

PNZ Representative and Coaching Structure



Introduction

The new PNZ representative/coaching structure will be implemented from July 2008.

The aim is to move to a more structured and professional approach to our sport; an approach that not only chooses players to represent New Zealand but one that provides ongoing support for these players, through coaching. This will enable us to prepare our best performing athletes to compete on the international stage with other nations on an even footing.

Our aim is to also provide coaches throughout the country at regional and club levels. They will be accessible to all our members and it is hoped that this will provide the platform for you to discuss your goals and work with someone to achieve them.

On the face of it this is all good stuff, but let me assure you, there is no magic pill for achieving excellence; this comes from dedication, single mindedness and a lot of hard work. So for you to get anything out of this new structure you will have to contribute your bit.

I believe this structure and its processes make the compilation of our representative teams a completely comprehensive and objective exercise, where the players themselves will be able to see what they need to do at every phase to make the cut.

It will take longer than a year to implement the structure in its entirety and integration of representative teams will be successive. However, the basic processes are in place in the first year and will remain unchanged.

We recognize funding of this process and representative teams is a key issue in any structure. Accordingly this is high on our priority list and one that we will continue to work on throughout the development of this structure.

PNZ as an organisation has relatively small revenue. However, this does not limit or reflect their commitment. By way of recognition to their future commitment to the process, PNZ:

- has established an International Representative Fund
- will continue to apply for funding and sponsorship
- investigate innovative ways to create revenue

It will take time to build up the International Representative Fund but for the 2009 season is committed to provide the following minimum funding:

- \$100 per player, Trans Tasman Challenge
- \$100 per player, Singapore/Asian Championships or similar
- \$200 per player, World Championships

Ideally PNZ would like to be able to fully fund every event but without sustainable and sufficient revenue, this cannot be guaranteed. This is an unfortunate reality for any minority sport and players need to consider the cost implications to them, before deciding on participation in the representation process.

To offset some of the running costs of this structure, there is a non-refundable \$50 fee for all players who register for representation. Any surplus after the running costs have been covered will be put into the International Representative Fund.

There is also a deposit of \$500 for the 12 players attending the assessment camp (see Phase 3). Of course those players not selected for the squad of 8 players (see Phase 4) will receive a full refund. Similarly, should there be sufficient sponsorship and fund raising to cover costs, the squad could eventually receive a refund also.

If anyone would like to discuss funding or would like budget advice, they can contact Bryan Wells at bawells@xtra.co.nz

So, to all those promising, Bruno Rochers, Philippe Quantais or Philippe Suchauds out there, who want to continue on their development path and vie for representation; good luck and always strive to do your best.

As I said earlier the success of any program lies with the commitment of the participants, that's you!

Murray Porter
Technical Director of Representation (TDR)
May 2008

PNZ Representative and Coaching Structure

We will look to integrate all representative groups into this structure over time, but for the first year it is applicable to the open and female representative groups only, to enable a concentrated focus on bedding in the system.

A. Representative groups:

- Open representative group (all players) - (applicable from 2008)
- Female representative group (all females) - (applicable from 2008)
- Senior Representative group (over 60 years) - (status quo, with a view to integrate in subsequent years)
- Youth representative group (under 30 years) - (pilot group in November 2008 with a view to integrate in subsequent years)

B. Phase 1 - Registration

All affiliated players can vie for representation as follows:

1. Player completes PNZ representation form and pays \$50 fee to PNZ by 31st July 2008. From hereon in a player can only register for one group i.e. open, female or senior or youth.
2. Registered player to meet with regional coach to discuss goals for the season
3. Regional coach to set an individual player plan that aligns with these goals

C. Phase 2 - Individual Assessments

During this phase players will compete in various domestic competitions. The objective is to get the highest placing possible to maximize point accumulation. At the conclusion of this phase a player's cumulative points are compared to those of their peers.

For 2008/2009 players can earn points in three ways:

1. Individual skills test measurements at a regional assessment day
2. Finishing position in one domestic competition (applicable tournaments are highlighted on the PNZ tournament calendar)
3. Finishing position in nationals

Note: Points will be earned through a graduated process, similar to points earned at national tournaments presently. However, more points will be applicable to nationals than domestic tournaments. More detail on the point system will be available before the start of the season.

Step 1: Regional Assessment Day

- Date is **21st September 2008**, local venue (TBC)
- Format is standardised and is a measurement of player's individual skills
- All measurements and points earned are sent to the Technical Director Representation (TDR) for compilation

Step 2: Domestic Competitions

- Points awarded for finishing position
- Applicable tournaments for this year are highlighted on the PNZ tournament calendar

Step 3: National Competition

- Points awarded for finishing position as per step two
- Applicable national tournaments for this year:
 - National Doubles (Nov 2008)

Step 4: Inter Regional Competitions

This will form part of the structure in 2009 onwards

The TDR will rank player's scores from all of the above. The highest ranked 12 players, in each group, will be invited to continue to Phase 3.

D. Phase 3 - Assessment camp one

Comprises:

- 12 chosen players from the open representative group
- 12 chosen players from the female representative group

This camp weekend will be used to measure the players performing skills and playing games under pressure. The objective is to determine a squad of players who will represent NZ for 2009.

1. These players will pay **\$500 deposit** to PNZ by **17th February**. Players who are not selected after the weekend will be fully refunded.
2. Camp will be held on **21st & 22nd February at Herne Bay, Auckland**
3. All players begin the camp with zero points, thus all start from scratch again and compete under the same conditions
4. 8 players, from each group, will be chosen to represent NZ in 2009 and will proceed to Phase 4

A squad, comprising 8 players from each group will represent NZ and continue to Phase 4

E. Phase 4 - Squad Camp two

This camp weekend will be used to measure the squad playing games under pressure. The objective is to determine the next performing combinations to represent NZ for 2009.

1. The squad will be configured into teams and will compete against each other in both games and exercises
2. Camp will be held on **14th & 15th March at Herne Bay, Auckland**
3. Combinations may change depending on compatibility and performance
4. A coach for each team will be appointed

F. Phase 5 - Preparation for representative teams

At the conclusion of the squad camp, the team compositions will be confirmed for the following tournaments, or as applicable to the season:

For open and female representative groups:

- 6 players for the Trans Tasman Challenge
- 4 players for Asian games (or similar)
- 4 players for Singapore (or similar)

The team to represent NZ at the World Championships will be formed from:

- Four of the six players, competing in the Trans Tasman (T/T) Challenge
- The same triples combinations (of the T/T) will compete in the National Triples
- The team of four will be announced after the T/T challenge

Coaching

All representative teams will be allocated a coach.

On going coaching and support is synonymous with representation. It is the aim of this process to develop teams over time that will stick together with their assigned coaches. The objective is to build a stronger team based structure for representation.