

AWFS Selection Process

The AWFS has been operational for nearly two years, employing talent scouts across all states to identify potential new players in the 70s age category. Newcomers are encouraged to register on the website www.walkeroos.org or to share their contact information through a talent scout with a member of the AWFS state committee.

Players who are eager to compete (though not all new 70s players may have this interest) will have opportunities to demonstrate their skills to selectors and undergo evaluation through:

- State selection trials (e.g various venues in Victoria last May)
- Participation in local/regional/state tournaments (e.g., QUT Cup last April)
- Submitting a video of their performance in a competitive setting to AWFS

An AWFS tick sheet with established selection criteria is used for player evaluation. It's crucial to note that these criteria include not just football skills but also factors such as sportsmanship, energy, teamwork, and overall health/injury status.

Players who have been assessed in a competitive environment and are considered skilled enough for the Australian representative team will be included in a "core playing group," consisting of around 20-24 players at any given time. These players will receive the first invitations to join the representative team. However, due to budget constraints, injuries, health issues, competition for similar positions, and personal commitments, not all core group members can guarantee their availability. The group is continuously updated as new players emerge.

When the AWFS announces international tournaments, players already graded in the core playing pool and former representatives of Australia will not need to undergo further grading unless they choose to. Players who were not included in the core playing group previously or new players seeking selection can request evaluation through trials, tournaments, or video submissions.

Currently, AWFS is actively assessing new players, particularly those turning 70 next year, for the FIWFA tournament in Spain scheduled for October 2025.

Evaluations are being conducted through four methods prior to the announcement of the Australian 70s team for Spain.

1. Players attending IWFF selection trials in Brisbane on September 8th and the Central Coast on September 28th, who have also expressed interest in the FIWFA tournament, will be indirectly observed by AWFS selectors during these trials. Alan Templeton has approved AWFS selectors to view players at these selection events.

2. A key opportunity for player evaluation will take place during the Pac Pacs in November, where the majority of 70s players will compete in both the Over 70s and Over 65s divisions.

3. Additionally, players can request assessment at the Victorian WF tournament on November 23rd.

4. Players unable to participate in a selection trial or tournament may send AWFS a video showcasing their competitive play.

The AWFS aims to finalise the Australian National 70s team for Spain by late 2024, with potential opportunities for the team to practice and play together in 2025.