**2024 Selection Criteria and Process**

**Nova Scotia Provincial U18 Tackle Teams**

The purpose of this document is to outline in a clear and transparent fashion the criteria and process involved in athlete selection to Nova Scotia’s 2024 U18 Provincial Tackle Teams.

**Team Participation & Qualification**

The U18 Tackle Teams will be representing their provincial sport organization at the Football Canada Cup, in Regina, Saskatchewan, July 2024 and the 2024 Atlantic Bowl, in Charlottetown , PEI in July 2024.

These events will be restricted to teams whose provincial sport organizations are a Football Canada member.

**Athlete Eligibility**

In order to be eligible all Athletes must:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen.

2. Have a valid piece of provincial identification (i.e., birth certificate, medical card).

3. Be a member in good standing of Football Nova Scotia.

4. Follow all relevant Football Canada Cup requirements for eligibility, including age requirement of 2007 and 2008.

5. Follow all relevant Atlantic Bowl requirements for eligibility, including age requirement of 2007 and 2008.

**Identification:**

Athletes can be identified for the Nova Scotia U18 Tackle Team that will be representing the province.

1. Attendance at 2024 Provincial Team Tryouts and Training Camps. Identification and invitation through various football and non-football events by Head Coach and Director of Football Operations.
2. The Head Coach and Director, Football Operations reserve the right to scout and invite athletes into the program at any time throughout the process.
3. The Head Coach and Director, Football Operations reserves the right to move an athlete’s position within the selection process or training process if it is better fit for both the athlete and the program.

**Team Selection Process:**

Athletes selected for the U18 Tackle Team must possess the ability to improve Nova Scotiaʼs performance at the national level. The Football Canada Cup and Atlantic Bowl Teams are the focus of the program for 2024. The Head Coach, with input from the Assistant Coaches and Director, Football Operations, will select athletes from the following process:

a) All athletes will be invited to the Identification Tryout Camps.

b) 60-65 athletes will be selected to the U18 Provincial Team following the final camp on April 6, 2024.

c) These athletes will participate in Provincial Training Camps running from April 14, 2024 to June 1, 2024.

d) Out of the above 60-65 athletes, a 40 player Football Canada Cup travel roster and 14 alternates and 20 - 25 Atlantic Bowl roster will be named by June 8, 2024.

e) In the case of an injury to a selected athlete to the Canada Cup team following the selection date, the replacement player will be selected from the 14 alternates named on June 14, 2024.

f) Out of the above 20-25 athletes, a 20 player Atlantic Bowl travel roster and 5 alternates will be named in June, 2024.

**Team Selection Criteria:**

The Head Coach has final authority over all nominations and selections of athletes. The Head Coach will consult his coaching staff and Football Nova Scotia's Director of Football Operations, to assist him in the selection process.

Athletes will be selected based on present expertise and/or demonstrated potential in the following areas:

-Individual skill level, tactical abilities, and physical potential to develop with continued training.

- The dynamics of the team as a whole.

- The development and planning of the Provincial Team program in the future.

**Team Sport Considerations:**

- Work effectively within the team concept.

- Committed to communication with other players and team staff.

- Willingness to alter individual preferences and to change to meet the needs of the group and the strategies of the coaches.

- Willingness to work within the assigned role(s) for that team.

**Technical Abilities:**

Present skill level and future potential. Consideration would be given to biomechanical limiting factors that could prevent future development.

- Application of skills to the game and competitive situations, all round skills.

- Position specific skills

- Needs of the team and its composition

**Tactical Abilities:**

- Abilities to read and respond to game situations.

- Ability to make correct decision under pressure.

- Incorporation of individual, positional and team tactics as detailed by coaching staff.

- Flexibility and ability to adapt to situations that occur on the field.

**Mental Skills:**

- Consideration is also given to athletes that have characteristics that are conducive to individual and team success. Examples include strong work ethic evidenced in training and physical preparation,

assertiveness and leadership evidenced by the ability to work well with others (new players and coaches), ability to apply skills to game and competitive situations, positive attitude.

**Other Considerations:**

- commitment to participating in national football

- establishing a lifestyle to cope with training, preparation and competing nationally.

- recognizing the responsibility of your involvement as an individual, and member on the Provincial

Team, and of the importance and potential as a role model for the sport and the province.

- exhibiting personal characteristics conducive to national success such as:

- self-motivated and responsible

- determined and committed to personal and program goals

- effective decision making, cooperative and “flexible”

**Medical:**

- Previous athletic injuries and potential for life threatening conditions, due to the physical considerations of the sport, will be considered in the selection process.

- Athletes are expected to work as hard when they are recovering from injury as they do on the field having to follow rehabilitation and recovery programs as prescribed by the Medical & Coaching Staff.

**Athlete Appeal Process:**

If an athlete wishes to appeal a decision on Football Nova Scotia’s athlete selection and internal nomination procedures, the appeal will be dealt with as outlined in Football Nova Scotia’s Appeals Policy, found on the Football Nova Scotia website.

 **Unforeseen Circumstances / Changes to this Document:**

In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the Nova Scotia U18 Tackle Team selection criteria to be fairly and objectively applied, Football Nova Scotia's Director of Football Operations reserves the right to rule on an appropriate course of action.

The Director, Football Operations of Football Nova Scotia reserves the right to make changes to this document, which in his discretion are necessary to ensure selection of the best teams possible for the 2024 Football Canada Cup and 2024 U18 Atlantic Bowl. Any changes to this document shall be communicated directly to all Provincial Team Members*.* This clause shall not be used to justify changes after the internal nomination procedure unless it is related to an unforeseen circumstance. The purpose of this section is to allow for changes to this document that may become necessary due to a typographical error or a lack of clarity in a definition or wording before it has an impact on athletes. The purpose of such changes must be in order to avoid disputes over the meaning of the provisions of this document rather than to allow changes to be made to justify selection of different athletes than would have otherwise been selected. Such changes must be reasonably justifiable in accordance with fundamental principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.