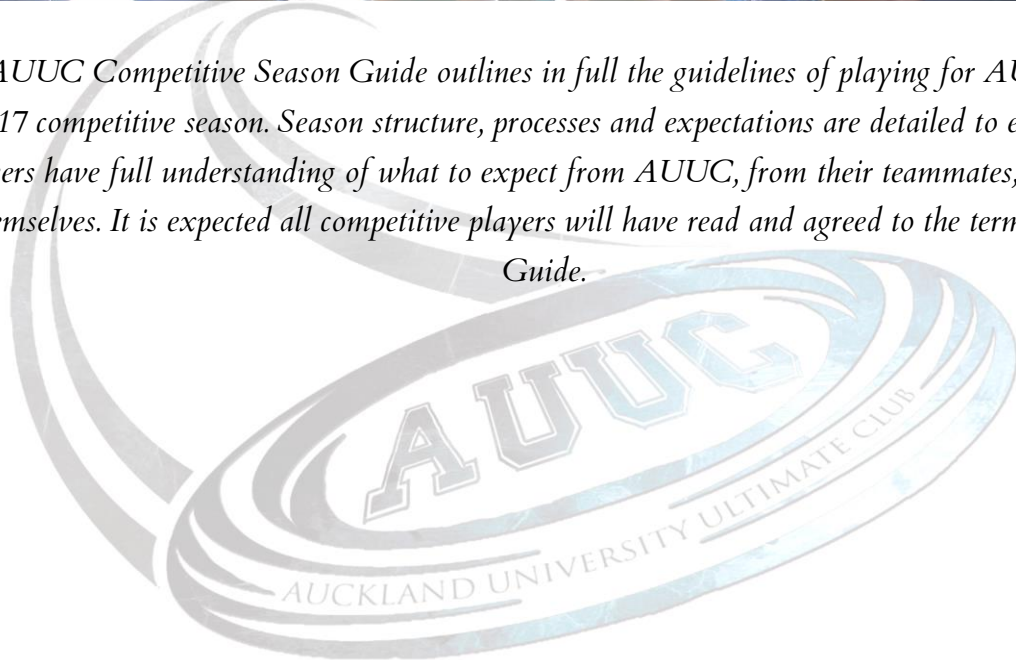


AUUC COMPETITIVE SEASON GUIDE

2017



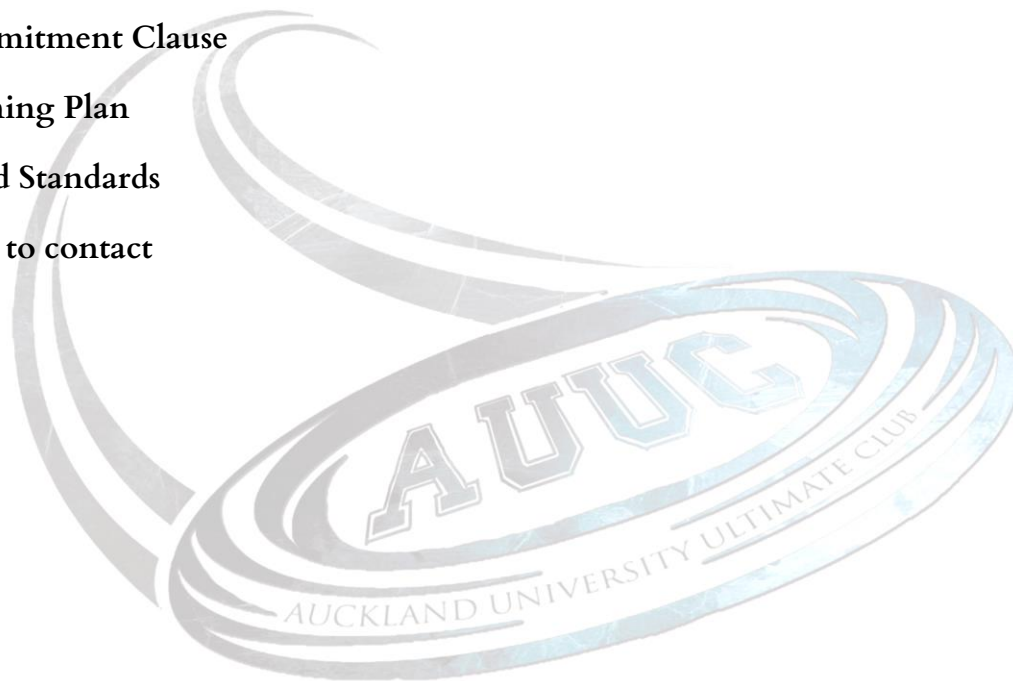
The AUUC Competitive Season Guide outlines in full the guidelines of playing for AUUC in the 2017 competitive season. Season structure, processes and expectations are detailed to ensure all players have full understanding of what to expect from AUUC, from their teammates, and from themselves. It is expected all competitive players will have read and agreed to the terms of this Guide.



