



Padel Australia National Team Selection Policy

Effective: April 2026

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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline a clear, consistent, and transparent framework for the selection of athletes, coaches, team managers, and support personnel to represent Australia in international padel competitions. This policy is designed to uphold the principles of fairness, integrity, and merit, while ensuring that Padel Australia selects individuals best positioned to contribute to international success and foster a high-performance team environment. It provides clarity for all stakeholders regarding eligibility, selection criteria, procedures, and appeal rights, while also allowing for flexibility where justified in the context of evolving international requirements.

2. OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of this policy are to:

- I. **Select the best representatives** – Identify and select the most capable athletes and support personnel to represent Australia at international padel competitions.
- II. **Ensure fairness and transparency** – Apply consistent processes and selection criteria that uphold the principles of fairness, integrity, and merit.
- III. **Maximise international performance** – Build a high-performing team capable of achieving success and enhancing Australia’s reputation in global padel events.

For the purpose of this policy, “the team” refers to the squad selected by Padel Australia, including athletes, coaches, team managers, nominated reserves, medical personnel, and other designated support staff.

Please note in this document, the terms ‘masters’ and ‘seniors’ are used interchangeably, with ‘seniors’ aligning with the terminology used by the International Padel Federation (FIP).

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

3.1. National Team Selection

The International Padel Federation (FIP) hosts one major international event per year per category across the Junior, Open and Masters age categories, alternating each year between the FIP World Championships and corresponding FIP continental Cups.

Under FIP’s continental structure, Australia competes within the Asia continent. The World Championships for Opens/Masters category is held every two years, coinciding with even-numbered years. The World Championships in the Junior category is held every two years, coinciding with odd-numbered years. All FIP international events are open for registration to eligible FIP National Federations in accordance with FIP regulations. This policy applies to the following:

- Senior/Masters National Teams (Men, Women +40, +45, +50, +55, +60).
- National Opens Teams (as applicable).
- Junior National Teams (Boys, Girls U14, U16, U18).
- Captains, Team Managers and support staff selected for international events.

To be eligible for selection in the National Representative team(s) an athlete must:

- I. Hold a valid Australian passport and have not represented another country in the thirty-six (36) months prior to the event (as per FIP policy).
- II. Hold a valid Padel Australia licence.

In determining which athletes will be selected, the selection panel will consider (which are not limited to) the following:

3.2. Results

- Recent results at International (FIP) and National (APT) tournaments.
- Recent results when representing Australia at FIP sanctioned World Cup and Asia Cup tournaments.

3.3. Ranking

- Current FIP world ranking.
- Current APT ranking (or residing country equivalent).
- Ranking-based selections will be prioritised first by Open category rankings (e.g. Top 100), followed by age group categories in ascending order: 40+, then 45+, then 50+ and then 60+.
- Discretionary ranking considerations may be applied.

3.4. Recommendation

Team coach and manager recommendation, considering player match-up suitability, prior pairing experience, performance in Australian representation, overall team balance and cohesion, and conduct while representing Australia.

3.5. Review

All selected athletes will undertake an administration review from Padel Australia including good standing.

3.6. Australian athletes residing overseas

Australian athletes residing overseas who wish to be considered for national selection may still be considered, even if they are unable to satisfy all elements of the selection criteria. In the absence of formal selection trials, all nominations are assessed based on the selection criteria.

To be eligible for consideration, the athlete must:

- Hold Australian citizenship.
- Hold a valid player licence issued by Padel Australia; and

- Demonstrate a consistent level of performance through recent international results and/or recognised rankings in their residing country.
- Consideration will take into account the relative strength of each country's ranking system and World Cup standing. For example, a player ranked in the top 100 in France may be equivalent in standard to a top 10 player in the APT Open rankings.

Exemptions from specific criteria may be requested and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Padel Australia may (or may not) approve such exemptions, and all final selection decisions remain at the sole discretion of the Selection Panel.

3.7. Selection of Reserves

Padel Australia may select reserve players and retains the right to make changes to the selected team at its discretion, where a clear and justifiable need has been established.

This may include (but is not limited to) the following circumstances:

- Injury or illness.
- Bereavement or personal matters.
- Considerations of team balance, harmony, or cohesion.
- Demonstrated poor attitude or conduct following initial selection.
- Any other circumstance deemed reasonable by the Selection Panel.

