

Auckland Representative Squad Handbook

*Selection process, Eligibility Requirements,
Training & Representation Fees*

This document is the official Handbook for the Auckland Representative Squads (“Auckland Squads”) pathway, eligibility, fees, and expectations. It ensures transparency and consistent standards for players, parents, and coaches.

Website: <https://tabletennis.net.nz/coaching/squad-coaching/>

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1. Auckland Squad Culture and Expectations

The Auckland Table Tennis Association promotes a positive, unified, and respectful environment through the "One-Team" Policy and clear behavioural expectations. This applies to all players, parents, and coaches at training, qualification tournaments, competitions, and team events.

One-Team Policy

At the Auckland Table Tennis Association, we have a "One-Team" Policy for all players, parents, and coaches who are part of our Auckland representative team. The policy means that we work together to foster a positive and supportive environment for all team members. The policy applies at all times to training, qualification tournaments, individual competitions, and team competitions whether held at the Auckland Table Tennis Stadium or elsewhere.

The "One-Team" Policy means that:

- players, parents, and coaches must **not** coach, signal, speak to players, clap, or otherwise support individual players or doubles pairs when members of the Auckland representative team are competing against each other
- players, parents, and coaches must remain neutral, or they will be asked to leave the vicinity of the playing area for the duration of the game in question
- players, parents, and coaches must be respectful and display sportsmanship towards all members of the Auckland team
- players, parents, and coaches must not engage in any behaviour that gives one teammate an unfair advantage over another
- players, parents, and coaches should address concerns in a timely and appropriate manner while maintaining a respectful attitude towards each other
- players, parents, and coaches should consider the interests of the team in addition to their own personal interests
- players, parents, and coaches should actively support fellow Auckland representative teammates when they are competing against players from other district associations.

Non-compliance may lead to strict action (severity-dependent); parents' actions can affect their child's standing.

Player and Parent Expectations

- Punctuality: Arrive 15 minutes early
- Focus: Full attention on training/improvement; use breaks appropriately
- Respect: Follow coach directions

- Play Fair: Exhibit sportsmanlike conduct (no excessive noise, intimidation, cheating)
- One-Team adherence: As above

Consequences (Progressive Warning System)

There will be consequences for players and parents not adhering to expectations. Note, a parent's actions will bear consequences for their child.

1. First offence: verbal warning to stop breaking the guidelines within our "One-Team" Policy or sit out remainder of session.
2. Second offence: stand down from Auckland Squad training for one week; return requires demonstration of future commitment. Players will only be invited back to Auckland Squad training if they demonstrate a willingness to meet expectations moving forward. They must clearly explain what specific changes they will make to meet those expectations.
3. Third offence: permanent stand down from Auckland Squads (welcome in other ATTA activities like Junior Club, Interclub, tournaments).

Parents on stadium floor during Auckland Squad training

Allowed only for specific purposes (e.g., picking balls for other children in private coaching, or personal practice). Parents do not interact with Auckland Squad members, or Auckland Squad coaches, during sessions.

Individual Performance Plans (IPPs)

All Auckland Squad players will receive an Individual Performance Plan (IPP).

The purpose of the IPP is to support long-term player development by providing clear direction for training and competition throughout the season. It is designed to give players clarity on what to focus on in daily training, squad sessions, and match play.

The IPP is a working document, not a formality. It will be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect progress, emerging strengths, and areas requiring further development. Players are expected to take ownership of their IPP and use it as a reference point for goal setting and performance reflection.

The IPP framework supports consistent coaching across the Auckland Squad programme while allowing flexibility to address each player’s individual needs and rate of development.

2. Becoming an Auckland Squad Member

A Transparent, Level-Based Selection Pathway

The primary purpose of Auckland Squads is to develop players to represent the ATTA at the New Zealand Open annually. Only eligible, Auckland-affiliated players are selected. Auckland Squad members exclusively represent Auckland in junior team events.

