



Established 1920

VICTORIAN WEIGHTLIFTING ASSOCIATION INC. SELECTION POLICY (ATHLETES) 2009

1.0 Objective

The objective of the Victorian Weightlifting Association (VWA) is to select the lifters who are most capable of producing medal-winning performances at national events subject to this selection process.

2.0 General Information

- 2.1 The VWA selection committee will consist of not less than three people. Selections will be subject to the endorsement of the Victorian Weightlifting Association (VWA) Governing Board.
- 2.2 To be eligible for selection to a VWA Team, athletes must:
 - 2.2.1 Be eligible to participate in any given National event, as a Victorian competitor pursuant to the VWA Constitution and By Laws and be eligible to compete for Victoria under AWF regulations.
 - 2.2.2 Sign and return by the due date the Team Membership Agreement;
 - 2.2.3 Agree to participate in the State team preparation procedures as advised by the VWA.
 - 2.2.4 All athletes must be available for sample collection pursuant to the World Anti Doping Code.
 - 2.2.5 Not to have breached the Anti-Doping Policies of the IWF and the AWF nor have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed.
 - 2.2.6 Be financial members of the VWA and not be under suspension at the time of the relevant event and assembly for that event.
 - 2.2.7 Compete in the Victorian Championships. Injury or major personal reason will be taken into account by the VWA selection committee.
- 2.3 Communication
 - 2.3.1 It is the responsibility of every athlete who has indicated their wish to be considered for selection to ensure that their full contact details have been provided to the VWA. This information is crucial to enable the monitoring of an athlete's progress, to be able to communicate important information to the athlete to ensure compliance with the obligations or providing whereabouts information in accordance with the AWF Anti-Doping policy and the World Anti-Doping Code.
 - 2.3.2 All correspondence should be forwarded to the Chairman of Selectors

2,3,3 It is also the ultimate responsibility of the athlete to communicate with the VWA's appointed Team Coach(s) as to the progress of their training and competition program and to provide a record of current results and performances achieved, particularly those relevant to the Specific Selection Criteria. In order to facilitate this process, such information may be forwarded through the VWA's Executive Director, if such position exists, or through the Chairman of Selectors.

3.0 Selection Date

As far as is possible, the VWA will advise all athletes selected in State Squads, at least 30 days prior to the respective National event.

Selection deadlines, and specific selection policies, where relevant, will be circulated widely as early as possible.

4.0 Maximum State Team Size

- 4.1 The selection of athletes for major National events will be subject to qualifications as per the rules of the AWF.
- 4.2 The VWA reserves the right to determine the maximum team size to be selected for each specific National competition.
- 4.3 No athlete, official or team can represent Victoria unless authorised by the State Selectors for each event and endorsed by the VWA.

5.0 Selection Criteria

Unless specified otherwise for particular events, the selection of athletes to a VWA State Team will be based on the following selection criteria. Each athlete to be selected will have to satisfy each specific requirement before consideration for selection. The time period for athletes to achieve qualifying totals will relate to the date of the relevant event and will be advised to all athletes as early as possible.

5.1 Specific Selection Criteria

Athlete's eligibility for selection will be determined by reference to the following:

5.1.1: The performance standard achieved by potential Team members during the four months prior to the date of selection, determined by measuring their competition performances as a percentage of the AWF Grading Standard. Athletes who achieve at least 100% of the minimum standard of the grading scale specified for an event will be automatically selected. The VWA reserves the right to select lifters who have not achieved the minimum standard for an event if it is deemed by the VWA to be in the best interest of the Team. Potential team members will be ranked according to their percentage of the minimum standards.

5.1.2: Special qualifying criteria, which may from time to time be published, can be used for specific events.

6.0 Selection Committee

- 6.1 The role of assessing athletes against the selection criteria is the responsibility of the VWA State Selection Committee that is appointed in accordance with VWA By-Laws and Policies.
- 6.2 All selections of State squads require the endorsement of the VWA Board
- 6.3 The Chairman of Selectors shall be responsible for facilitating and monitoring selection procedure in accordance with the policy and criteria and administering the process of endorsement and advice to athletes.

7.0 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 lifters' bodyweight categories, Team Officials, in consultation with the lifter(s) concerned, will consider the following:

- a) The preliminary list of entries;
- b) Information regarding expected changes to the preliminary list of entries which is known to be factual;
- c) The ability of the lifter(s) to decrease or increase their bodyweight, with respect to their health and well being and the likely effects on their competition performance.

All team members may be asked to contribute to their own participation costs in any VWA team depending upon the level of funding and sponsorship available to the VWA. The VWA reserves the right to fully or partially fund, or give no funding assistance whatsoever, to any member of any VWA team.

Unless otherwise stated by the VWA, only results achieved at National, National & State/Territory Calendar Events listed on the IWF, AWF or official State/Territory Association calendars will be considered as competition performances for consideration of selection in regard to VWA Teams and Squads.

8.0 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 VWA Board. If approved, the Chairman of Selectors will disseminate widely 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 State Squads or Teams has two tiers, with the appeal first being heard by the Victorian Weightlifting Association Inc. Appeals Tribunal (appointed by the VWA 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 State Squad or Team should be made to the Victorian Weightlifting Association's Chairman of Selectors (COS) under the following procedure:-

1. The appellant must give written notice of his/her appeal to the COS 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 COS the grounds of that appeal accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of \$50 payable to the Victorian Weightlifting Association Inc.
3. The VWA Appeal Tribunal will comprise the following persons appointed by the VWA 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 National competition experience either as an official or athlete.
 - 3.3. One other person of experience and skills suitable to the function of the VWA Appeal Tribunal.
 - 3.4. The VWA Executive Director, if such position exists, or, in its absence such other person as the VWA President determines, to act as Secretary to the Tribunal. This person has no voting or procedural role in the Tribunal.

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

4. The VWA Appeal Tribunal will convene a hearing as soon as possible after the submission of the grounds of appeal. The hearing may occur in such a manner as the Chairman decides, including telephone or video conferencing. The VWA Appeal Tribunal is not bound by the rules of evidence but must observe the principles of procedural fairness.
5. Prior to the hearing, the VWA Selection Committee will provide the VWA Appeal Tribunal and the appellant with a written statement as to the reasons for the decision against which the appeal is made.
6. The VWA Appeal Tribunal will give its decision as soon as practicable after the hearing and will provide the VWA and the appellant with a statement of the reasons for its decision.
7. The Appeal Tribunal shall give the appellant and the VWA 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 that the VWA Selection Committee again consider the selection of the relevant National Team or Squad.

Subject to such direction, any further selection decision of the VWA 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 time 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 VWA 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 VWA 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 VWA, for an extension of time in which to commence such an appeal. The VWA may grant such an extension of time only in the case of extenuating circumstances outside the control of the athlete concerned.

AS AT MARCH 2009 THE SELECTION PANEL IS AS FOLLOWS:

Chairman of Selectors:

Mark Blair
PO Box 7
Hawthorn VIC 3122

Phone: 03 9819 5599
Email: mark.blair@vicweightlifting.com

Selectors:

Anthony Dove
Michael Noonan