



# 2025 STATE OF ORIGIN PLAYER SELECTION POLICY OPEN & YOUTH DIVISIONS

## 1. PREAMBLE

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- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to ensure a fair and equitable process is undertaken for the selection of the Queensland State of Origin teams.
- 1.2. The policy will cover two distinct groups being – Open & Youth (20s) Divisions.

## 2. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

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- 2.1 Players who wish to play in the 2025 State of Origin series must satisfy the eligibility requirements which include:
  - 2.1.1 A player must meet player eligibility to play in State of Origin as outlined in SOO Conditions of Entry, and
  - 2.1.2 A player must be age eligible at or before the 31 December in the year of the SOO (ie 2025) to play in division. EG: Player must be 20 or under to play Under 20s division. Note: The minimum age for a player at State of Origin is 16 years at the time of competition.

## 3. SELECTION POLICY

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- 3.1 Players who wish to be considered for State of Origin selection shall be required to compete and be assessed in at least **one** of the following, noting that the Queensland State Cup event is the **mandatory** \* event for selection purposes and athletes are required to attend. Other events may be considered secondary events for TID purposes.
  - Queensland State Cup\*
  - Other Events, as approved by QTF.
- 3.2 All intending Queensland Open & Youth SOO players must have satisfied the eligibility requirements for Australian selection, as per [FIT Player Eligibility](#).

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- 3.3. Players who are unavailable to attend a TID or State of Origin selection event may submit a letter of dispensation in writing to the QTF State of Origin Manager for approval to still be considered.
- 3.4. The Selection Policy and its relevant processes shall be overseen by the QTF State of Origin Manager and the QTF High Performance Panel.
- 3.5. Players who make themselves available for State of Origin selection may be selected in any team they are eligible for as determined by the QTF High Performance Panel.
- 3.6. Where a player has been selected in a State of Origin team and subsequently withdraws from that team with a valid excuse, such player shall be deemed ineligible for selection in any other State of Origin team for that series.
- 3.7. Where a player has been selected in a State of Origin team and subsequently withdraws from that team without a valid excuse, such player shall be deemed ineligible for selection in any other State of Origin team for that series and, shall show cause why they should be considered for any further High Performance teams.
- 3.8. In accordance with the Head Coach Selection Policy personnel appointed to State of Origin coaching or management positions shall be ineligible to be selected as a player in any State of Origin team.

#### **4. SELECTION PROCESS**

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- 4.1. The selection / TID process shall be undertaken by the Head Coach and his duly appointed Assistant Coach in each of the relevant divisions. The QTF High Performance Panel will oversee the process and be a part of all deliberations in all divisions. (Note: High Performance outcomes shall be the priority in all selection deliberations and final decisions).
- 4.2. Selections will take into consideration the criteria provided by the Head Coach of the relevant division. Head Coaches shall be required to provide a team selection criterion to the QTF State of Origin Manager prior to undertaking any TID or selection process.



- 4.3. The selection process shall be conducted via an appropriate TID process.
- 4.4. All Head Coaches and relevant selectors shall document their justifications for every player they consider suitable for any State of Origin team. Such justifications will assist in the formation of teams.
- 4.5. Open Team selection will occur in the following order:
  - 4.5.1 Men's Open, Women's Open
  - 4.5.2 Mixed Open
  - 4.5.3 Men's 20, Women's 20
- 4.6. Final TID for the State of Origin teams shall conclude at the completion of the **2024 Queensland State Cup** and a **squad of 24 players** will be named in each division.
- 4.7. The relevant QTF High Performance Panel member will coordinate selection meetings with the Head Coaches in the order listed in clause 4.5. Players not selected in one division may then be selected in another division, subject to the player's eligibility and in accordance with High Performance program outcomes.
- 4.8. Twenty-four (24) players shall be invited to attend the final team selection camp(s). Notice will be provided of Selection Camps. *(Note – players shall be required to confirm their acceptance of the invitation to attend the final camp within 7 days of receiving notice).*
- 4.9. The first Selection Camp shall be for Open Men's & Women's divisions only and players who fail to make the Opens teams from this camp shall also be afforded the opportunity to attend the subsequent second Selection Camp where the Open Mixed, 20s Men's and Women's and Masters teams shall be selected.
- 4.10. At the conclusion, of the first Selection Camp, Head Coaches with input from QTF High Performance Panel member shall submit a team list of **fourteen (14) players and six (6) shadow players** to the QTF State of Origin Manager who shall seek ratification from QTF Board.
- 4.11. All Queensland State of Origin teams shall be announced via the Qld Touch Football website when all teams are finalised and until that time, strict confidentiality applies to all involved in the process.



- 4.12. Upon announcement of the teams all selected players shall, within the communicated timeframe, be required to confirm their availability to serve as final confirmation of selection, including payment of deposit at the time of acceptance and payment of the remaining levy by due date.
- 4.13. A panel consisting of the QTF State of Origin Manager, QTF High Performance Panel, and other nominee as determined by QTF, shall to be established to facilitate and manage all selection disputes and or dispensation requests.

## **5. REPLACEMENT OF PLAYERS**

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- 5.1. Should a player withdraw from a SOO team the replacement method shall follow the process below –
  - 5.1.1 The Head Coach contacts the QTF State of Origin Manager and notifies them of the withdrawal including relevant reasons. (Note – Players may be asked to provide documentary evidence of the reason of withdrawal if applicable).
  - 5.1.2 The Head Coach selects a replacement player from either the Mixed or 20s teams (provided it is not within 2 weeks of the event unless Coaches from both teams agree on the replacement) or the available shadows. (Note - All replacements must come from the shadow list first and foremost; and additional players may be considered only after this list is exhausted).
  - 5.1.3 At all times, High Performance outcomes should take priority when replacing players and the QTF State of Origin Manager, with advice from the QTF High Performance Panel, will have the final decision on any replacement player.
- 5.2. Should a player withdraw from the initial squad the replacement method shall follow the process below –
  - 5.2.1 The Head Coach contacts the QTF State of Origin Manager and a replacement is chosen from the shadow list.