3.8. Selection of Team Managers, Coaches, and Support Staff

Team managers, coaches, and support staff will be appointed by Padel Australia based on a range of criteria, including:

- Professional expertise and relevant qualifications.
- Proven track record and past performance in roles with Padel Australia and when representing Australia.
- Leadership capability and experience in high-performance environments.
- Ability to foster a cohesive, respectful, and results-driven team culture.

Appointments will prioritise individuals who demonstrate strong communication skills, integrity, a commitment to athlete wellbeing, and alignment with the values and objectives of Padel Australia.

3.9. Amendments

The selection policy including the selection criteria, may be amended or supplemented, particularly in circumstances not originally covered the policy. All amendments will be made by Padel Australia and published on the Padel Australia website.

4. SELECTION PANEL PROCEDURE

Padel Australia will appoint a Selection Panel responsible for determining the final composition of National Teams representing Australia at international tournaments and competitions. The panel will operate under the following core principles to ensure fairness, transparency, and integrity throughout the selection process:

- I. The Selection Panel will be appointed by Padel Australia and consist of a minimum of three members with relevant expertise.
- II. The selection panel will be made up of the following: Team Manager, Head Coaches (responsible for the on-court results) and Padel Australia representative(s).
- III. All panel members must maintain strict confidentiality throughout the selection process.
- IV. Panel members must treat all athletes equitably and ensure fair, unbiased consideration during the selection process. They are expected to act with impartiality and avoid any real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- V. Panel members must exercise independent judgment, free from external influence or pressure.
- VI. Integrity, honesty, and professionalism are essential. Panel members must not use their position to seek or secure personal benefit or preferential treatment for themselves or others and must always uphold the reputation of Padel Australia.
- VII. The decisions of the Selection Panel are final. Athletes not selected may request clarification and feedback from the panel, which will be provided constructively and respectfully. This does not prevent the panel from making changes to team or squad composition at any time, at its discretion.
- VIII. Athletes may appeal a non-selection decision if they believe their selection has been overlooked based on the official eligibility criteria outlined above in section 3 of this policy.
- IX. Appeals must be lodged in writing to info@padelaus.com.au and must provide full detail of the reasons behind grounds of appeal.
- X. The selection committee will convene and will provide written notice of the appeal outcome within 24 hours of the appeal submission.

5. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Padel Australia follows a structured and transparent process to ensure the fair selection of athletes for international representation. The following stages outline the key steps involved from initial consideration to final announcement:

5.1. Consideration Phase

Once details of the international tournament are confirmed, the selection panel will begin collecting and reviewing relevant information, including player results (for Australian and overseas players), current FIP and APT rankings, and potential pairings and player availability. A rankings cutoff deadline will be set and notified for selection considerations.

5.2. Selection Phase

The selection panel will formally meet to assess all eligible athletes against the selection criteria. All athletes will be evaluated fairly and equitably based on merit, eligibility, and team needs.

5.3. Notification Phase

A member of the selection panel will individually contact all selected athletes to inform them of their successful selection and confirm their acceptance. No details of other athletes selected or not will be disclosed during this phase. All communication at this stage is confidential and must be treated as such by all parties.

5.4. Letter of Selection

Once all athletes have accepted their position, each selected player will receive an official Letter of Selection via email from a Padel Australia representative. To formally accept their position in the team, players must complete and return the required documentation by the specified deadline.

5.5 Public Announcement

Padel Australia will prepare and coordinate a formal public announcement of the final team selection and event details once all selections are confirmed and documentation has been received.

6. NATIONAL TEAM SELECTION TIMELINE

Where possible, teams will be selected as early as practical to allow adequate time for preparation and training; however, this is subject to external factors such as the confirmation of tournament details by FIP. A final selection deadline will be set by the Padel Australia Selection Panel based on event-specific information, with teams to be confirmed and endorsed within 24 hours of this date. The full selection, notification, and announcement process will be completed within one week of the selection deadline.

The selection process will follow a clearly defined timeline to ensure fairness, transparency, and adequate preparation time. The timeline will be aligned with the release of official information from FIP. Key stages include:

- Selection commencement once FIP confirms the tournament details, including event dates and entry regulations.
- Publication of the rankings cutoff date and final eligibility deadline.
- Padel Australia Selection Committee meeting and team finalisation, followed by confidential notification to athletes.
- Team announcement within one week of the selection deadline, once all documentation and acceptances are confirmed.

