

Surfing New Zealand National Team Selection Policy 2026



Updated 22 Jan 2026

Purpose

This policy will be used to determine team members who will represent New Zealand in national surfing teams.

Olympic Games qualification, nomination and selection is determined by separate policy on a Games-by-Games basis.

1.0 National Teams Convenor's Role

- 1.1 Surfing New Zealand will appoint a National Teams Convenor every two years.
- 1.2 The National Convenor will be responsible for providing all information, results, and statistics to the SNZ Chief Executive regarding the selection of National Teams.
- 1.3 The National Teams Convenor will determine the size of any team to represent New Zealand.
- 1.4 The National Teams Convenor must not have a vested interest in the outcome of the team selection. E.g., Family ties, sponsors, business associates or anyone who has an expectation of financial or other gain from the team member's inclusion.

2.0 Team Announcement Process

- 2.1 Applicable dates in relation to the naming of squads/teams for international events will be notified once respective event dates and locations are confirmed.
- 2.2 All international events will be advertised on the SNZ website and social media platforms.
- 2.3 Final team selection shall be signed off by the SNZ Chief Executive after consultation with the National Teams Convenor
- 2.4 Successful team members will be notified by formal letter from the SNZ Chief Executive of their inclusion in the New Zealand Team.
- 2.5 Athletes must confirm their place in the team by notifying the National Teams Convenor in writing within seven days of receipt of the official notification letter. If athletes are unavailable or choose not to compete, their place will then go to the next athlete in line for selection.
- 2.6 The team (including non-travelling reserves) along with management/coaching staff may be required to attend team training camp/s (if any) before the team depart for international competition.

3.0 New Zealand Open Team Selection Criteria

Quota	Selection Events
Quota 1	Top 3 athletes on the previous year's WSL Championship Tour

Quota 2	Top 3 athletes on the previous year's WSL Challenger Series
Quota 3	Top 3 athletes on the current year's WSL Australia / Oceania Qualifying Series provided they meet the athlete quality control ranking of being inside the top 35 men and top 30 women*
Quota 4	Current National Champion
Quota 5	Top ranked athletes on the current year NZ Surf Series*

Note: In an Olympic year, qualified athletes must represent New Zealand at the World Surfing Games and they become quota 1 for that year.

* A minimum of three events must be completed on the WSL Australia / Oceania Qualifying Series or NZ Surf Series to count toward the qualification criteria. If three events have not been completed, the qualification quota will default to the rankings from the previous year.

* Surfers must be surfing under the New Zealand flag in the year of qualification via the WSL quota.

* If there is a tie in the rankings, the quota place will go to the athlete with the most heat wins then event wins, then head-to-head match ups.

3.a. If an athlete double qualifies via the above criteria, the next highest ranked athlete via quota place will be offered the team spot. This clause does not apply to the runner up at the National Championships.

3.b. Where an athlete withdraws from the team or is unable to compete as a result of injury, they will be replaced by the next highest athlete according to the above criteria.

4.0 New Zealand Junior Team Selection Criteria

Quota	Selection Events
Division	Under 18
Quota 1	Top three athletes on the WSL Australia / Oceania Junior Tour provided they meet the athlete quality control ranking of the top 20 for boys and top 10 girls
Quota 2	Current National Champion
Quota 3	Top ranked athletes on the NZ Grom Series (Under 18)**
Division	Under 16
Quota 1	Current National Champion
Quota 2	Top two athletes on the NZ Grom Series (Under 16)

* A minimum of two events must be completed on the WSL Australia / Oceania Junior Series to count toward the selection criteria. NOTE: Surfers must be surfing under the New Zealand flag in the year of qualification via the WSL quota.

** A minimum of three events must be completed on the NZ Grom Series to count toward the qualification criteria.

** If there is a tie in the rankings the quota place will go to the surfer with the most heat wins, then event wins then head-to-head match ups.