Auckland Squad Levels (Highest to Lowest):

- Auckland Elite 1 Squad
- Auckland Elite 2 Squad
- Auckland Intermediate A1 Squad
- Auckland Intermediate A2 Squad
- Auckland Intermediate B1 Squad
- Auckland Intermediate B2 Squad

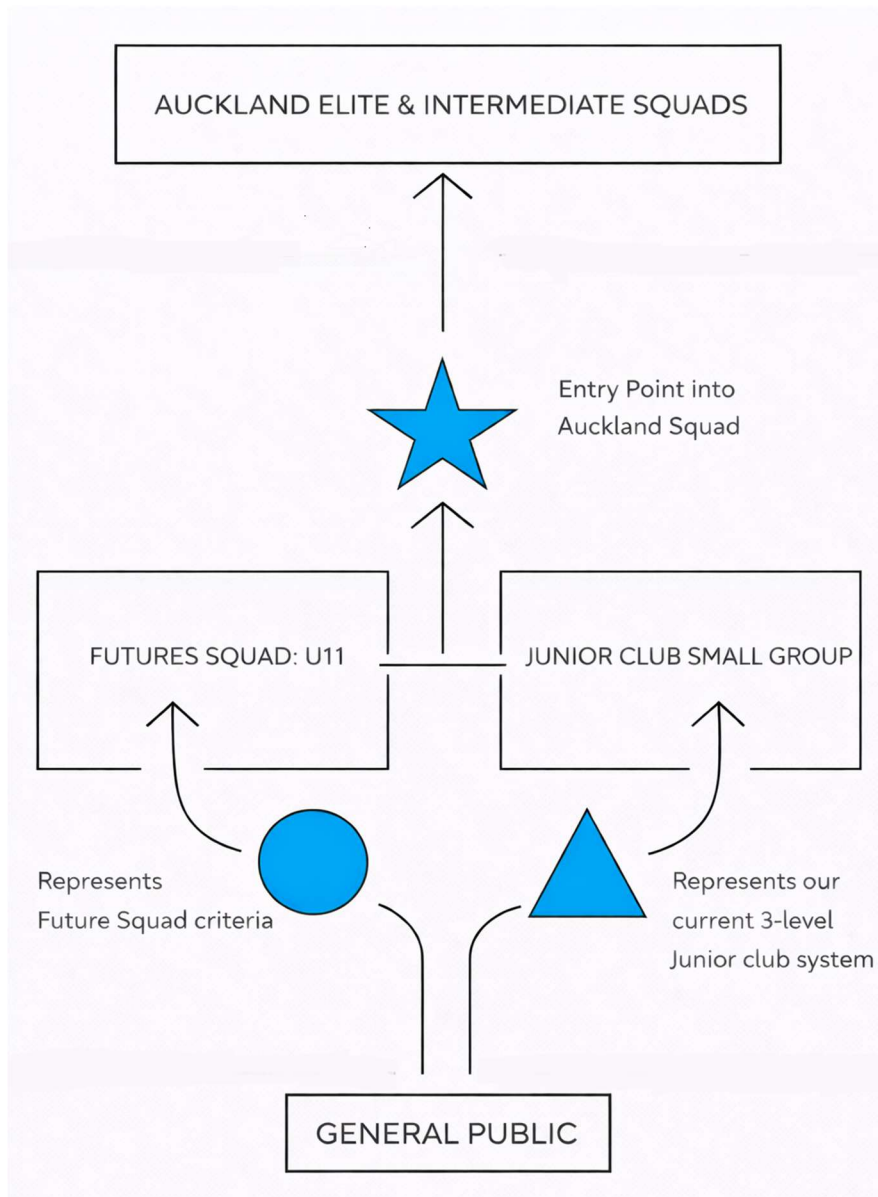
ATTA aims to field the strongest team in each age/gender category.

Guaranteed Spots

Allocated to top-ranked players (determined by unanimous Auckland Coaching Team agreement) as follows:

Category	Guaranteed Spots (Girls)	Guaranteed Spots (Boys)
U13	4	4
U15	4	4
U19	4	4

Remaining spots filled via skill-based ★ pathway i.e. Qualification Tournaments (★ – refer to Diagram below).



