



## Selectors Committee September 2017

The major task for selectors in the 2017 season has been selections for the 2018 Nationals.

While the Council decision in 2016 was to announce “teams” at the end of the 2017 playing season, (11 players in Divisions where there was a Open and Mixed competition ) all of the Selectors Divisions made strong cases to the Board to announce “Squad lists” at this time rather than teams.

Reasons for squads rather than teams varied.

- Junior and sub Juniors were concerned that players ability can change significantly over a 6 month period.
- Senior selectors were concerned that some horses nominated and played in 2017 may not be up to a National standard, but players should be given the opportunity to source a better horse for the 2018 season.
- The timing of the Perth Nationals is problematic for many Intermediate players who have school exams, reducing the possible pool of players.

Playing at Perth will require a significant time and financial commitment. The Board were concerned that all players be given realistic expectations of the likelihood of their selection, to enable players and parents to arrange time of work etc.

But the bottom line is that we want to put the best NSW teams possible on the fields in Perth, and many things can and will change between August 2017 and June 2018.

To that end, it should also be noted that if a player has not named in the 2018 squads, but perform very well in the 2018 season, the Selectors still retain the right to name them in the Nationals team in June 2018.

Over the last few years we have had discussions re clarity on Selection processes, and attempted to capture our agreed processes in the OPM. There are always differences of opinion and we should aim to continue to improve our processes based on experience.

### **Some issues that may benefit from further review.**

#### **1. Attendance at 3 nominated Selection carnivals / events.**

Should attendance at 2 of the 3 nominated events be compulsory to gain selection?

The lack of support for the 2017 Club Championships was noted and disappointing. Club Championships should be one of the 2 major events in the NSW playing calendar, giving players and selectors an important opportunity to compete, and be seen competing, at top level.



## **2. Formats : Selection carnivals, squad weekends, Junior Coaching and Competitions**

Informal feedback on the squad weekends for the Intermediates is good.

The Junior Classic and NWP competitions provides a good opportunity for State selectors to see juniors from across the state competing against their peers in evenly matched team competitions, regardless of a players own Club or Zone strengths.

Opportunities for the senior divisions out side of carnival competitions? Is the current (more flexible ) system adequate or should the State / selectors provide more directives or opportunities for evenly pitched competitions?

## **3. Nomination Process and timeframes**

Some states have a more defined system and time line for nomination processes, ie see WA website. In earlier consultations with the Selectors, NSW moved away from requiring a formal nomination from players looking to be selected. This does give selectors more options, they can seek formal EOIs and availability for specific events through their Chairs, or seek out the availability of individuals. Is this still desirable, or should it be more formal and defined?

## **Recognition and thanks for a difficult task**

The time and commitment of all selectors needs to be recognised and appreciated.

The importance of considering both a horse and a players ability, and the combinations, makes selection decisions in our sport all the more complex.

To be effective our system relies heavily on the Chair of Selectors to maintain the communication between the State office, all selectors, and manage the process.

Selectors attend nominated carnivals, often giving up playing themselves, they need to find time for meetings / phone hook ups, and often hear the criticism but less often the thanks.

We therefore need to acknowledge and sincerely thank all the Selectors and the Chairs for their efforts in 2017, and for their continued commitment to NSW polocrosse in 2018.