

1. Header
  - 1.1. Name
    - 1.1.1. The name of this policy is AFDA National Championships Policy
  - 1.2. Date
    - 1.2.1. This policy was enacted on 15 March 2007
    - 1.2.2. Revised 28 February 2009
  - 1.3. Aim & Scope
    - 1.3.1. The aim of this policy is to
      - 1.3.1.1. Define the timing, naming, duration of Nationals,
      - 1.3.1.2. Determine how teams qualify for Nationals,
    - 1.3.2. This policy applies to the Australian Ultimate Championships (incorporating Open and Women's divisions)
  - 1.4. Definitions
    - 1.4.1. The Standard Definitions of the AFDA Operational Policy apply
    - 1.4.2. "Nationals" means the Australian Ultimate Championships.
    - 1.4.3. "Regionals" mean regional championships.
  - 1.5. Revision
    - 1.5.1. This Policy is to be maintained and reviewed by the AFDA Director of Events
2. Australian Ultimate Championships
  - 2.1. Full name is "AFDA Australian Ultimate Championships YYYY" where YYYY is the year.
  - 2.2. To be held over the weekend nearest to Anzac Day.
  - 2.3. Maximum of 16 teams in open (men's) and women's divisions.
  - 2.4. Four days in duration.
  - 2.5. Finals should be held on a public holiday or Sunday.
  - 2.6. Qualification and seeding is determined through Regional Championships.
3. Regions
  - 3.1. Australia and New Zealand will be split into five regions:
    - 3.1.1. North – Northern Territory, Queensland, northern NSW
    - 3.1.2. East – NSW (excluding the north), ACT
    - 3.1.3. South – Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania
    - 3.1.4. West – Western Australia
    - 3.1.5. New Zealand – New Zealand
  - 3.2. The regions explicitly contain the following major population centres (population > 200,000):
    - 3.2.1. North – Brisbane, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast
    - 3.2.2. East – Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, Canberra
    - 3.2.3. South – Melbourne, Adelaide, Geelong, Hobart
    - 3.2.4. West – Perth
    - 3.2.5. New Zealand – Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch
  - 3.3. Teams from those named major population centres are required to compete only in their own Regional Championships. All other teams may choose to compete in a different Regional Championship if they perceive it is easier to get to, or that it will increase their chances of qualifying for Nationals.
  - 3.4. The Regions will be designated by the following letters:
    - 3.4.1. E = East
    - 3.4.2. N = North
    - 3.4.3. S = South
    - 3.4.4. W = West
    - 3.4.5. Z = New Zealand
4. Regionals
  - 4.1. Regional Championships (or Regionals) are held to determine which teams will represent each Region at Nationals
  - 4.2. The official name of each Regionals will be "AFDA REGIONAL Australian Ultimate Championships YYYY" where "REGIONAL" is one of Northern, Eastern, Southern or Western, and "YYYY" is the year.
  - 4.3. Regionals are to be held on the weekend six (6) weeks before the weekend that Nationals is held on. That weekend will be designated by the AFDA.
  - 4.4. All Regionals will be held on the same weekend.

4.5. The AFDA will award hosting rights for Regionals, except for New Zealand regionals, which will be awarded by NZFDA.

5. Team allocations

5.1. Aims

- 5.1.1. To allocate teams to each region
- 5.1.2. Encourage the development of meaningful regional championships.
- 5.1.3. To reward regions whose teams have performed well at the previous Nationals, the aim being that the last team from each region is roughly equivalent in strength.
- 5.1.4. To reward regions who have high participation at Regionals.
- 5.1.5. Try to eliminate any walkover qualifications for Nationals.
- 5.1.6. Try to minimise the costs of qualifying for nationals.
- 5.1.7. To treat New Zealand as equivalent to any Australian region, in recognition of their past contribution to Nationals, their demonstrated strength, their ability to increase the variety and strength of Nationals, and to help their elite development.
- 5.1.8. Recognise that geographical constraints mean that the ideal will never be achieved.

5.2. Strategies

- 5.2.1. Each region will be guaranteed one (1) spot at Nationals.
- 5.2.2. Allocate extra slots to teams with largest relative Regionals participation.

5.3. Method

- 5.3.1. Take the current rankings as defined above.
- 5.3.2. Remove the highest ranked team from each region.
- 5.3.3. Take the top 7 teams of those remaining. Each Region will receive exactly one (1) more slot than the number of teams it has in that remaining 7, so each region will receive between 1 and 8 slots.
- 5.3.4. If a Region does not hold Regionals, then
  - 5.3.4.1. it will be awarded exactly one (1) spot.
  - 5.3.4.2. the relevant state association(s) will be consulted to determine which team will gain that spot, and it will be determined by the AFDA Director of Events
- 5.3.5. South will receive one (1) extra slot, in recognition of the unique geographical constraints of that Region. Teams from at least two states in the Southern Region must receive a bid to Nationals.
- 5.3.6. The AFDA Board may allocate one (1) slot to a particular team or Region, either prior to Regionals or immediately following Regionals.
  - 5.3.6.1. If the slot is not allocated within three (3) days immediately following Regionals, that slot will join the general wildcard pool.
  - 5.3.6.2. It is expected that slot should be used to allow a team to attend that is somehow disadvantaged in qualification, or may be allocated to a region that has fewer strength bids available than appears adequate.
- 5.3.7. In addition, there will be two (2) wildcard slots, to be distributed according to 6.4 based on Regionals participation.

5.4. Unfilled slots (Wildcards)

- 5.4.1. In addition to the starting pool of wildcard slots, if a Region doesn't take up its full allocation of team slots, the extra slots will be redistributed to the other Regions, according to a ratio indicating what proportion of its "elite" players (ie Regionals attendees) will be attending Nationals.
- 5.4.2. For each Region, calculate the following ratio:
  - 5.4.2.1.  $(\text{Number of players attending Regionals}) / (\text{Number of team slots already allocated} + 0.5)$
- 5.4.3. This ratio is determined so that there is no advantage to Regions that have a large number of small teams instead of a small number of large teams, with the same number of total players.
- 5.4.4. The next available slot will go to the region with the highest ratio.
- 5.4.5. Once the slot has been reallocated, the ratios are recalculated before the next slot is offered.
- 5.4.6. If a Region does not hold Regionals in that division, it is not eligible for a slot.