

# **Becoming an Auckland Squad member:**

## *A Transparent, and Level-Based Selection Pathway*

The purpose of the Auckland Squads is to train players to represent Auckland at the New Zealand Open each year.

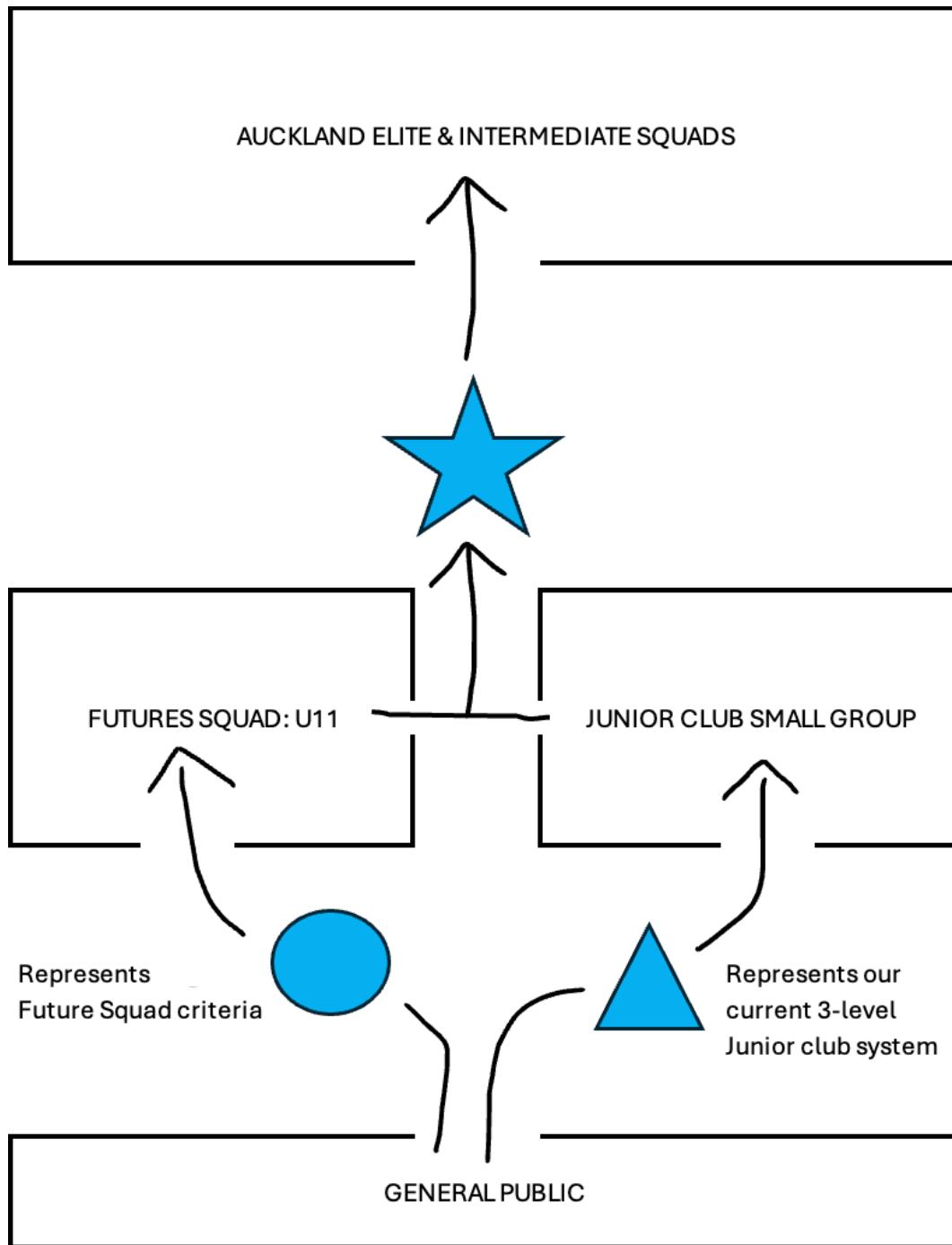
As such, only players who meet the eligibility requirements for the Auckland Squads, and are affiliated to Auckland, will be considered for selection. Only Auckland Squad members will represent Auckland in the Junior Team events at the New Zealand Open each year.