★ Entry Point into Auckland Squads

Skill-based entry (not age alone) from Future Squad (U11) or Junior Club Small Group. Refer to the attached diagram (flowchart showing progression from General Public → Future Squad U11 / Junior Club Small Group → ★ → Elite/Intermediate Squads).

Process Details

Qualification Tournament Frequency:

Held three times a year — generally at the following times:

- Qualification Tournament 1: February
- Qualification Tournament 2: April/May
- Qualification Tournament 3: July/August

First-Stage Round Robin(s):

- Junior Club Small Group: Separate round robins for U13 Girls, U13 Boys, U15 Girls, U15 Boys.
- Future Squad (U11): Round robins' gender-separated only (Girls and Boys).
- The winner of the Future Squad Girls' round robin will compete against the winner of the Junior Club Small Group U13 Girls' round robin, and the winner of the Future Squad Boys' round robin will compete against the winner of the Junior Club Small Group U13 Boys' round robin.
- Overall winners per category (U13 Girls, U13 Boys, U15 Girls, U15 Boys) advance.

Second-Stage Play-Off(s):

- The default position is that the top 1 player in each category (U13 Girls, U13 Boys, U15 Girls, and U15 Boys) from the first-stage round robin will compete against the lowest-ranked 1 player in the same category once the results of the relevant Auckland Squad Internal Qualification Tournament have been released. If there is any change from the default position, this information will be communicated to players prior to the conclusion of the qualification tournament in question.
- A player with a guaranteed place in the Auckland Squad must still compete if they are the lowest-ranked player in their category following the relevant Auckland Squad Internal Qualification Tournament.
- **Promotion:** The winner of each category in the Second-Stage Play-Off will secure a place in the Auckland Squad. If a player is promoted, they will directly replace the player who was relegated within the existing Auckland Squad structure. All newly selected players will be subject to a one-month trial period. Selection may be revoked if behavioural standards are not met or if the required skill level is not demonstrated.
- **Relegation:** The player who loses in each Second-Stage Play-Off will not retain a place in the Auckland Squad.
 - If a player is relegated from the Auckland Squad, they will be placed into one of the following programmes:
 - (a) Future Squad if they are eligible for under 11 events;
 - (b) Junior Club Small Group if they are ineligible for under 11 events.

Special Cases:

- If any age and gender category does not have the full allocation of four players, the top qualifying player from the relevant First-Stage Round Robin in that category will be automatically offered a place in the Auckland Squad. For example, if there are only three (3) girls in the Auckland Squad who are Under 13, then the winner of the Under 13 Girls category from the First-Stage Round Robin will automatically join the Auckland Squad without being required to play-off against the lowest ranked Under 13 Girl currently in the Auckland Squad.
- If the Auckland Squads are not at full capacity and can accommodate up to four additional players, the top player from each category at the conclusion 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 be permitted to participate directly in the relevant Auckland Squad Internal Qualification Tournament if the Auckland Coaching Team unanimously agree that the player is capable of representing Auckland in the top team for their age and gender category. All newly selected players will be subject to a one-month trial period.

Withdrawals:

- Vacancies created by the withdrawal of existing players from the Auckland Squads will remain open for future consideration. These positions may be offered to players on the waitlist or to the overall winner(s) of the relevant First-Stage Round Robin for direct entry into the Auckland Squad.
- The waitlist may include players identified as talented from:
 - overseas, or;
 - other clubs and/or Regional Associations.
- If a player withdraws from the Auckland Squad after confirming their commitment for the year and does not represent Auckland at the New Zealand Open, they will not be eligible to rejoin the squad in the following year.
- If a player wishes to rejoin the Auckland Squad after a period away, acceptance will be at the discretion of the Auckland Coaching Team. If accepted, the player will re-enter the Auckland Squad one level below the level they were at when they ceased attending.
- Any reasons for withdrawal must be submitted in writing to the Auckland Coaching Team (via Dinyar Irani, pm@tabletennis.net.nz). Special dispensation may be granted to players with serious injuries or significant medical conditions, allowing

them to rejoin the Auckland Squad the following year. To be considered, players must provide written confirmation from a doctor, surgeon, or relevant medical professional verifying the severity of the injury or condition. Decisions regarding dispensation will be at the discretion of the Auckland Coaching Team.