- 4.a If an athlete double qualifies via the above criteria, the next highest athlete will be granted the team spot. This does not apply to the runner up at the National Championships.
- 4.b Athletes must compete in the division they qualify.
- 4.c If a surfer qualifies in two divisions, they must select which division they contest.
- 4.d Where an athlete withdraws from selection or is unable to compete as a result of injury, they will be replaced with the next highest ranked athlete according to the above criteria.

5.0 New Zealand Longboard Surfing Team Qualification Criteria

Quota	Qualification Events
Quota 1	Top 2 athletes on the previous year's WSL Longboard Tour / WSL Australia / Oceania Longboard Qualifying Series provided they meet the athlete quality control ranking of being inside the top 10 men and top 5 women.
Quota 2	Highest placed NZ Citizen at the New Zealand Festival of Longboarding
Quota 3	Current NZ Longboard Series Leader at time of selection

* Surfers must be surfing under the New Zealand flag in the year of qualification via the WSL quota.

- 5.a If an athlete double qualifies via the above criteria, the next highest athlete will be granted the team spot. This does not apply to the 2nd highest finisher at the New Zealand Festival of Longboarding.
- 5.b A minimum of two events must be completed on the Australia / Oceania Longboard Qualifying Series and NZ Longboard Series to count toward the selection criteria *If two events have not been completed, the qualification reverts to the previous year.

6.0 New Zealand Stand Up Paddle Boarding (SUP) Team Selection Criteria

The National Convenor will take into consideration the following when selecting national teams for Stand Up Paddleboarding events:

- I. The top two athletes (male and female) at the Surfing New Zealand National Championships. This event will be the sole selection event for the SUP surfing team members.
- II. The annual NZ SUP Inc. Nationals will be the sole selection event for the SUP Racing Divisions.

- 6.a The National Teams Convenor will determine the composition of the team (divisions entered, and number and gender of athletes) in accordance with the requirements specified by the contest for which the athletes will be selected.
- 6.b Reserves will be named in the team announcement and receive official notification letters but will not travel with the team except as set out in the following clause.

6.c Athletes must confirm their place in the team by notifying the National Teams Convenor in writing within seven days of receipt of the official notification letter. If athletes are unavailable or choose not to compete, their place will go to the next athlete in line for selection.

7.0 New Zealand Prone Paddleboarding Team Selection Criteria

The criteria below will be used to select Prone Paddleboarding athletes for the ISA Stand Up Paddle and Prone Paddleboard World Championships:

- 7.1 Results at previous ISA Prone Paddleboarding events
- 7.2 Results at trial event/s held in the lead up to the ISA World Championships
- 7.3 Performances and results from members competing in international prone paddleboarding events
- 7.4 Professionalism, commitment, compatibility and general suitability to represent New Zealand on the world stage.
- 7.5 Such other factors as the National Convenor considers relevant.
- 7.6 There is no obligation on any athlete seeking selection in the New Zealand Prone Paddleboarding Team to compete in all of the events listed in 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 above.

8.0 Māori Team Selection Criteria

The criteria below will be used to name Māori athletes for indigenous events:

- 8.1 Results at the most recent Aotearoa Māori Surfing Titles
- 8.2 Current national ranking at SNZ sanctioned events e.g. NZ Surf Series, NZ Longboard Series and NZ Grom Series.
- 8.3 Professionalism, commitment, compatibility and general suitability to represent New Zealand on the world surfing stage.

9.0 Master Surfing Team Selection Criteria

The criteria below will be used to name Masters age group athletes for ISA events:

- 9.1 Current national ranking at SNZ National Championships in year of event or previous year if the Nationals has not been held at least 3 months prior to the ISA World Masters Championships
- 9.2 Professionalism, commitment, compatibility and general suitability to represent New Zealand on the world surfing stage.