7. CODE OF CONDUCT

All selected athletes and team officials representing Australia are required to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and sportsmanship. Specifically, all personnel must:

- Comply with the Tennis Australia Member Protection Policy, including all expectations relating to safe, respectful, and inclusive environments.
- Adhere to the FIP Code of Conduct, ensuring compliance with international competition rules and ethical behaviour both on and off the court.
- Always maintain respectful conduct, including when interacting with teammates, opponents, officials, event staff, media, and the general public.

Violations of the Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action, including removal from the team.

8. POST SELECTION COMMITMENTS

Once selected, athletes are expected to demonstrate professionalism and full commitment to the team's preparation and performance. Requirements include:

- Timely completion of all administrative documentation, including travel details, uniform orders, medical clearances, and waiver forms.
- Attendance at all mandatory meetings, briefings, training sessions, and team activities, whether in-person or virtual.
- Participation in official functions and promotional activities, including media engagements or community activations arranged by Padel Australia or event organisers.

Failure to meet these obligations may result in review by the Padel Australia Selection Committee and could affect eligibility for future selection.

9. BRANDING & MEDIA

Athletes and team officials are expected to positively represent Padel Australia. This includes:

- Wearing the official team uniform and using designated equipment provided or approved by Padel Australia.
- Participating in approved media and promotional activities, such as photography, interviews, and social media content.
- Maintaining professional conduct across all social and public platforms, avoiding offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate commentary during the period of team representation.

Padel Australia reserves the right to review and manage public communications that may impact the reputation of the team, the organisation, or the sport.

10. WITHDRAWALS & REPLACEMENTS

Withdrawals from the team must be communicated to the Team Manager or Padel Australia in writing, with as much notice as possible. Valid reasons may include:

- Injury or illness
- Personal or family emergencies
- Conflicts with work or academic commitments
- Demonstrated decline in performance or breach of conduct.

Padel Australia reserves the right to appoint a replacement athlete in the event of a withdrawal, based on rankings, team needs, or performance suitability.

11. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Padel Australia is committed to minimising the financial burden on athletes and may look to subsidise costs wherever possible. However:

- Athletes will be required to contribute to certain expenses, such as travel, accommodation, uniforms, or meals either in full or partially.
- All financial obligations will be clearly outlined in the Letter of Selection or prior to departure.
- Failure to meet payment deadlines or requirements may result in removal from the team or exclusion from future national representation.

12. INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

12.1. Seniors World Championships

The Seniors World Championships comprise the National Teams competition format. A qualification phase may be held prior to the event.

12.1.1 Delegation Composition

Each national delegation (male and female) consists of:

- A minimum of eleven (11) players. One (1) pair per age category, except for the 60+ category, which requires a minimum of 3 players (one pair plus one additional player).
- A maximum of twenty (20) players. Two (2) pairs per age category (4 players per category)
- Up to two (2) Coaches
- One (1) Team Delegate

12.1.2. Eligible Age Categories

- Men: +40, +45, +50, +55, 60+
- Women: +40, +45, +50, +55, 60+

12.2. World Championships (Open Category)

Held every two (2) years, coinciding with even-numbered years, the World Championships comprise of two (2) separate events, the World National Doubles Championships and the World National Teams Championships for Open male and female athletes.

12.2.1. Delegation Composition

Each national delegation (male and female) consists of:

- Eight (8) male and eight (8) female players
- Two (2) Coaches
- One (1) Team Delegate
- Eligibility: All delegation members must be at least 15 years of age as of 1 January in the year of competition.

12.3. Junior World Championships

Held every two (2) years, coinciding with odd-numbered years, a Junior Continental Cup may be held the year prior to serve as a qualifying competition.

12.3.1 Delegation Composition

Each national delegation (boys and girls) consists of:

- A minimum of six (6) players. One (1) pair per age category
- A maximum of twelve (12) players. Two (2) pairs per age category (4 players per category)
- Up to two (2) Coaches
- One (1) Team Delegate

12.3.2. Eligible Age Categories

- Boys: U14, U16, U18
- Girls: U14, U16, U18