*"This is the law of the jungle, as old and as true as the sky,
And the wolf that shall keep it may prosper, but the wolf that shall break it must die.
As the creeper that girdles the tree trunk, the law runneth forward and back;
For the strength of the pack is the wolf, and the strength of the wolf is the pack."
- Rudyard Kipling, The Jungle Book*

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Vision, Values and Goals

The Auckland University Ultimate Club (AUUC) is committed to developing the players in our competitive community, and we pride ourselves in focusing on a strong sense of team culture. Our vision is to build and develop a close community of people who love competing with, and being a part of, the squad. This overrides any specific performance goals.

The AUUC Competitive Squad embodies three core **values**:

1. **Commitment:** Dedication to the aims of the squad, and the squad itself. Accepting responsibility both on and off the field. Being involved.
2. **Team Unity:** Working for your teammates on and off the field. Supporting and working with one another. Cohesiveness and cooperation.
3. **Performance:** Maintaining a high standard of both competition and spirit. Working hard and providing your teammates with everything you've got.

The AUUC Competitive Squad **goals** are to:

- Play high level ultimate
- Promote and develop the competitive level
- Represent AUUC
- Develop strong culture and community
- Make friends and have fun!

The Competitive Squad

The AUUC Competitive Squad is comprised of our two primary teams, **Flash** and **Flood**, as well as any other players who wish to be involved. Flood is our premier team; intended for the upper echelon of players competing at the highest level. Flash is our development team - intended to progress player skills in a competitive environment. Both squads aim to push for improvement from all team members, whilst valuing commitment and team unity.

Whilst the core of the competitive squad comprises Flash and Flood, there may be opportunity for a third team. How these teams are structured will be determined by the executive and selectors once numbers are finalised.

Equity & Equality

Ultimate is a unique sport in which fairness and equality are encouraged through the concept of spirit. Utmost importance is placed on the ability to play competitively whilst upholding spirited and fair play. In alignment with our vision of developing players and inclusiveness, AUUC strongly emphasises the importance of equal opportunity for all members.

AUUC plays mixed ultimate. We respect all members on the field – regardless of gender, background or experience. AUUC takes this very seriously, therefore any player not complying with this may be asked to leave our squad. If you have concerns regarding how you or a friend are being treated, please contact someone – your captain, coach, or an executive member.

Trials

To determine placement into our teams, players will undergo a set of trials assessing skill, spirit and attitude. Please note that performance during our formal trial dates is not the only factor used in selections – previous involvement with the squad will supplement these trials. The intention of the trials is to allow for the assessment of player performance under pressure and player cohesiveness with others, under observation of our selectors.

Due to variations in AUUC's student/non-student player base, separate trials will be conducted for the New Zealand University Championships and the New Zealand Mixed Championships, to accommodate for the club's wide player base.

Selection Criteria

The selection criteria utilised to select our players are based on AUUC's vision of creating an inclusive, supportive and fun community comprising of players who are dedicated and committed. The two broad categories are **character** and **skill**.

Character

The character of our players are what makes our club so great. Our **people** are what separates our club from the rest – we value the involvement, determination and fun-loving nature of our members. Disc skills are important, but individual character is irreplaceable. We are not only teammates, but also friends. 'Character' of players encompasses but is not limited to the following:

- Spirit (Adherence to rules, positive attitude, fair play)
- Involvement (Participate 100% at trainings and leagues, an active AUUC member)
- Commitment (To trainings, tournaments and the team. More information below)
- Willingness to learn (Players open to feedback and work to improve their game)
- Inclusiveness (Ensure all team members participate, feel included and have fun)
- Fun (Do you like to have fun? Do you ensure others are also having fun?)
- Banter, Yarns and/or Memes

Skill

Skill embodies the performance of players on and around the field. These include specific disc skills (throwing and catching ability), field awareness, team involvement, physical ability, game understanding, and most importantly – a willingness to learn.

