



## **AIHA NZIHL Team (Botany Swarm & West Auckland Admirals)**

### **Coach Guidelines on Junior Player Development & Selection**

#### **1. Introduction**

The rules of the NZIHL require that each participating team selects a prescribed number of age group players.

The AIHA supports this, together with a broader encouragement and development of our younger talent.

These guidelines lay out the AIHA's position in respect of the development and selection of junior players.

#### **2. Base Principles**

- 2.1 Selection to an NZIHL team is not a right it is a privilege and something the AIHA wants its younger players to aspire to and to work hard towards achieving. This privilege must be both earned and maintained.
- 2.2 NZIHL Team coaches are expected to maintain an appropriate air of exclusivity and excellence around their teams – in regional terms, this is the pinnacle of player achievement.
- 2.3 All age group players selected for the extended squad of an NZIHL team will be expected to prioritise their age-group representative team trainings and games above any training(s) for the NZIHL team squad. This is unless formally agreed otherwise by the age-group team and NZIHL team coaches.
- 2.4 Any player consistently contravening the principle in Section 2.3 will risk being dropped from the NZIHL extended squad.

#### **3. Selection process for all players eligible for U19 and U16 age groups**

- 3.1 Coaches will be expected to *consult* with the AIHA Head Coach and Junior Development Coach before making any selection, either to playing team or extended squad, of any player eligible to either the U19 or U16 age groups.
- 3.2 Coaches will be expected to be aware of individual player credentials in respect of:
  - Core skills
  - Physical maturity
  - Mental maturity
  - Commitment to the sport (and training record over recent seasons)
  - Junior coach support
  - Parental support



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- 3.4 For an U16 player to be considered for selection in any capacity he will generally be expected to have represented New Zealand at the U16 age group<sup>1</sup>. This, in and of itself, does not guarantee selection.
- 3.5 The AIHA Head Coach must formally endorse any U16 selection; this is not required for U19 player selection in respect of which *consultation* (Section 3.1) will be deemed sufficient.
- 3.6 Any proposed U16 selection for the full playing team (i.e. to the playing roster) must be submitted to NZIHL organisers for formal approval. This is a requirement under Section 3.2 of the NZIHL Rules & Regulations which states:

*“Players must be 16 years of age or older at the start of the competition. Special circumstances may receive a dispensation from a majority of League Coordinators”.*

Any submission for such approval must be passed through and by the AIHA Head Coach who will approve the submission (on behalf of the AIHA), review the documented application and promote it to the NZIHL.

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<sup>1</sup> Exceptions to the principle of having played for the NZ U16 Development Team are expected to be few and at the discretion of the AIHA Head Coach.