

“TigerTurf Squad”

Hockey New Zealand has restructured the existing “U16 TigerTurf” programme following a High Performance Review in late 2008. Following this review a high performance plan was developed - “Bridging the Gaps” 2009 -2012. One of the key strategies in the plan is to have two squads operating, the National Squad (focusing towards 2012) and a TigerTurf squad (which will assist in developing our younger elite athletes towards the 2016 Olympics). Inter-related to the two squad concepts comes strategies such as talent identification and talent development of our elite youth.

The key changes to the TigerTurf Squad programmes are:

Eligibility

➔ Players in the TigerTurf programme will predominantly be between the ages of 15-18 years. There will be flexibility to allow for the inclusion of players older than 18 to be included at the discretion of Hockey New Zealand.

Proposed Programme

- ➔ The squads will run on 12 month cycles (Nov-Oct)
- ➔ Athletes will be placed in a training group (Northern or Southern) for three 2 day camps (December, January and April)
- ➔ The fourth and final camp of the cycle will be in October (4-5 days) and will include matches against competitive opposition

★ 2009-2010 will be a transition year, with the programme starting with the series against Queensland in October 2009 and finishing in October 2010

Talent Identification/Selection

- ➔ Appointed selectors, together with the National Coach will determine the selection criteria and select talent
- ➔ Information gathered from previous Regional Coaching Clinic/Regional Development Clinic and National Tournaments will be utilized in the Identification process.
- ➔ Members of the Talent Identification Panel will attend National Age Group Tournaments
- ➔ Squads will be selected by the Talent Identification panel and announced in November each year

★ For 2009, the TigerTurf Squads will be named in August.

Squad Composition

- ➔ Squads will consist of 16 field players and 2 goalkeepers
- ➔ Players will be selected on their individual ability but where possible to give the strongest possible team structure
- ➔ In time, athletes’ entry to the squad will be predominantly from the U16 level

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