



Squash Australia National Junior Talent Squads

Selection Process and Criteria

Background

Squash Australia's National Junior Talent Squads are aimed at supporting a group of players with the potential to represent Australia in the Team Event at the World Junior Championships. Each Talent Squad will attend camps, have access to coaching support and other central AIS & Squash Australia resources to work towards achieving success as part of an Australian Team at the World Junior Championships (WJC).

National Junior Talent Squad Activities

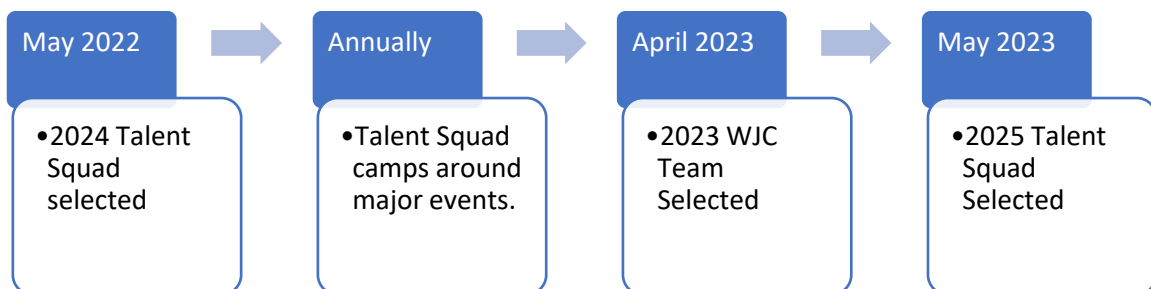
The players selected in the National Junior Talent Squad (which will be commonly referred to as "Talent Squad") will be invited to attend training camps with National Coaches throughout the year. These will occur where possible alongside national events, such as the AJC and AJO.

Jenny Duncalf (National Pathways Coach), will lead the Talent Squad. Outside of in-person support during camps, the National Pathways Coach will provide the relevant coaching support, mentoring and guidance for each Talent Squad athlete and their coach, parents and support team. The extent of this support will vary for each athlete based on individual circumstances.

Annual Timeline

- Each Talent Squad will run for two years to prepare players for the team event at the WJC.
- There will be two Talent Squads in place year-round. Every May, a new Talent Squad will be selected to target the WJC two years away.
- The current year's Talent Squad will conclude each May when athlete categorisation is updated, given that the team for that year's WJC will have been selected.

Sample Timeline





Selection Process

The Squash Australia High Performance Team, in consultation with the State Performance Pathway Coordinators and/or state & territory pathway leads, will select a National Junior Talent squad for each WJC Team Event in the following two (2) years.

A new Talent Squad will be selected in May each year and reviewed every six months until the Australian Junior Team is selected for the WJC of that Talent Squad's year.

In selecting each Talent Squad, the Squash Australia High Performance Team will be heavily reliant on the feedback from State Pathway Leads in determining which athletes under consideration have fulfilled all selection criteria detailed below.

There is no requirement for athletes to self-nominate for the Talent Squad. Given athletes are required to perform consistently well at AJST events, they will be well-known to the Squash Australia High Performance Team, State Performance Pathway Coordinators and state & territory pathway leads.

National Junior Talent Squad Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

- Must not turn 19 before 25 July of the year of the WJC targeted by the Talent Squad
- Must meet World Squash eligibility requirements to represent Australia at the WJC in the year targeted by the Talent Squad.

Performance and Character Criteria

Each player selected to the National Junior Talent Squad will have met the following criteria:

- Have achieved consistent outstanding results at Gold and Platinum events on the AJST and played at a level which demonstrates potential to be selected for the Australian Team at the WJC.
- Have displayed the effort and application in training and competition which would be expected of an Australian team member at the WJC.
- Have demonstrated outstanding capability across several technical and physical factors related to squash performance, including:
 - Skill (i.e. racquet skills)
 - Endurance
 - Agility (change of direction / anticipation)

*Note, there is no minimum or maximum number of athletes in any Talent Squad. A strong potential WJC team will likely have more players in the Talent Squad for their year than the Talent Squad for a potentially weaker team.