3. Eligibility Requirements for Auckland Squad Members

Eligibility requirements for Auckland representative teams each season are as follows:

- Players must attend at least 50% of Auckland Squad training sessions prior to the New Zealand Open team entry deadline to be eligible for selection to represent Auckland at the event. Players who do not meet this requirement will not be selected, will not be invited to rejoin the squad the following year, and will be removed from the squad immediately.
- Additionally, players must maintain a minimum of 50% attendance across the entire year (mid-January to early December) to remain in the squad and be eligible for selection in the following year.
- Players are required to notify the Head Coach if they will be absent from any session. Attendance will be recorded at every session.
- Players are expected to meet the minimum attendance requirement regardless of curricular or other extracurricular commitments. In exceptional circumstances, the Auckland Coaching Team may grant special dispensation if the conditions outlined in the “Dispensation” section are met.

Squad training sessions are at the following times:

- Mondays: 4.30 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. (Intermediate Squads)
 - Tuesdays: 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. (Intermediate Squads)
 - Sundays: 12.45 p.m. – 3.15 p.m. (Intermediate Squads)

 - Tuesdays: 7.15 p.m. – 9.15 p.m. (Elite Squads)
 - Saturdays: 3.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. (Elite Squads)
 - Sundays: 3.30 p.m. – 6.00 p.m. (Elite Squads)
- All players participating in the Auckland Squads must hold a stadium keyholder membership. The cost of a student stadium membership is available on the Auckland Table Tennis website: <https://www.tabletennis.net.nz/membership>
 - Players are expected to enter the following tournaments: Auckland Summer Open, ANZAC Open, Auckland Max-Play (eligible players only), Auckland Junior Open

(players under 19), Auckland Open, and Auckland Spring Open. A detailed breakdown of tournaments is available:

<https://www.tabletennis.net.nz/tournaments/upcoming-tournaments>

- Players must enter a team in Winter Interclub and participate in at least 50% of Winter Interclub fixtures.

Dispensation

Any reasons for not attending Auckland Squad training, Winter Interclub, or required tournaments must be submitted in writing prior to the event.

Special dispensation may be granted in cases where a player is:

- severely injured,
- has a medical condition, or
- training and/or competing overseas, including participation in recognised training camps or development programmes (whether or not affiliated with a Club or Table Tennis New Zealand).

For players training and/or competing overseas for a short period of time, the Auckland Coaching Team may approve International Representative Leave. See “International Representative Leave” subsection below for full eligibility criteria.

For players training and/or competing overseas for extended periods, the Auckland Coaching Team may approve an Overseas-Based Player Pathway. See “Overseas-Based Player Pathway” subsection below for full eligibility criteria.

All dispensation decisions are at the discretion of the Auckland Coaching Team.

International Representative Leave

International Representative Leave recognises players selected to represent New Zealand at official international events and ensures they are not disadvantaged in the Auckland Squad selection process due to national team duties.

International Representative Leave applies only to players who meet all the following criteria:

- The player has been officially selected to represent New Zealand; and
- The event is an official ITTF or WTT international tournament; and
- The event dates directly conflict with a maximum of one (1) Qualification Tournament session per term.

This provision applies to players within Auckland representative squads only and is assessed on a case-by-case basis for each tournament clash.

Players must notify the Auckland Coaching Team via email as soon as reasonably possible once national selection is confirmed. To be considered for approval, the player must provide written proof of selection and attendance. Acceptable documentation may include:

- An official national team selection letter.
- Tournament entry confirmation.
- Travel itinerary linked to the event.