Development is a fundamental component of AUUC's program. Therefore, the immediate skill level of players will not be conclusive in the selection of players – potential and future ability of players will also be considered.

Selection Criteria for **Flash**

Flash is AUUC's development team. Players selected for Flash will demonstrate a desire to learn and develop their skills, regardless of current skill level or background. Flash focuses to aid the development of player skills and to create an inclusive, supportive environment of players wishing to take their game to the next level. Producing a fun team culture is essential for Flash where all players are provided opportunities to grow and learn the competitive game. Commitment, again, is essential.

Selection Criteria for **Flood**

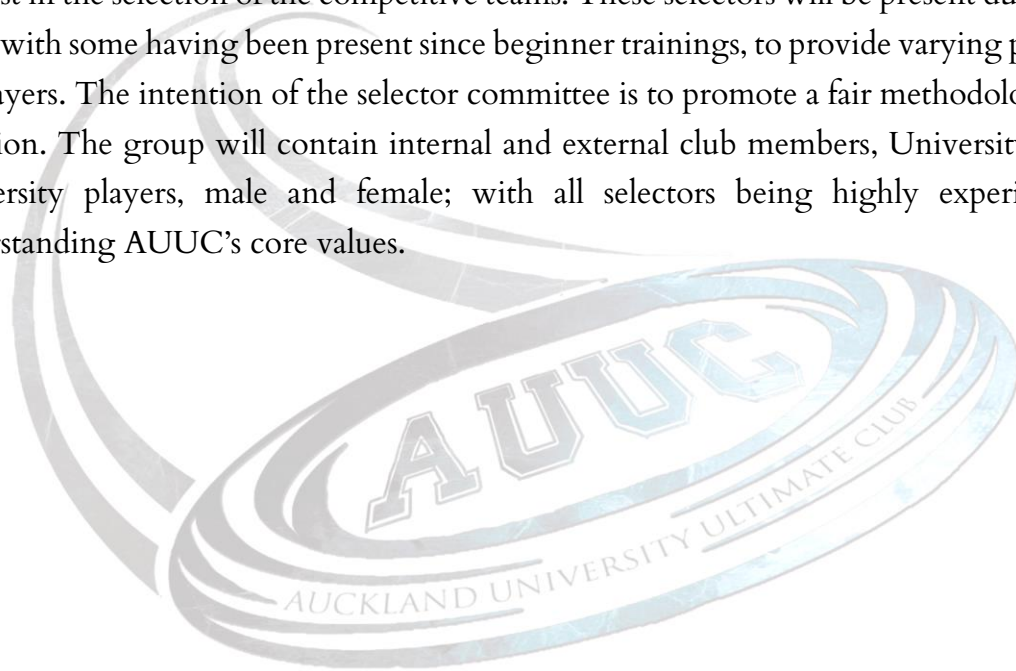
Flood is AUUC's premier team. Players selected for Flood will display a comprehensive understanding of the game with advanced skills to match. Players will be hard working, demonstrate a strong understanding of the game, possess a wide range of abilities and have a positive attitude. Whilst demonstrating these skills, Flood plays with high levels of spirit and maintain a strong, supportive team culture. Commitment and willingness to put in work are essential.

Non-University of Auckland Trialists

As a University club, our primary goal is to provide opportunities to the current students at the University of Auckland, as set out in our constitution. Therefore the core of the teams will be made up of UoA students. The selectors will then use a case-by-case basis for each non-UoA trialist based on their commitment to the club this year and in previous, and all other attributes set out above.

Selectors

The AUUC Executive Committee will have carefully chosen a range of experienced selectors to assist in the selection of the competitive teams. These selectors will be present during formal trials, with some having been present since beginner trainings, to provide varying perspectives on players. The intention of the selector committee is to promote a fair methodology of team selection. The group will contain internal and external club members, University and non-University players, male and female; with all selectors being highly experienced and understanding AUUC's core values.



Commitment Clause

Commitment is essential. Players selected for the AUUC competitive teams are expected to 'buy in' to our culture of development and involvement. Players are expected to commit to regular trainings, tournaments and club culture. In turn, players can expect the club to offer efficient and exciting trainings, social events, and organisation for tournaments. Consistent attendance of trainings is expected, unless prior notice is given (we understand that life sometimes happens – just talk to us if you see any difficulties with this).

