

### **SEARCH FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONS**

The Elite NSW Squad is reselected bi-annually by the NSWBA Player and Coach Program (PCP) coordinators in consultation with the NSWBA board and BA selectors/managers/coaches. Training for the 2008 squad began on 28<sup>th</sup> January and is currently being reviewed for the second half of the year.

#### **Selection Criteria include the following:**

- Athletes must be under 19 years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.
- Performances at National Carnivals, Australian Closed Championships, Australian International and Australian Junior Championships at which attendance is mandatory unless exemption due to special circumstances is requested and granted
- Athletes must maintain minimum level of skill and physical fitness as determined by national standards
- Consistency in standards of behaviour conducive to supporting the goals of the Squad and overall objectives of NSWBA and BA
- Current state, national and international performances including performance over the preceding twelve month period
- Current State/Australian/International ranking (if any)
- Any current or potential injury or condition which will impair, inhibit or prevent the participant's performance to the requisite level
- The potential of the participant to successfully achieve the objectives of this Program and of NSWBA
- Any other factor considered relevant in the circumstances.

#### **Key Performance Indicators once selected (what coaches/selectors continually look for):**

- Continuous improvement as an elite badminton athlete (physical, mental, technical and tactical)
- Commitment and attendance at training (on-court and off court) and additional education sessions
- Ability to train without regular coaching or supervision
- Competition performances, results and potential as a top level athlete
- Ability to work in a team environment
- Effective communication as a squad member (eg. regular completion of training diaries, prompt replies to emails from coaches and other staff)
- Commitment, positive attitude and overall performance at every training session (both as a worker/feeder/sparring partner)

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

Who is the Elite Squad Coach/Coordinator/Selector?

- Marianne Loh – Stay informed through NSWBA website postings or direct questions to nswelite@gmail.com. Other coaches may be invited as observers/selectors at certain tournaments to assess ability/performance/results.

If I'm not selected, am I out forever?

- No! Our objective is to continuously encourage competition for new members! Performance at tournaments can lead to an invitation to join the squad

Will active participation in a squad involve missing some school time/activities?

- Athletes in many sports, as well as talented youth in other areas of endeavor, do miss some school to achieve international excellence. Athletes/parents need to assess the capacity for discipline, organization and ongoing academic achievement and may choose to lower the sports goal to regional or national excellence. NSWBA can write letters to support athletes/parents in their discussion with teachers and principals

What are the costs?

- \$150 for a term (10 weeks) – includes court hire, shuttles, materials, coaching sessions at Macquarie University

What are the benefits?

- Sessions with elite coaches
- Education and information sessions with other sports specialists
- Consultation on personal training plans to follow up with your personal coach
- Possible selection into State and Australian squads and representing the State and Australia in national and international tournaments
- Access to International competitions
- Additional benefits as determined and available in the future (eg. uniform, t-shirts, tracksuits, shorts to keep)

Any athlete wishing to be considered for selection must complete and sign the application form below and return it to a PCP co-ordinator, by 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

I.....(*name*) from .....(*club/association*) apply for selection in the Elite NSW Squad.

At the time of signing this form I acknowledge that:

1. I have read, understood and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the Athlete Selection Criteria
2. By signing this form I warrant that I am eligible for selection and in particular that I am a current registered member of NSWBA which is a member of BA.
3. I will advise the NSW Elite Squad Coordinator now, and at all times in the future, of any injury or illness that may affect my selection or impair, inhibit or prevent my performance at the requisite level or fulfilling the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Signed:..... (*athlete*)

Signed:..... (*parent/legal guardian*)

I.....(*name*), coach for the athlete above endorses this application and will work with the Elite Squad Coordinator(s) on aspects of the athlete's individual plan and development. I understand I may be required to attend the elite squad sessions as a guest coach/observer/selector.

Signed:..... (*personal coach*)

Dated:.....