10.0 Extenuating Circumstances

- 10.1 In considering the results of athletes at surfing and SUP events required under this policy, the National Convenor may in their discretion give weight to extenuating circumstances. For this policy, “extenuating circumstances” means an inability of the athlete to compete in and/or attend events arising from:
 - a) Injury or illness of the athlete.
 - b) Equipment failure during an event.
 - c) Travel delays causing an athlete to miss a key event.
 - d) Bereavement

e) Such other circumstances as the National Convenor and SNZ Chief Executive reasonably considers constitutes extenuating circumstances.

10.2 Athletes who are unable to compete in and/or attend events or other required attendances, must advise the National Teams Convenor, in writing, of this fact and the reasons before the commencement of the event or, if it occurs within twelve (12) hours prior to the event, as soon as possible after it arises.

10.3 In the case of injury or illness, athletes will be required to undergo a medical assessment by a doctor before the National Convenor can give any weight to any extenuating circumstances.

11.0 New Zealand Team Guidelines

11.1 An athlete must be a New Zealand Citizen

11.2 An athlete must be a member of Surfing New Zealand and be in good standing with the organisation.

11.3 An athlete must display a professional behaviour and attitude and the ability to represent Surfing New Zealand on the world stage.

11.4 An athlete must satisfy the eligibility requirements of the event organiser to compete in their respective divisions. All ages are taken as at the 1st of January of the year the competition is held in, unless otherwise stated by the event organiser.

11.5 Team members are required to sign a “Declaration of Responsibility” form and “SNZ Code of Conduct” form agreeing to their role as a member of a New Zealand Team. This contract will outline what is to be expected of members of the team during their duration with the team and while representing New Zealand internationally.

11.6 Team members need to be aware that Surfing New Zealand does not condone the use of illegal and/or performance enhancing drugs, underage drinking or activities that could jeopardise the sport of surfing.

11.7 SNZ has the right to test any team member for the use of any illegal performance enhancing drugs under the New Zealand Sports Anti-Doping Policy.

11.8 In the case of a team member incurring injury or incapacity to compete at the highest level in the lead up to an international event, the athlete will be required to pass a medical screening and fitness test to prove they are capable of competing at the highest level.

11.9 In the case that the injured athlete cannot represent New Zealand, the non-travelling reserve will be selected, and a new reserve will be named.

11.10 Unless SNZ or SUP NZ Inc. attains funding to send a team to the international event, team members will be required to fund their own tour expenses.

11.11 Any qualified athlete may be removed from a national surfing team or squad by the National Teams Convenor, as the circumstances may require, including where the team member has failed meeting the qualification outlined in section 3 - 9 above.

12.0 Appeals

- 12.1 An athlete who is eligible for qualification to represent New Zealand at international surfing competitions and who fails to obtain his/her quota place may appeal against the failure of the National Convenor to comply with the procedures set down in this policy.
- 12.2 An athlete wishing to appeal under Clause 11.1 above must give written notice of their appeal (Appeal Notice) to the SNZ Chief Executive within five (5) working days of the formal announcement of the National Convenor's decision.
- 12.3 Within two (2) working days of the Chief Executive receiving the Appeal Notice, the Chief Executive shall consult with the athlete and arrange a meeting between the athlete, the Chief Executive and their representatives (if any) at which meeting the parties shall endeavour to resolve the appeal by further discussions. Such meeting (which may be held in person or by telephone) should be held as soon as possible but within ten working days of the Appeal Notice being received by the Chief Executive.
- 12.4 The meeting referred to in Clause 11.3 above shall be held on a confidential without prejudice basis so that the content of it may not be used in the appeal referred to in Clauses 11.5 and 11.6 below.
- 12.5 If the appeal is not resolved at the meeting held pursuant to Clause 11.3 and the athlete wishes to proceed further to a hearing, the athlete shall file a complaint to the Sport Integrity Commission. Any complaint to the Sport Integrity Commission must be made within three (3) working days of the meeting referred to in Clause 11.3.
- 12.6 The complaint to the Sport Integrity Commission shall be heard and determined in accordance with the rules of the Sport Integrity Commission.