AUUC intends to construct a long term program for all those wishing to participate. We want players who can positively impact the squad – in terms of skill, team culture and development.

AUUC will prioritise players who have shown commitment to our cause: players who have consistently been involved with AUUC trainings, tournaments, leagues and other events. That is, we want players who consistently make other players' experiences better.

In the lead up to the NZ University Championships (NZUUC) and the NZ Mixed Championships (NZMUC), players in Flash or Flood must commit to trainings and the relevant leagues ahead of our major tournaments:

- **NZ University Nationals** (September 2-3): Players wishing to compete in NZUUC must commit to the Auckland Winter Outdoor League (Sunday evenings starting August 14).
- **NZ Mixed Nationals** (November 24-26, Hamilton): Players wishing to compete in NZMUC must commit to the Auckland Spring Outdoor League (October to December, dates to be confirmed).

Players who have shown strong involvement with the competitive squad in the past will have priority. If you have trouble committing to trainings or leagues for any reason, please let us know ahead of the season. If you fail to meet our commitment standards without giving us (captain, exec member, coach) notice in advance, your spot on the team will be given to another player who missed out on the opportunity.

AUUC is also currently in the works to organise a tournament prior to NZ Mixed Nationals. Attendance of our Mixed Nationals teams is expected. More details to follow.

Training Plan

Training is a fundamental time for improvement and development of team chemistry. Trainings leading up to AUUC's major tournaments (NZ University Ultimate Championships and NZ Mixed Ultimate Championships) will cover a variety of concepts to equip players with a range of abilities.

Our training structure balances training time and game time. Trainings provide time to learn and practise new skills, whilst games during leagues provide game experience for the team.

AUUC's 2017 training structure is as follows. Please note specific dates are to be finalised, but the below provides an idea of the structure for 2017.

- **Saturday trainings:** Club trainings focusing on a wide range of skills and game knowledge. Compulsory attendance for Flash players, but all club members are welcome to attend.
- **Sunday trainings:** Compulsory for Flood players only. These trainings will be geared towards practicing more advanced skills, but all club members are welcome to attend. However, it is important to note that these trainings are catered towards Flood players, so while we are happy for other members to attend, it is up to them to keep up.
- **Leagues:** All Flash and Flood players must play with their team in the relevant league leading up NZUUC and NZMUC.
- **Trainings during the week:** Attendance to a focused training session during the week is compulsory for Flood players, dependent on resource availability. These will take the form of indoor fitness, outdoor pod sessions or skills sessions. Coach/captain to advise.

Inability to attend specific trainings or games will require notice in advance to captains (we understand everyone's busy from time to time). If you are unable to commit to certain leagues or tournaments, please let us know ahead of the season. In extraordinary circumstances, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the AUUC Executive Committee and/or coaches/captains.

Squad Standards

To ensure all players enjoy the AUUC program and develop to their full potential, we hold a set of standards for our squad. A primary expectation is respect for one another: we play not only for ourselves, but for our teammates. This is what makes ultimate such an amazing sport.

- **At trainings**, your priorities are improving yourself and improving the squad (whilst having fun doing so).
- **Training is not your time.** Training time belongs to the coaches and the team. That means showing up before training starts and being ready to train from the start.
- **We are not a World's squad.** We do not expect '100% attendance, no exceptions'. However, what we do expect is that if you commit to the squad you put in as much effort as you can, when you can.
- We have very few standards of behaviour outside of training and tournament time (again, since we are a Uni squad). It's not of our concern what you eat, drink, how you dance etc.
- **Have fun!** This Guidebook may seem daunting, formal and like a law contract, but it's to preserve the reason we are all here - to enjoy ourselves! The bottom line is look out for others, play some good friz, and have fun.

If you consistently fail to uphold these standards, one of the captains or another member of the leadership team will talk to you, and in serious cases you may be asked to leave.

Who to contact

Should you have any questions or queries, you are more than welcome to contact any one of executive team. Feedback is always welcome. We endeavour to provide an inclusive, transparent, fair and valuable program for all, but we are always looking to improve (just as we are on the field).

Meg Lake and Tim Meyer-Smith
AUUC Executive Competitive Coordinators
auultimateclub@gmail.com

Alternatively, you may enter anonymous feedback about our program, or anything AUUC in general, [here](#).

Thanks for reading. We'll see you on the field!

