

MASTERS INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY SELECTION POLICY

PLAYERS

With the ever increasing popularity of 'Masters Hockey' and the formal recognition of it at national level by England Hockey Board and FIH the following course of action regarding the process for selection were approved by the Masters Teams Committee (MTC). At all times the selection process needs to be transparent and fair. Masters hockey is about the continued development of individuals deemed under FIH rules to be available for selection at age 40 and over and the ability for them to be able to compete competitively with their peers. When implementing these processes individuals should not forget the spirit of Masters Hockey.

1. OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 To select players that will form teams to achieve the best possible results for EHB Masters at international matches, tournaments and competitions.
- 1.2 To employ an open and fair selection process that gives all players a chance to challenge for international selection.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 To be eligible for selection, a player must hold, or be eligible to hold, a British Passport.
- 2.2 For EHB Masters selection, the player must be eligible under current regulations and not have played for another senior international team in an FIH competition in the previous three years.
- 2.3 With the exception of the teams in the oldest age groups for both genders where there shall be no upper age limit, the players selected must be within the five year age range in which their age shall be deemed to fall. All players shall be deemed to have attained a particular age on the 1st January immediately prior to their actually attaining that age (unless their birthday falls on a 1st January in which case their actual date of birth shall apply).

3. SELECTION FRAMEWORK

- 3.1 Hockey is a team sport and therefore whilst a player can develop their individual game, it must be recognised that players need to be able to realise their potential within a team environment. Therefore the blend of the team which combines the individual abilities of the players together with other factors such as players being able to play in more than one position, availability, commitment, being able to afford to play (Masters hockey is self-funding) and the ability to implement tactical requirements are as important as the players' individual skill levels.
- 3.2 EHB Selectors should use the regional and national events as a basis to draw England players from but it should be recognised that players can be accessed through any other means that the Selectors believe is reasonable.

- 3.3** The aim should be wherever possible to have a Regional Tournament (RT) implemented at all age levels.
- 3.4** All Regions should be invited to propose players to go to trials for consideration by the Selectors. Players must be nominated and will be selected within the five year age range band in which their age is deemed to fall i.e. 40 – 44 years, 45 – 49 years, etc
- 3.5** Selectors should publicise the trial date(s) and when selected the squad of an appropriate number of players. Players not selected should also receive notification of this from the Selectors at the same time as notification of the selected squad is publicised. Players not able to attend the RT may be included in the trials.
- 3.6** The Selectors shall appoint the Captain of each age group on behalf of the MTC.

The above process has been drawn up to reflect the England Hockey Board Selection Policy whilst maintaining the spirit of Masters hockey. It should be noted that this Selection Policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the MTC or as and when circumstances require.

England Hockey Board Masters Team Committee

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