria

The Head Coach may use any one of, or combination of the following criteria to select players:

- Solicited feedback from coaching staff or leaders identified within club teams that are familiar with the player
- Player performance observed when playing for national team, provincial team or club team
- Player performance observed during the course of selection camps or other games/trainings held for this purpose
- Fitness and skills testing results as determined by the Head Coach
- Players overall fit within the team

Nothing in this policy shall require the Head Coach to host or attend an event for the purpose of observing player performance. The Head Coach may issue further guidance as to what shall be required of players in order to be selected, and shall clearly communicate to players what participation in events, if any, is mandatory in order to be considered for selection.

In keeping with the mandate of AFLC, which is to grow Australian Football in Canada, the Head Coach shall at all times seek to be inclusive by providing an equal opportunity for selection to all players who express such an interest. The Head Coach shall broadly and clearly communicate any additional criteria for being invited to selection events or for selection in advance, to give each player an equal opportunity to be selected.

The Head Coach shall nonetheless retain the authority to determine whether a player will be considered for selection.

5. Removal from a Team

5.1 Upon selection to a national team a player must:

- a. Sign and adhere to the AFL Canada code of conduct
- b. Provide AFLC with all required documentation (will vary depending on international competition/tournament)
- c. Participate in team events, activities and meetings, as directed by the Head Coach or his/her designate
- d. Abide by all team rules and policies/procedures established by the Head Coach and/or AFLC
- e. Assist AFLC in public relations and fundraising projects where required
- f. Be released from their local club and remain in good standing with their local club and with AFL Canada

5.2 A player may be removed from a national team where the member:

- a. Is not released by their club
- b. Does not comply with criteria listed in 5.1
- c. Is unable to meet performance expectations
- d. Is unable to perform due to injury, illness or for other medical reason
- e. Is unable to commit to the national team activities and events (note that a player may obtain an exemption from the Head Coach and AFLC, if applicable)
- f. Is unable to satisfy financial requirements of participating at international competitions/tournaments
- g. Engages in conduct that is detrimental to the image of the national program
- h. Voluntarily withdraws
- i. Is removed by a AFLC's Discipline and/or Appeal panel; or
- j. Other reasons as determined between Head Coach and AFL Canada executive

6. Appeals

Appeals may be made in relation to AFLC national team selections, non-selection, or release directly to the AFL Canada Board, through the Vice President. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 5 days of the event(s) giving rise to the appeal.