

Australia Underwater hockey Athlete Selection Criteria:

The sport specific athlete selection criteria will be utilised in the identification, ranking and selection of athletes for Australian Masters Men

Specific Eligibility Criteria:

*Minimum age is 35 and players must have attained her 35th birthday on or before the first match of the competition. There is no upper age limit. Athletes must either: Hold citizenship of the country for which they are intending to play; **OR** Submit proof that they have been resident in that country for a minimum of 12 months in the previous 18 months (prior to the competition).*

A. *General Skills:*

- **High level of underwater swimming and aerobic capacity.**
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B. *Specific Positional Skills:*

Forwards

- **To be able to play the required forward position to a high standard and then play it in both directions i.e. both in offence and defence.**

Backs

- **To be able to play the required defensive position capably and be able to transition into attack in unison with the team to maximise the teams attacking ability.**
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C. *Physical Characteristics:*

- Aerobic and anaerobic monitoring “test” (based on team set standards)
- Fitness demonstrated during game play
- Strength on and off the puck
- Power / Flexibility in use of advanced techniques

D. *Personal Characteristics:*

- Works effectively within a team unit
- Focused during practices
- Level-headed during games
- Executes game plan
- Positive attitude
- Effective communication

Process:

Because of growing numbers of players trialling for our Australian Masters Men’s team which is currently sitting at 45, it will be inevitable that I will not be able to cut a group of that amount of aspirants down in one session to 12 at the Nationals in Sydney. I plan on watching all the masters men’s games to aid defining competitiveness of each players within the tournament but with limited time after the Nationals and standard fatigue in the playing group after a comp I feel I need to make it a 2 step process to make sure we get the right mix of players for our team.

My plan is to pick at least a minimum of 3 players per position(18) and or a maximum of 4 per position for the final squad to be eligible for the selection camp in QLD early March, if the selectors and myself find the competitive nature of the players are very equal and requires it.

The process serves to strive for the best possible contenders to fill the Australian Masters Men’s team and will ensure ongoing commitment from those players up until that date.