The goal of the Auckland Table Tennis Association (ATTA) is to enter our best team in each age and gender category for the New Zealand Open annually.

As such, the table below shows the guaranteed spots for each age and gender category in the Auckland Squad, which will be allocated to the top-ranking players:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Girls</b>	<b>Number of Boys</b>
U13	4	4
U15	4	4
U19	4	4

All remaining spots within the Auckland Squads will be determined by player skill level, using the system outlined below:



The ★ represents the process for joining the Auckland Squad, where players can earn entry based on skill level.

Details of the process are outlined below:

**1. Frequency:**

- Held three times a year — generally at the following times: 1. February 2. April/ May 3. July

## **2. First-Stage Round Robin(s):**

- Junior Club Small Group: Round-robin competitions will be held for U13 Girls, U13 Boys, U15 Girls, and U15 Boys.
- Futures Squad: Round-robin competitions will be held for U13 Girls and U13 Boys.
- The U13 Boys and U13 Girls winners from the Futures Squad will compete against the U13 Boys and U13 Girls winners from the Junior Club Small Group. The overall winners in each category will advance to the second-stage play-offs.

## **3. Second-Stage Play-Off(s):**

- The top players in each age category (U13 Girls, U13 Boys, U15 Girls, U15 Boys) from the first-stage round robin will compete against the lowest-ranked players in the same age category once the results of the relevant Auckland Squad Internal Qualification Tournament are released. A player with a guaranteed spot in the Auckland Squad must still compete if they are the lowest-ranked in their age and gender category after competing in the relevant Auckland Squad Internal Qualification Tournament.
- Promotion:** The player who wins from each category of the Second-Stage Play-Off will secure a spot on the Auckland Squad. If any of these players is promoted, they will directly swap into the position previously held by the player who was relegated within the existing squad structure. All new members will undergo a 1-month trial period. Selection may be cancelled if there are issues with behaviour or if skill requirements are not met.
- Relegation:** The player who loses from each Second-Stage Play-Off will not have a spot on the Auckland Squad. If a player is relegated from the Auckland Squad, they will join:
  - Futures Squad if they are eligible for under 11 events.
  - Junior Club Small Group if they are ineligible for under 11 events.

## **4. Special Cases:**

- If any age and gender category lack the full allocation of four players, the top qualifying player from the relevant First-stage round-robin in the needed category will be automatically offered a spot on the Auckland Squad.
- If the Auckland Squads are not at full capacity and can accommodate four additional players, only the top players from each age category at the end of the first-stage round robin will be offered direct entry into the Auckland Intermediate B2 Squad.
- Players seeking to join the Auckland Squad may directly participate in the relevant Auckland Squad internal Qualification Tournament if the Auckland Team Coaches unanimously agree that the player is at a level capable of representing Auckland in the top team for their age and gender category. All new members will undergo a 1-month trial period.

**5. Withdrawals:** Gaps created by the withdrawal of existing players in the Auckland Squads will remain open for future consideration. These spots may be filled by players from the waitlist or the top performer(s) from the First-Stage Round Robin for direct entry into the Auckland Squad.

The waitlist includes cases of talent from:

- Overseas
- Other clubs and/or associations

• If a player withdraws from squad after confirming their commitment for that year and does not represent Auckland at the New Zealand Open, they will not be eligible to rejoin the squad the following year.

• If a player wishes to rejoin the squad after time away, acceptance will be at the discretion of the Auckland coaching team. If accepted, the player will rejoin one squad level lower than the level they were at when they stopped attending.

• Any reasons for withdrawing must be submitted in writing to the Auckland Coaching Team. Special dispensation may be granted to players who are seriously injured or have significant medical conditions, allowing them to rejoin the following year. To be considered, players must provide written proof from a doctor, surgeon, or relevant medical professional confirming the seriousness of the injury or condition. Dispensation decisions will be at the discretion of the Auckland Coaching Team.

**6. Final Provisions:**

• Any matters not covered in this document will be at the discretion of the Auckland Coaching Team. Requests for special consideration must be submitted in writing to Shane Warbrooke at [aucklandtt@xtra.co.nz](mailto:aucklandtt@xtra.co.nz). These requests will be reviewed, and a response will be provided by the Auckland Coaching Team.