



2026 State Youth Team Selection Policy

Applicable to athletes looking to compete in the 2026 Youth Nationals

Please direct any inquiries about this policy to info@sportclimbingqueensland.com

Every athlete wishing to be on the team, regardless of automatic selection, MUST apply through the [SCQ website](#) under the Youth State Team Form.



1. Foreword

This document outlines the Guidelines for the selection of the Queensland Youth Team to compete at the Australian Youth Nationals 2026. Sport Climbing Queensland (SCQ) recognises that this policy can always be improved and welcomes any feedback by its members.

Applications can be made by completing the form under the State Teams menu of the SCQ Website <https://sportclimbingqueensland.com/scq-teams/>

All reasonable effort shall be made to maintain this document in accordance with SCA policy. In the event of any discrepancy, the SCA policy takes precedence.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to define a fair and transparent process by which the Queensland Youth team will be selected, allowing the selection of the team to be done in a logical, fair, and unbiased manner.

The SCQ Selection Panel will ensure qualifying athletes are informed of, and follow, the process for selection. This will be done by sending personal emails to all members, Social Media Announcements, and SCQ Website Advertising.

This policy will be made available to all SCQ members on the website under the About menu. Note: This selection relates only to the competitors in Lead and Boulder Disciplines. There is no selection criteria for Speed.

3. Selection Panel Composition and Role

The role of assessing athletes against the selection criteria is the responsibility of the Selection Panel, appointed by the SCQ Board. The SCQ Board will appoint a Chairperson to lead the Selection Panel. Each Selector will vote on athlete selection in line with the selection criteria objectives and without bias. If panel members cannot agree, the Chairperson will have the final selection decision.

The SCQ team selection panel will be selected using the Selection Panel selection policy and will comprise a minimum of three Selectors, and can include SCQ senior coaches, Board Members and representatives from the open and/or para teams (in the case of Youth Team Selection. Conflicts of interest will be declared, and selectors will step out during selection and voting for the category/athlete involved.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for selection to the Queensland State Sport Climbing Team, athletes must:

- a. Have read, signed, and returned the Code of Behaviour specific to SCQ.
- b. Be a current SCQ State Level Member with no outstanding invoices to SCQ.
- c. Meet the age requirement to participate in their category in a national competition under IFSC policy. Note that an athlete may be eligible for selection if they will meet the age requirement for the competition year they are being selected for.
- d. Have not been issued a red card by any recognised climbing authority (e.g., SCQ, SCA, IFSC) in the last 12 months.
- e. Be available for sample collection and have provided accurate and up-to-date whereabouts information on a regular basis as directed by IFSC and/or the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA), under the policies of IFSC and Sport Climbing Australia (SCA ADPs) and the World Anti-Doping Code (Code).
- f. Not have breached any Anti Doping Policy (ADP) nor have had a sanction imposed which has not been completed. For the purpose of considering eligibility for selection, a breach of an ADP may include:
 - i. an athlete under investigation for an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) where an infraction notice has been issued or the athlete has been stood down under the provisions of any ADP;
 - ii. or a failure to comply with an athlete's obligations under an ADP, even if such a breach does not result in an ADRV.
- g. Be required to be up to date and fully compliant with the ASADA Anti-doping Education (ASADA e-learning), and therefore have completed and be current at the time of selection with all online updates.

5. 2026 Queensland Youth Team Quota

The number of positions available on the team is dictated by Sport Climbing Australia (SCA), Queensland has been allocated 9 positions per discipline, per category, and per gender. This translates to the following for each discipline of Lead, Boulder, and Speed.

Category	Male Quota	Female Quota
Under 19 (Youth A)	9	9
Under 17 (Youth B)	9	9
Under 15 (Youth C)	9	9

6. Youth Team Selection

SCA Selection Policy dictates that the top three (3) in their state ranking shall be automatically selected on the team (See 2.2.1 of [SCA Selection Policy](#)). Australian Champions (Youth) are also automatically selected. These will be counted as part of the quota for each state. The remaining spots in the quota shall be filled at the discretion of the State body (Section 2.2.2 of [SCA Selection Policy](#)).

6.1 Youth Team Selection Process

The selection process consists of three stages:

- Stage 1: Automatic Selection on the Team as outlined in 6.2
- Stage 2: Ranking of all applications based on athlete results as outlined in Section 6.3 or 6.4
- Stage 3: Special Considerations, factors other than results, as outlined in Section 6.7
- Stage 4: Acceptance of the team as a whole as outlined in Section 6.8

Every athlete wishing to be on the team, regardless of automatic selection, MUST apply through the [SCQ website](#) under the Youth State Team Form.

6.2 Automatic Selection on Team

Applicants that placed in the top (3) positions for that discipline (Lead or Boulder) at the 2025 Qld State Titles are guaranteed a place on the team should they wish to compete. Australian Champions of the Youth Nationals 2025 in their discipline (Lead or Boulder) are automatically selected for that discipline as outlined in SCA's Selection Policy Section 2.2.1 should they wish to compete.

Automatic selection will also be given to any Australian Representative who missed the 2025 Queensland Youth Selection event because they were competing in that discipline, should they wish to compete.

An Australian representative is any athlete who has represented Australia at a IFSC World Championships in either Speed, Lead, or Boulder in the 2025 Calendar Year. If an individual missed competing in either of the 2025 QLD Youth Selection Events (Lead or Boulder) they are either given automatic selection as outlined in 6.1 or given preference based on their ranking as outlined in 6.5.

6.3 Regular Selection Criteria - Boulder

To be considered for Regular Selection to the Queensland 2026 Youth Boulder Team (depending on Queensland quotas from SCA), athletes must attend and compete in the 2025 SCQ Youth State Boulder Titles. Athletes unable to attend must apply for Special Consideration as per section 6.7.

