



NRL VICTORIA

2025 STATE REPRESENTATIVE PLAYER SELECTION POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

- 1.1 This document outlines NRL Victoria's policy, operational process and procedures for selection of players to participate in NRL Victoria representative programs for 2025.
- 1.2 This policy only applies to the specified teams and/or squads that are selected under the auspices of NRL Victoria as defined within this policy.
- 1.3 Selection of any other representative teams/squads not explicitly specified within this policy but falls under the auspices of NRL Victoria shall not be applicable to this policy. Should such teams require selection to be made, NRL Victoria shall advise at time of recruitment for players the process and policy for selection.

2. NRL Victoria Representative Teams/Squads

- 2.1 The teams/squads that this policy applies to shall be the following:
 - Melbourne Storm 21s Junior Representative Squad and Team
 - Melbourne Storm 19s Junior Representative Squad and Team
 - Melbourne Storm 17s Junior Representative Squad and Team
 - Victorian Senior Men's Squad and Team
 - Victorian Senior Women's Squad and Team
 - Combined Affiliated States (CAS) Senior Men's Squad and Team
 - Victorian Schoolboys 18 Years & Under Squad and Team
 - Victorian U18s Schoolgirls Squad and Team
 - Victorian U16s Schoolgirls Squad and Team
 - Combined Affiliated States (CAS) Schoolboys 17 Years & Under Squad and Team
 - Victorian Boys 17 Years & Under Squad and Team
 - Victorian Schoolboys 15 Years & Under Squad and Team
 - NRL VIC Academy Squad and Team for any Age Group, Male or Female
 - Any other squad and team NRL VIC determine that is applicable under this policy and is advised in writing prior to selection of Squad and Team
- 2.2 Any program run by School Sport Victoria (SSV) for participation in school teams run by SSV are not operated by NRL Victoria and falls under SSV's selection policy and guidelines.

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3. Selectors

- 3.1 Selectors for each team/squad listed in 2.1 shall as minimum consist of the NRL Victoria Pathways and Education Coordinator and the respective Head Coach appointed to team/squad.
- 3.2 The NRL Victoria Pathways and Education Coordinator at their sole discretion may formally appoint additional selector(s) to those in 3.1, including but not limited to assistant coaches, team managers, other NRL and NRL Victoria staff. Should this occur this will be formally notified on team/squad application process for players.

4 Player Selection Conditions

- 4.1 To be selected for any team/squad in 2.1, a player must:
- a. meet the age requirements of the respective team.
 - b. be registered to a NRL Victoria affiliated club.
 - c. play matches for a NRL Victoria affiliated club during 2025 season.
 - d. comply with conditions of registering and participation in any selection trials. (Note 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4).
 - e. for Victorian U18s and U15s Schoolboys Squads and Victorian U18s and U16s Schoolgirls Squads and Teams only, players must be enrolled and attend a Victorian Secondary School and must obtain from their School Principal a signed and completed Eligibility and Verification form, which includes confirmation of age, behaviour, and attendance at school is of suitable standard (as determined by individual player's school) to be a good ambassador for Victorian schools.
 - f. any player involved in a pathway program not approved by NRL Victoria and Melbourne Storm are ineligible to trial and ineligible for selection.
 - g. comply with all NRL Victoria codes, policies, rules and regulations, including Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 A player may be selected into a team/squad without having participated in selection trials due to personal or special circumstances. Such circumstances shall only be approved by

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NRL Victoria General Manager upon application via the NRL Victoria Pathways and Education Coordinator. NOTE: the NRL Victoria General Manager may deem such circumstances to be of a private matter that requires details to be kept confidential.

- 4.3 Teams/squads in 2.1 may have a trial that is “open” to all potential participants compliant with 4.1. Additional trials for players on an invitational only basis shall be made at the determination and sole discretion of Selectors. Players may be invited to the additional invitational only trials without having to attend the “open” trials as directed by the Selectors at their sole discretion for reasons identified under 4.2 and/or due to previous performance in Representative Teams.
- 4.4 Any player who is participating under dispensation (whether it be NRL VIC’s Age Dispensation Policy or the NRL’s 18 Month Registration Policy) are not eligible for selection.

5. Selection

- 5.1 Due to the complex, multi-faceted and variable nature of the game, selection will involve subjective assessment by the Selectors. This may not necessarily mean the “best” available participant is selected as there are numerous intangible measures that may come into consideration. This may include, but not limited to, team/squad make up, team/squad cohesion/fit, attitude, behaviour, potential for improvement throughout program, etc.
- 5.2 Upon request, Selectors must make themselves available to advise areas for improvement to non-selected players of respective team/squad – this does not apply to the initial or open trial, only following selection of the train-on squad and subsequently non-selected players. This process is not to be used by affected participants for debating merits of selection/non-selection that are subjective and any serious breach by affected participants not compliant with Code of Conduct will be dealt with under that code.

6. Appeal/Dispute

- 6.1 Any Appeal/Dispute regarding selection must be sent to NRL Victoria General Manager subject to the following:
- a. application is made in writing



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- b. appeal/dispute ONLY relates to a discrepancy of process within this policy or application of policy. Any appeal/dispute regarding subjective assessment of Selectors will NOT be accepted.

- c. explicit evidence and/or evidence that is provided from source independent of appellant/complainant is supplied with the application. An expression of views or opinion of selection will NOT be considered as evidence.