Final approval of International Representative Leave rests with the Auckland Coaching Team.

International Representative Leave applies only to short-term absences resulting from New Zealand national representation duties and is separate from the Overseas-Based Player Pathway, which governs players residing and training abroad on an ongoing basis.

Overseas-Based Player Pathway

The Overseas-Based Player Pathway recognises Auckland players who are living and training abroad for extended periods while maintaining an active commitment to represent Auckland in the team age and open categories at the New Zealand Open. This pathway ensures these players remain connected to the Auckland performance system while pursuing high-level international training and competition opportunities.

The Overseas-Based Player Pathway applies to players who meet all the following criteria:

- The player resides overseas for most of the season; and
- The purpose of their time overseas is table tennis-related, including structured training or participation in recognised table tennis leagues or competitions; and
- The player maintains a confirmed commitment to represent Auckland at the New Zealand Open in the corresponding team events; and
- The player has previously represented Auckland and/or is part of the current Auckland representative squad system.

Eligibility is assessed on a case-by-case basis and must be formally approved by Auckland Squad management.

Overseas-Based Player Pathway status is granted on a seasonal basis only and must be renewed at the conclusion of each competition year.

Players seeking renewal must reconfirm:

- Their overseas training or competition arrangements; and
- Their ongoing commitment to represent Auckland.

Players approved under this pathway are required to provide monthly updates outlining their table tennis activities while overseas. This may include evidence such as:

- Training summaries.
- Competition results.
- League participation; or
- Coaching or club verification.

All submitted information will be documented as part of the player's annual squad record.

The Overseas-Based Player Pathway applies to long-term overseas residency and is separate from International Representative Leave, which covers short-term absences for New Zealand national team duties at ITTF or WTT events.

Squad System and Qualification Tournaments

The Overseas-Based Player Pathway is distinct from the standard Auckland squad system. Players approved under the Overseas-Based Player Pathway for a given year are no longer part of the regular squad group structure. They are not included in the normal promotion or relegation system that operates through qualification tournaments. The regular squad pathway is designed for domestic players who train and participate consistently throughout the year.

By opting for the Overseas-Based Player Pathway, a player acknowledges they will **not** participate in squad promotions or demotions during that year.

Overseas Pathway players are not required to compete in Qualification Tournaments 1 or 2 and cannot be promoted or relegated through them. If they choose to participate in any qualification tournament, it may only be Qualification Tournament 3. The purpose of Qualification Tournament 3 for Overseas Pathway players is solely to determine their ranking within their current squad, allowing coaches to allocate them to the appropriate team for the New Zealand Open. Results from Qualification Tournament 3 do not affect squad promotions or demotions.

This ensures fairness for domestic players who train year-round as a team at the Auckland Table Tennis Association, while giving overseas-based players a clear route to represent Auckland at the New Zealand Open without disrupting the domestic structure.

Qualification Tournaments and Play-Offs

Auckland Squad Qualification Tournaments are a core part of the selection process for each Auckland Squad level and provide players with the opportunity to be promoted to a higher level or demoted to a lower level.

There will be no dispensation for missing qualification tournaments or related play-off matches. If a player does not participate for any reason (including injury, illness, or unavailability) the outcome will be treated as if the player had competed and lost. Exceptions to this policy apply only to players approved under the Overseas-Based Player Pathway or to players approved on International Representative Leave. **Players approved under the Overseas-Based Player Pathway cannot be promoted or relegated through Qualification Tournaments 1, 2 or 3. Refer to the "Squad System and Qualification Tournaments" subsection above for full details.**

Players who are on International Representative Leave may arrange any unplayed Qualification Tournament matches under the following options:

- a) Matches may be played at the end of a scheduled Qualification tournament session;
- or
- b) Matches may be played at another mutually agreed time before the scheduled play-off event, with approval from the coach.

Any alternative match time must be approved in advance to ensure the coach is present to supervise the match.

