



SELECTION POLICY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN SQUAD AT WORLD GATEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Version 1: Approved by the Executive Committee 5 July 2012, published and effective 16 July 2012.

Purpose of the selection policy

1. The World Gateball Championship (WGC) is the premier worldwide gateball event held every four years. It is attended by 96 teams from World Gateball Union (WGU) member and associate member countries. As a member of the WGU, Australia is invited to participate. WGU members are asked prior to the event to bid for the number of teams they wish to enter. Responses are then analysed by the WGU, and members are allocated their number of teams. Members that bid for up to five teams are generally allocated that number. Historically Australia has fielded less than five teams. In 2010, five Australian teams participated.
2. Unlike world championship events in other sports, such as cricket, where the best players from within each country are selected to form one team, the WGC is more in the format of a club championship.
3. It is likely that more Australian gateball players will wish to participate than places are available for future events. Gateball Australia therefore needs a selection policy for future WGCs. Following a consultation process, Gateball Australia has developed this selection policy. It resembles the method Japan chooses its teams for WGCs.

Selection

4. The Australian Gateball Championship (AGC) is Australia's premier gateball event held every two years. The AGC in the year before the WGC will act as a selection trial for the WGC. This will begin with the 2013 AGC.
5. Club, State and teams of individuals are eligible to enter the AGC. When entering the tournament, teams will indicate if they wish to be considered for WGC selection. Only teams that have nominated for the AGC will be eligible to be selected for the WGC (see Eligibility section for further detail).
6. The number of teams that have nominated for the AGC and have indicated they wish to be considered for WGC selection will be forwarded to the WGU as Australia's bid for places at the WGC.
 - 6.1. Should the WGU call for a bid for team numbers prior to the close of nominations for the AGC, Australia would bid for a fixed number of eight teams.
7. Australia may not be allocated its full bid of teams to represent her. If this occurs, the final ranking of teams from the AGC will be used to determine the order that teams will be automatically selected to represent Australia. For example, if Australia is allocated five teams to represent her, the top five ranked Australian teams will be invited to represent her at the WGC, with the first ranked team being given the first offer of selection and so on.

8. The ranking of success in the AGC will be: winner, runner up, semi finalist (if applicable), quarter finalist (if applicable), highest position in the group stage through to lowest position in the group stage calculated according to tournament rules. If there are teams tied in any of these spots (for example two teams that both finish second in their respective group), highest winning percentage, then highest net point differential will be calculated. If it remains a tie, a coin toss will decide.
9. Selected teams will be given a short period of time to commit to participating in the WGC before the position will be offered to the next highest ranked team from the AGC.

Eligibility

10. All players that are part of a nominated team will need to be affiliated with the Australian Croquet Association (ACA).
 - 10.1. A Club team will be made up of members of that Club only.
 - 10.2. A State team will comprise only members affiliated with that State association.
11. *Club teams:* Should a nominated Club team be successful in being selected for the WGC, it will be the Club that is selected. It will be up to the Club to determine the composition of the team for the WGC.
 - 11.1. Should more than one team from the same Club be successful in being selected, the Club will have to fill those teams for the WGC. It will also be up to the Club to determine the composition of those teams.
 - 11.2. It is expected that the Club team for the WGC will be largely comprised of members of the team that participated in the AGC, however, this is not mandatory.
12. *State teams:* Each state may enter up to one team in the AGC. Should a nominated State team be successful in being selected for the WGC, it will be the State that has been selected for the WGC. It will also be up to the State association to determine the composition of that team for the WGC.
 - 12.1. It is expected that the State team for the WGC will be largely comprised of members of the State team that participated in the AGC, however, this is not mandatory.
13. *Team of individuals:* Should a team of individuals be successful in being selected for the WGC, it is that team of individuals that is being selected.
 - 13.1. Up to two players can be replaced on the team of individuals provided all original team members are in unanimous agreement and at least four players from the original team remain.
 - 13.2. Clause 13.1 is intended only for illness and availability factors that prevent an individual from being able to attend the WGC. Clause 13.1 cannot be used to replace a player with a player simply because the team considers that the new player will perform better than the replaced player.
 - 13.3. Notification of changes, including evidence that clause 13 has been complied with will need to be provided to the ACA National Director of Gateball.
14. International teams are eligible to participate in the AGC, but they would not be eligible for selection as an Australian team for the WGC.

Endorsement

15. The ACA National Director of Gateball will endorse the selection as a properly constituted and selected Australian team ensuring that the selections are made according to this procedure.

Support by ACA

16. Every team selected to represent Australia at a WGC will have their entry fees paid and every player will receive two shirts embroidered with the Australian coat-of-arms and appropriate wording.

Review

17. This selection policy will be reviewed following the 2014 WGC.

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