



Henley Surf Life Saving Club

Junior State Team Selection Policy

Surf Life Saving State Titles are the final inter-club competition activity for the surf life saving season. The State Titles, like other carnivals throughout the season, provide the opportunity for all competitors to compete as individuals and as part of a team.

The selection of teams for State Titles can be a challenge for any surf life saving club. The State Titles team selection process is managed by the Age Group Leaders collective. This document aims to provide the parents greater clarity around how the teams are selected for State Titles, and how competition results and other factors influence the team selections. The Junior Committee believes that transparency in this area will ensure parents are confident that team selection processes are sound, thoughtful, and consistently applied.

The proportional reward for talent, hard work, regular participation, and commitment to a team environment, is being selected in a team to represent Henley Surf Life Saving Club Juniors. The following statements seek to assure all parents that team selection is taken with the utmost seriousness and with a commitment to clear processes.

Background Facts

Each year, the club is required to form teams in each age group from Under 9 to Under 13 to compete at Junior State Championships. These teams include:

- Swim teams (all age groups) – 4 competitors per team
- Board Relay teams (all age groups) – 3 competitors per team
- Sprint Relay teams (all age groups) – 4 competitors per team
- Cameron Relay teams (all age groups) – 4 competitors per team
- Wade Relay teams (U9 and U10 only) – 4 competitors per team
- Board Rescue teams (U11 to U13 only) – 2 competitors per team
- All Age Relay team (all age groups) – 1 competitor from each age group

The Selection Process and Timeline

Below is an outline of the selection process that is undertaken:

1. All teams are selected, in the first instance, by the relevant Age Group Leaders using the selection criteria set out below. In all instances, Age Group Leaders must excuse themselves from any discussion regarding their own child and trust the judgment of their fellow Age Group Leaders to make the appropriate decision.
2. Lists will be provided to all parents showing the children who will be competing in each event.
3. If there are any concerns or questions surrounding any child competing in, or not competing in a particular event, they can be raised with the Junior Operations Manager.
4. Final participation in team events may be subject to change at State Titles in the event of injury or other absence.

The Selection Criteria

General comments:

1. In the first instance, all team selections should be based on competition results throughout the season.
2. Age Group Leaders should maintain clear and accurate data on each child's performance across the season.
3. If the competition results do not provide clear or decisive information to support the selection decisions, the following may be used by Age Group Leaders to finalise team selection:
 - a. Participation at Saturday training and other mid-week training.
 - b. Other information such as Internal Club Competition and performances in different surf conditions.
 - c. Team cohesion.
4. Any selection using factors outside the competition day results will require explanation and justification to the Junior Operations Manager.

Specific Event Selection Criteria

All Junior Team events are non-gender specific

Board, Sprint, Swim and Wade Relay teams

For these events, selection should be based, in the first instance, on the competitors who have the highest speed and ability. For example: Board Relay teams – 3 highest ranking board paddlers in Team 1, next 3 in Team 2 etc.

Cameron Relay team

The Cameron Relay team consists of 1 swimmer, 1 board paddler and 2 runners. The Cameron Team will involve selecting the best swimmer, best board paddler and 2 best runners based on speed and ability for Team 1. If there is doubt in a role that should be undertaken by a single competitor (ie. a competitor may be the highest ranked in multiple disciplines) the allocation should be as follows:

- First preference: swim
- Second preference: Board
- Third preference: Run

This order is chosen based on the impact each leg of the race can have on the overall outcome.

Board Rescue team

Board Rescue teams consist of 1 swimmer and 1 board paddler. In the first instance, board paddlers and swimmers should be selected based on speed and ability. If there is a doubt in a role that should be undertaken by a single competitor (ie. a competitor may be the highest ranked in both board and swim) the allocation should be as follows:

- First preference: swim
- Second preference: Board

This order is chosen based on the impact each leg of the race can have on the overall outcome.

* In addition to the rankings and other general selection factors previously mentioned, Board Rescue introduces additional elements that need to be taken into consideration. These include how well 2 competitors paddle together which can be influenced by body size, paddling technique and how well the 2 children can work together and are happy to compete together. As a consequence, most age groups will trial different board rescue teams/combinations during the season to try and get these combinations right.

All Age Beach Relay

The fastest competitor, based on beach sprint results, will be chosen to represent the age group in the All Age Beach Relay event.