

AWF Athlete Selection Policy.

1.0 Objective:

The objective of the AWF selection policy is to select the lifters who are most capable of producing medal-winning performances at international competitions subject to this policy.

2.0 General Information:

2.1 The AWF Selection Committee consisting of no less than four people, two of whom are the current AWF President and High Performance Manager (HPM) will make selections. The current Selection Committee (2nd November 2008) consists of: Lyn Jones (Chairman), Robert Kabbas, Michael Keelan and Luke Borreggine. In the event of a tied vote the Chairman will have a casting decision and will be subject to the endorsement of the Australian Weightlifting Federation (AWF).

2.2 To be eligible for selection to AWF National Teams, athletes must:

2.2.1 Be eligible to participate in any given International event, as an Australian competitor pursuant to the AWF Constitution and By-Laws and be eligible to compete for Australia under International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) regulations.

2.2.2 Sign and return, the Athlete Shadow Team Agreement.

2.2.3 Agree to participate in the National team preparation procedures as advised by the AWF and/or the AWF HPM.

2.2.4 Be financial members of the AWF and not be under suspension at the time of the relevant event and assembly for that event.

2.2.5 Wear the provided AWF uniform for competition and the appropriate apparel (if provided) for travel, functions etc. as requested by Team Officials.

2.2.6 Not wear on their competition apparel and footwear any advertising material and logos not first approved by the AWF.

2.2.7 Wear when requested by the AWF, AWF sponsorship apparel, logos etc. during competition, team training and functions.

2.2.8 Have attended the appropriate ASADA seminars.

2.2.9 Be up to date with their ASADA whereabouts information.

3.0 Selection Date:

If practical, the AWF will advise all athletes selected in National Squads, at least 30 days prior to the respective international event or training camp.

4.0 Maximum National Team Size:

4.1 The selection of athletes for international events will be subject to qualifications as per the rules of the IWF and the Event Organising Committee.

4.2 Each National Team to represent Australia (domestically or internationally) will be confirmed subject to the availability of finances.

4.3 The AWF reserves the right to determine the maximum team size to be selected for each specific international competition.

4.4 No athlete, official or team can represent Australia unless authorised by the National Selectors for each event and endorsed by the HPM.

5.0 Selection Criteria:

The selection of athletes to an AWF National Team will be based on the following selection criteria. Each athlete will have to satisfy each specific requirement before consideration for selection. The time period for athletes to achieve the qualifying totals will relate to the date of the relevant event and will be advised to all athletes.

5.1 An athlete must achieve the published qualifying total during the published qualifying period prior to the date of selection.

5.2 Athletes must achieve 100% of the appropriate qualifying total. Exception: where the AWF determines that special circumstances exist and subject to 5.5 below.

5.3 Athletes with the highest percentage of the appropriate qualifying total (maximum 2 per category in most cases) for each bodyweight category subject to maximum team size will be eligible for selection. If an athlete is unavailable for selection for a particular event due to circumstances beyond their control – they must inform the AWF ahead of time. If this occurs, the specific athlete will be withdrawn from the list of qualifiers for this particular event and will not be considered for selection.

5.4 Where athletes have the same percentage of the qualifying total calculated to infinite precision, the athlete with the highest Sinclair points would be ranked higher in consideration for selection.

5.5 In special circumstances when sufficient lifters have not achieved the qualifying total to make a full team, the AWF reserves the right to select lifters who have not achieved

the qualifying total for the specific event. These lifters will be ranked and selected according to the percentage of the appropriate category qualifying total.

5.6 Be available to participate in the specific event.

6.0 Other factors which may be considered in selection of athletes & Teams:

6.1 Special criteria, which may from time to time be issued relevant to specific events.

6.2 The competition performance history and behaviour of potential team members as recorded and monitored by the HPM and the AWF High Performance Advisory Committee.

7.0 Bumping:

If an athlete in a lower bodyweight category who is likely to miss selection has registered an official total in their category, which exceeds that of another athlete in the next higher category, the Selectors are empowered to “bump them up” to the next higher category. Prior to the final selection the HPM must ascertain that the athlete can attain the higher bodyweight.

7.0 Selection Committee:

7.1 The role of assessing the available athletes against the selection criteria is the responsibility of the AWF Selection Committee that is appointed in accordance with the AWF By Laws and policies.

7.2 All selections of national teams and Squads require endorsement of the HPM on behalf of the AWF Board.

7.3 The HPM shall be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the process of endorsement and advice to athletes.

7.4 The HPM will also be responsible for liaising with athletes re-the Bumping process.

7.5 The HPM will keep the Selection Committee informed of the outcomes of any bumping process.

8.0 Extenuating Circumstances:

In considering the performances of athletes for a particular event, the National Selectors have to take into account the following circumstances as they apply to individual athletes not able to meet the above selection criteria.

This may include but not limited to:

8.1 In the case of illness or injury, athletes may be required to undergo a medical examination by a health professional appointed by the AWF.

8.2 In the case of bereavement, equipment failure, travel delays or other extenuating circumstances, the National Selectors will make a decision on a case-by-case basis.

8.3 That they have signed the Team Agreement.

8.4 That the athlete has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the HPM or his designate, the ability to achieve the qualifying standard.