If players are unable to agree on a suitable time, or if coach approval cannot be arranged, all remaining unplayed matches will be completed at the end of the Qualification Tournament session the player is able to attend.

Players may record their matches during Qualification Tournaments, provided they set up and operate their own recording device. Parents are not permitted to set up the device on the player's behalf. Video recordings will not be reviewed in the event of a dispute.

Players are responsible for keeping score. In the event of a significant scoring dispute, Auckland Squad coaches may assign an umpire to oversee the remainder of the match.

New Zealand Open Selection

Qualification Tournament 3 (QT3) is the team selection tournament. Results from QT3 are used to determine Auckland representative team selections and team order for the New Zealand Open each year.

Players accepted under the Overseas-Based Player Pathway may choose to return to New Zealand to compete in QT3 and be ranked for Auckland team selection in the same way as all other Auckland squad players.

If a player approved under the Overseas-Based Player Pathway chooses not to compete in QT3, they may remain at their current Squad level. However, for New Zealand Open team selection purposes, they will be treated as if they competed and lost and will be ranked last within their squad for team placement (Junior and Senior team events).

This approach recognises overseas training commitments while maintaining fairness in the selection process and provides a clear incentive for players to attend QT3.

Note: the ATTA will select one (1) Open Men's team and one (1) Open Women's team to compete in the Open Team event at the New Zealand Open.

Auckland Squad members who are not selected in the Open Men's or Open Women's teams, but who wish to enter a team in the Open Team event at the New Zealand Open, may arrange and fund their own team entry, subject to approval by the ATTA.

4. Auckland Squads – Training & Representation Fees

Option A: Full-Year Squad Members

Fees are charged as a fixed weekly rate regardless of exact session hours or attendance. Direct debit payments are spread over 12 months (training from mid-January to early December).

Elite Squads: \$12.42 per hour (2026 season)

Elite Squads Debit Success link:

<https://oc.debitsuccess.com/DirectEntry/DirectDebitRequest/Form?templateid=ccf50749-9346-43ee-a578-4d4c063a1d69>

Intermediate Squads: \$10.55 per hour (2026 season)

Intermediate Squads Debit Success link:

<https://oc.debitsuccess.com/DirectEntry/DirectDebitRequest/Form?templateid=e267a8fa-8ae8-47da-8966-51961312a94e>

Players who are no longer under 18 (as of 31 December of the previous year) may attend the Auckland Intermediate Squad or Auckland Elite Squad at no cost.

Option B: Guest Players (Mid-Year Entry)

Guest Players invited to join at random times during the year may participate on a weekly basis.

- Minimum payment: One week at a time, regardless of the number of sessions attended in any given week. A 20% weekly surcharge applies.
- If participation exceeds eight (8) weeks, payment must be made via Direct Debit by signing up through the relevant Debit Success link.

Option C: “Represent Only” Players (NZ Open)

Players who are not part of the year-round Auckland Squad but return primarily to represent Auckland at the New Zealand Open are required to pay a fixed administration and coaching fee, in addition to the standard expenses incurred by all Auckland Squad members to attend the event. This fee covers selection, administration, planning, and coaching support.

- Junior team events: \$300 per player
- Senior team events: \$300 per player

5. Final Provisions

Auckland Table Tennis Association has set up Auckland Squad WhatsApp Groups to help streamline communication, share updates, training notices, and other information.

Elite Squad Player & Parents’ WhatsApp Group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KxFieX1bCsg4waCwUX1zcf>

Intermediate Squad Parents’ WhatsApp Group:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/IQWgHdiGzn9IOiBlyv5U09>

A Squad Coaching page has been set up on the Auckland Table Tennis Association website:

<https://tabletennis.net.nz/coaching/squad-coaching/>

For general queries about the content of this Handbook please contact Dinyar Irani at pm@tabletennis.net.nz

Any matters not addressed in this document will be determined 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 . All requests will be reviewed, and the Auckland Coaching Team will provide a response.

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