For those who attend, the following athletes will be selected:

- i. 2025 SCA Open Nationals Boulder Podium
- ii. 2025 SCA Youth Nationals Boulder Podium
- iii. 2025 SCQ Youth State Boulder Titles Finalists (top 8, excluding podium finishers listed above)
- iv. 2025 SCA Open Nationals Boulder Finalists (excluding podium finishers listed above)
- v. 2025 SCA Youth Nationals Boulder Finalists (excluding podium finishers listed above)
- vi. The final positions will be decided by their ranking as outlined in Section 6.5

6.4 Regular Selection Criteria - Lead

To be considered for Regular Selection to the Queensland 2026 Youth Lead Team (depending on Queensland quotas from SCA), athletes must attend and compete in the 2025 SCQ Youth State Lead Titles. Athletes unable to attend must apply for Special Consideration as per section 6.7.

For those who attend, the following athletes will be selected:

- i. 2025 SCA Open Nationals Lead Podium
- ii. 2025 SCA Youth Nationals Lead Podium
- iii. 2025 SCQ Youth State Lead Titles Finalists (top 8, excluding podium finishers listed above)
- iv. 2025 SCA Open Nationals Lead Finalists (excluding podium finishers listed above)
- v. 2025 SCA Youth Nationals Lead Finalists (excluding podium finishers listed above)
- vi. The final positions will be decided by their ranking as outlined in Section 6.5

6.5 Rankings

Rankings for each discipline (Lead, Boulder) will be used to determine and select the remaining positions for the QLD Youth Team in that discipline. Rankings will be calculated from the points allocated in [SCA's Competition Policy](#) Section 3.6 for that discipline only. Ranking of Australian Representatives will only be active if an Australian Representative applies to be on the team and does not fulfil the requirements in section 6.2.

Ranking of Australian Representatives, finalists of that discipline and Special Consideration applicants will occur together.

Australian Representatives, finalists and Special Consideration applicants will be ranked by their average points across relevant competitions they entered as follows:

- 2 Most recent National points in that discipline
- 2 Most recent Qld State Titles points in that discipline

Once all applications have been ranked, the selection panel will review all applications for Australian Representative, finalists, and special consideration applications.

6.6 Under 11 and Under 13 Inclusion

Athletes in the Under 11 and Under 13 age category who wish to be considered for selection to the State Team must apply for Special Consideration as per section 6.7*. If selected through this process, these athletes will compete in the Under 15 category at the national level, as no specific Under 11 or Under 13 category exists at a national competition.

*Please note we are waiting on a ruling from SCA with regard to this. Until this has been approved by SCA there is no guarantee that these athletes will be included in the team

6.7 Special Consideration

Athletes who are unable to meet the regular selection criteria due to exceptional circumstances (including non-attendance at mandatory selection events) may apply for Special Consideration. Applications must be made by submitting a Special Consideration Form within seven (7) days of the opening of the team selection applications or circumstances being announced. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome within ten days of the closing date for Special Consideration.

In considering a Special Consideration application, the Selectors will evaluate each application based on a range of criteria, which may include, but are not limited to:

- Inability to compete at recent events due to documented injury or illness (health professional advice and documents may be requested by the Selection Panel).
- Ranking: Performance based on the average points across relevant competitions as per section 6.5.
- Ranking at international events from the previous two (2) years.
- Ranking in each round of selection events from the previous two (2) years.
- Athlete behaviour and conduct at previous events and within the community (including any yellow card or disciplinary issues).
- Commitment to the sport as demonstrated through consistent training and participation.

To accommodate these considerations, the team selection applications will be initially ranked according to the regular selection criteria. The Selection Panel may then propose that an applicant who did not meet the initial cut-off deserves a place on the team via Special Consideration. This proposal must consist of both the applicant to be provided a place on the team and, if necessary, the applicant whose place will be taken (noting the removed applicant cannot be one of the top three 'ranked' applicants from the initial regular selection stage). Justification for the proposed change must be provided.

For a Special Consideration proposal to be successful, 75% or more of the Selection Panel must vote in favour.

6.8 Sign off Stage

Once the proposed team has been put forward by the Selection Panel, the board will vote on accepting the team. The vote may be on the team as a whole or split by category and/or gender. For the vote to be successful, seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the board must vote in favour of accepting the team.

In the case that the board cannot come to an agreement, the board will be asked to cast their vote again and the president and vice-presidents votes shall count for double. This vote will take place at the next board meeting.

Should the team not be accepted once the board votes are recast with the extra weighted votes, then stage two will be repeated with a quorum board present to vote and the disputed part of the team voted upon again. If by the end of the meeting a team is not accepted by vote as outlined above, the disputed part of the team will default to the 'ranked' team from stage one.

6.9 Timeline and Commitments

Applications for the State team are due before Midnight on 22nd March 2026. The state team will be announced, and athletes made aware, on 26th March 2026. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

7. Appeals

Appeals for the State Team should be emailed to info@sportclimbingqueensland.com before Midnight on 29th March 2026 no more than three (3) days after the team announcement. An appeal requires a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of the SCQ Board to be successful.

8. Confidentiality

Prior to the close of the applications only the following people will have access to the information contained within an application:

- SCQ President
- SCQ Vice-President
- SCQ Secretary
- SCQ Head Coach
- SCQ Selection Panel

They are not to divulge who has or has not completed an application with any persons not listed above. They are permitted to confirm to an applicant whether or not their application has been received. Once applications have closed, the information contained within an application will be available to the SCQ board. This information is confidential and shall not be shared with anyone not on the SCQ board.