9.0 Other Information:

Team Officials will exercise their discretion when confirming the final entries at the competition and enter lifters in the bodyweight categories, which will provide the best outcome for the team. When confirming the final nomination of the athletes' bodyweight category, Team Officials, in consultation with the athlete(s), will consider the following:

- The preliminary list of entries.
- Reliable information regarding expected changes to the preliminary list of entries, which is known to be factual.
- The ability of the athlete(s) to increase or decrease their bodyweight, with respect to their health and well being and the likely effects on their competition performance.
- The entry total put forward with regard to the 15kg and 20kg rule.

All team members, on occasion, may be asked to contribute to their own participation costs in any AWF Team depending on the level of funding and sponsorship available to the AWF. Whenever possible the AWF will fully fund its teams. However, the AWF reserves the right to partially fund or give no funding assistance whatsoever to members of its teams with the exception of the Teams which are funded conditionally by the Australian Olympic Committee or the Australian Commonwealth Games Association or by any other Association, corporation, funding body or sponsor.

N.B. Unless otherwise stated by the High Performance Management, only results achieved at International, National & State/Territory events sanctioned by the IWF, AWF, OWF and States/Territories will be considered by the Selection Committee for National Team selection.

It must be understood that when teams are being nominated by the AWF for selection to Australian Olympic Committee and Australian Commonwealth Games team's special criteria will come into force.

10.0 Amendment to Selection Criteria:

These criteria may be amended or supplemented, particularly where matters arise which have not been provided for in these criteria. All amendments must be approved by the AWF Board. If approved, the AWF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his designate will notify in writing any criteria amendment or supplement and will endeavour to give as much notice as possible to all persons affected by any such amendment or supplement.

Appeals Process:

The appeal process concerning non-selection or removal from a National Squad or Team is two tiered. The appeal is first heard by the AWF Appeals Tribunal (appointed by the AWF President as needed), with any subsequent appeal to be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The sole ground for any appeal is that the relevant selection policy was not followed and/or implemented.

Any appeal by an athlete against non-selection or removal from a National Squad or Team should be made to the Australian Weightlifting Federation Chief Executive Officer (AWF CEO) under the following procedure:

1. The appellant must give written notice of his/her appeal to the AWF CEO within 48 hours of the announcement of the decision against which the appeal is made.
2. Within 5 working days of submitting his/her written notice of appeal, the appellant must submit (in writing) to the AWF CEO, the grounds of that appeal accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of \$50 payable to the Australian Weightlifting Federation Inc.
3. The AWF Appeal Tribunal will comprise of the following persons appointed by the AWF President:
 - 3.1 A barrister or solicitor who will act as Chairman.
 - 3.2 A person with a thorough knowledge of elite weightlifting and who preferably has had recent international experience as either an official or athlete.
 - 3.3 One other person of experience and skills suitable to the function of the AWF Appeal Tribunal.
 - 3.4 The AWF CEO – or his designate – to act as Secretary of the Tribunal. The AWF – or designate – has no voting or procedural role in the Tribunal.

No person is eligible to be appointed to the AWF Appeal Tribunal if he/she is a member of the AWF Selection Committee, or who by reason of his/her relationship with the appellant or any member of the AWF Selection Committee would be reasonably considered to be other than impartial.

4. The AWF Appeal tribunal will convene a hearing as soon as possible after the submission of the grounds for appeal. The hearing may occur in such a manner as the Chairman decides, including telephone or video conferencing. The AWF Appeal Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence but must observe the principles of procedural fairness.

5. Prior to the hearing, the AWF Selection Committee will provide the AWF Appeal Tribunal and the appellant with a written statement as to the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made.

6. The AWF Appeal Tribunal will give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will provide the AWF CEO and the appellant with a statement of the reasons for its decision.

7. The Appeal Tribunal shall give the appellant and the AWF Selection Committee every opportunity to be heard.

8. The Appeal Tribunal has no power of selection.

9. The Appeal Tribunal may review the matter set out in the appeal and may (as appropriate) direct the AWF Selection Committee to again consider the selection of the relevant National Team or Squad.

Subject to such direction, any further selection decision of the AWF Selection Committee under the direction of the Appeal Tribunal shall be final and no other appeal shall be available to the appellant other than through the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Failure to observe the above limits when submitting an appeal will render any appeal a nullity, provided that an athlete may apply to the body to hear the appeal in question, for an extension of time in which to commence an appeal. The body to hear the appeal in question may grant such an extension of time only in extenuating circumstances outside the control of the athlete concerned.

10. Right of appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

A person who wishes to appeal against a further selection decision of the AWF Selection Committee under the direction of the Appeal Tribunal may appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The decision of the CAS will be final and binding on all parties and it is agreed that neither party will institute or maintain proceedings in any court or tribunal other than the CAS.

A person who wishes to appeal to the CAS must give written notice of such appeal to the AWF CEO within 72 hours of the announcement of the decision against which the appeal is made and must lodge his/her statement of appeal with the CAS within a further 48 hours. Failure to observe the above time limits in relation to an appeal to the CAS will render any appeal a nullity, provided that an athlete may apply to the AWF for an extension of time in which to commence such an appeal. The AWF may grant such an extension of time only in extenuating circumstances outside the control of the athlete concerned.

Acknowledgement: Appeals process based on “*Getting it right. ...guidelines for selection*” a publication of the Australian Sports Commission in collaboration with the Australian and New Zealand Law Association (ANZSLA).