

# Player eligibility for Selection to New Zealand Squad / Team

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## Policy:

- Touch New Zealand requires that players meet set criteria to be eligible for selection to a national representative squad/team.

## Policy application:

1. Players must be eligible to represent Touch New Zealand as per the provisions of the Federation International Touch eligibility policy
2. Players must be registered with a module affiliated to Touch New Zealand and not at any time be involved with any unaffiliated modules, tournaments and competition and/or fixtures subject to Touch NZ by laws or;
3. Players must be registered to a module affiliated to the FIT recognised National Touch Association in the country in which they are resident, and not at any time be involved with any unaffiliated modules, tournaments and competitions and/or fixtures subject to Touch bylaws of the country in which they reside
4. Players must be of the correct age, if playing in an age grade
5. Players must register their name and any other details on the official team registration sheet when competing at any Touch New Zealand or FIT sanctioned tournament to be eligible for Touch New Zealand selection. These details must be up to date, true, and correct
6. That the player attends the relevant Touch New Zealand National Tournament, or National Trials, or that the player attends the National tournament or equivalent of the country in which they reside
7. **Players must play in the grade they wish to be selected, or have already applied for dispensation under the Cross Selection and/or Injury Illness Policy**
8. Players must not have any outstanding financial debts, legal or judicial investigations with Touch New Zealand or its members
9. Players must consent to sport drug testing in accordance with Touch New Zealand Sport Drug Policy and the requirements of the New Zealand Sports Drug Agency
10. If for any reason a player is unable to play in the national tournament in their country of residence, or attend a selection camp, they then must submit an application for dispensation to Touch New Zealand, with a clear explanation as to why they are unable to attend.

- a. The process for Cross Selection is clear and transparent
- b. That if a player is unable to play in the junior, youth, open or masters grade at a national tournament for which they want to be eligible for selection, playing at an alternative national tournament will be an option available to them. The player must submit an application for dispensation with a clear explanation as to why they are unable to attend. A player is eligible for New Zealand selection into a grade they may not be playing if they fit the age criteria and the grade criteria through Cross Selection as long as they play in a Touch New Zealand national tournament and fill out a Cross Selection form.

Cross Selection Policy:

Cross Selection for New Zealand age group squads/teams (all age grades up to and including under 17 years of age) can occur under the following criteria;

1. A player playing at a Touch New Zealand National tournament in a grade in which their Provincial Association is unable to field a team in that grade
2. A player playing at a Touch New Zealand National tournament wishing to be selected in a grade at an alternative Touch New Zealand tournament in which they are unable to attend
3. A player playing at the National tournament or equivalent of the country in which they reside
4. **If an application has been sought for Cross Selection that age grade player (all grades up to and including under 17 years of age) is then only eligible for selection in the grade for which they have sought cross selection.**
5. Players are eligible to play for more than one Touch New Zealand team, at the sole discretion of Touch NZ, provided there are not conflicting tournaments or other valid reasons that might prohibit this being desirable

Cross Selection for New Zealand Open, Youth (under 19 and under 21), and Masters squads/teams can occur without restriction upon application for Cross Selection to Touch New Zealand in the prescribed form

Touch New Zealand reserves the right to select players, including cross selection, into any Touch New Zealand team, where it is in the best interest of Touch New Zealand, and/or where such selection is required to support our representative requirements and obligations

Policy application

1. It is the responsibility of the player, through their team management to ensure their grade selection panel is made aware of any extenuating circumstances that may affect their chances of identification and/or selection
2. This must be done in writing on the official form and handed to the Director of the Tournament at the Team Managers meeting prior to the commencement of the tournament
3. Applications will not be accepted after this meeting