



**ACT COUGARS**  
EST. 1993

## **ACT OZTAG REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION POLICY**

This selection policy aims to give eligible players full, fair and equal opportunity to demonstrate their worthiness for selection.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

Eligibility criteria include conditions and requirements a player must meet to be eligible for selection.

- Players must be a registered player in the ACT & Southern Regions Oztag Competitions and play a minimum of seven games in the one team over a seven-week period.
- For players to trial they must have been registered in the 2023/24 junior summer or 2024 winter competition and must play a minimum of seven matches in these competitions to be eligible to play at the tournament.
- Players are eligible to trial for the age group they turn in 2024 e.g. players that are born in 2008 may trial for U/16s and players born in 2014 may trial for the U/10s. Players who turn 8 in 2024 may trial for the U/9s.
- All teams must have a minimum of 14 players attend trials, in person, for the team to go ahead.
- Men's Open and Women's Open trials – registered players will trial for an Opens position. If unsuccessful & eligible for 20's they will be given the opportunity to play 20's (if enough players) or they will be given the opportunity to trial for Mixed.
- Teams must have a nominated coach

### **Selection Criteria**

Basic criteria that will be applied for team selection.

- Players must attend the trial to be eligible for selection.
- Any player injured who cannot participate in trials must still attend the trials, failure to do so will result in the player being ineligible for selection.
- Players may be asked to present a medical certificate to be considered.
- Players who have work or local training for another sporting code will not be granted an exemption from the trial.
- Should players not be able to attend due to extenuating circumstances, players must request an exemption prior to the trial to [admin@actoztag.com.au](mailto:admin@actoztag.com.au) to be considered for selection. No exemptions will be approved after the trials.
- Any current squad member seeking re-selection will be required to trial for a place in the new squad.
- Feedback will not be provided to unsuccessful players at the conclusion of trials.



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### **Extenuating Circumstances**

The ability to select a player, who by reason of the 'extenuating' circumstances have failed to meet the selection criteria above.

1. Absence due to competing at an elite sporting event.
2. Medical condition on the day/s of trial – Medical Certificate with information regarding illness or injury must be sent prior to commencement of selection trial.
3. Medical condition on the day/s of trial – COVID test result pending – In the event you are awaiting COVID test results, you are required to produce evidence of results (positive or negative) to confirm consideration for selection.
4. Bereavement leave/personal matters

Acceptance of dispensation does not equate to automatic selection.

***Notice of nonattendance (including necessary documentation) must be received prior to the commencement of the selection trial. Send to [admin@actoztag.com.au](mailto:admin@actoztag.com.au)***



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### **Assessment Criteria**

Players must meet acceptable performance standards and requirements. In selecting the team or squad the Coach and Selectors will nominate those players who will achieve the optimum team compatibility and balance and assist in achieving the best possible results for the team.

In determining which players will be selected for Representative teams and squads, the coach and selectors will consider all the below criteria with particular emphasis on assessing each player's potential to progress in the below areas:

1. Basic Skills – players who can consistently demonstrate highly developed basic skills in:
  - Passing
  - Catching
  - Tagging
  - Kicking
  - Communicating
2. Understanding of positional play – players who clearly understand the attacking and defensive requirements of the positions they play. Able to play in multiple positions.
3. Team Skills – players who unselfishly support the team, encourage others, communicate well and get on with their peers.
4. Attitudes – players who are tenacious, determined, resilient, willing to listen and creative.
5. Speed & Endurance – attack and defence.
6. Strength - acceleration, hitting speed, agility, ability to run lines and hit holes
7. Potential – players who show potential for the future to learn and progress in the above areas

### **Notification of Selection**

- Regardless of the type of selection procedure, notification of selection will be made available on the ACT Oztag social media outlets and website at the earliest possible opportunity.
- If players are invited to participate in squad training, and then do not make the final selection for the team they may contact the ACT Oztag office within 7 days in writing requesting feedback on their performance during the squad training.



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### **Conducting the Trial Process**

When players arrive at a venue, the coach should ensure the following things occur

1. Introduce self, and selectors to all present.
2. Outline the program for the trial.
3. Reinforce the important information, including the procedure for naming or notification of selected players.
4. Manager (or equivalent) should check attendance and correct any paperwork prior to players participating.
5. Allow players appropriate time to warm up/prepare prior to commencing trial.
6. All players must be given fair and equal opportunities to demonstrate their ability.
7. At the conclusion of the day, the head coach will thank participants and parents, and reiterate the method of notification of selection.

### **Trial Procedure**

- Warm Up – light jog, dynamic movements (high knees, side to side, leg swings, etc.)
- Skills – 2 v 1 (U9-U11) or 3 v 2 (U12-U17), Looking at draw & pass, Hole running, Tagging
- Speed – Sprints 20m, 40m & 60m
- Tagging drill (box 4 cones 7m x 7m, Players start together on the side, in the middle of box, run around cones in different directions and defender attempts to stop attacker)
- Game Awareness - 5 v 5 small, sided games (allows players to touch the ball and get an opportunity to show their skills), Field size 50m x 35m, create 4 teams & have two fields running at once, rotating teams to play each other every 3mins
- Game Awareness -12 Tags – teams of 8, Line attack, 20m out from try line, attacking team will have a set of 12 tags to attack the line, once 12 tags run out swap attacking teams
- Full Oztag Game – allows players to put themselves in positions to show positional play
- Cool Down – light jog and stretch

### **Selectors**

Selectors need to know the specific requirements for success in Oztag and have familiarity with the functioning and needs of players in representative teams.

- Knowledge — of the players vying for selection and of the demands and high-performance characteristics of the sport.
- Respect for the policy — a selector should demonstrate respect for the selection policy
- Fairness — a selector should ensure that each player vying for selection is considered. They should act without bias and in a way that does not give rise to a perception of bias.
- Integrity — selectors should act honestly and truthfully in the performance of their selection responsibilities. They should not use their position as selectors to improperly obtain, or seek to obtain, benefits, preferential treatment or advantage for themselves or anyone else.
- Accountability and transparency — selectors are accountable for decisions and actions taken and, notwithstanding any confidentiality obligations, should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions taken in the performance of their selection responsibilities.
- Should the coach have a child in the age group, the selection of their son/daughter will be at the sole discretion of the independent selectors allocated by ACT Oztag.