

British Ski and Snowboard

Cross Country Selection Policy 2017

1. Selection Policy Aims

This Policy for selection to British Cross-Country Ski squads and teams shall apply with effect from 1 May 2017 until further notice. This Policy aims to:

- ensure that fair and just criteria and practices are employed in the selection of athletes for entry into squads, teams and individual athlete events;
- support the overall competition and development objectives of British Ski and Snowboard (BSS);
- ensure transparency and accountability in the selection process.

2. Mandatory requirements

All athletes wishing to be considered for British squads and teams (excluding British Masters Team) or to compete as an individual British athlete at FIS points qualifying events must:

- hold a valid UK passport;
- be registered with a home nation governing body (Snowsport England/ Scotland/Wales);
- be registered with FIS as British and 'active';
- sign a current BSS Athlete Agreement and continue to abide by the terms of that agreement;
- pay all outstanding fees as required.

3. General Requirements and Restrictions

a) The maximum size of each squad may vary according to the programme resources available.

b) Squad selection made in May each year for training and support will be based on the previous 12 months' performance prior to the date of selection and FIS points criteria in Section 4 below. Athletes will normally remain in their squad for a season, but promotion to a higher squad may be considered during the mid-season selection review in late December or early January of the following year.

c) Selection to a team to compete in a particular competition or event (race) will, as far as possible, be based on selection races, camp attendance and form in the current Northern Hemisphere snow season (current form/season). Only where this is impractical will selection be based on other factors: to include previous season's performance, recent training records, and Head Coach's assessment, among others. The Head Coach will have discretion to consider mandatory attendance at a camp or selection race.



d) Reasons for not selecting an athlete can include, for example: illness or injury; lack of form in performance or training; suspension for doping or other disciplinary offence; failure to attend required selection camp or race without justifiable cause; and failure to pay required fees.

e) Selection to a squad or team requires athlete agreement to follow a training and performance pathway plan and, where specified, attend selected training.

f) Final application dates for selection will be announced in each year that the Policy applies. For logistical and competition reasons, qualification deadlines may be set well in advance of the competition date. The Selection Panel may extend the qualification period if circumstances allow. Where possible, an extension to the qualification period may be considered from an athlete for valid reasons on written request to the Selection Panel at least seven days prior to the qualification deadline.

g) By the beginning of the Northern Hemisphere winter season, athletes must inform the Head Coach of their intention to be considered for competitions or events where selection criteria apply. Selection to a team is open to all squad and non-squad athletes who meet the given requirements and standards defined in this document.

h) Selection to a squad or team does not imply that any funding/support is always available to athletes. Should funding be made available, the amounts allocated to each squad will be based on a four-year Olympic cycle.

i) The Selection Panel in consultation with the head coach will apply the factors below as part of the discretionary selection criteria for given events and squads:

- athlete's previous results matched against the type (e.g. distance) and technique (e.g. classic) of the event to be competed in;
- readiness to compete, including, where appropriate, run and strength test results;
- performance pathway targets;
- consistency of training;
- Head Coach assessment of athlete's performance potential.

j) For other FIS points qualifying events where there are no selection criteria defined below, all athletes must consult the Head Coach before they enter. If there are more athletes than places, then the Head Coach will select using the factors in i) above.

k) A commitment is required of both the parent/legal guardian and an athlete under the age of 18 at the time of selection to a British squad or team.

l) For reasons of force majeure, an athlete may be considered for Review Status with their existing squad. In making such a decision, the Selection Panel will look for evidence that the athlete has agreed a programme of training with the Head Coach in anticipation of the next season's squad selection.



4. GB Squads

See Section 3 General Requirements and Restrictions above.

4.1 GB Elite Squad

Athletes will be considered for selection if they gain the following in the previous 12 months: Men = 85 sprint or 87 distance FIS points or better in one event, Women = 91 sprint or 97 distance FIS points or better in one event.

Athletes should have the potential to achieve Olympic selection.

4.2 GB Performance Squad

Athletes who have gained 120 FIS points or better in one distance or sprint event in the previous 12 months will be considered for selection.

4.3 GB Senior Squad

Athletes who have gained above 120 up to and including 190 FIS points in two distance or sprint events in the previous 12 months will be considered for selection.

An athlete who scores under 190 in one Distance event and one Sprint event will also be considered for selection. Athletes who have not met the standard in the previous 12 months may be invited to train with the squad.

All athletes must also show evidence of training history and planning to national coaches.

4.4 GB Junior Squad

Athletes under 20 years of age can be considered for selection if they obtain 260 FIS points (men) or 270 FIS points (women) in one distance or sprint event in the previous 12 months. All athletes must also achieve separately-issued run and strength standards and show their training diary to their assigned coach weekly.

4.5 GB Youth Squad

Athletes 16-17 years of age can be considered for selection if they meet separately-issued run and strength standards, demonstrate appropriate technical skills and show their training diary to their assigned coach weekly.

4.6 British Nordic Development Squad (BNDS)

The BNDS is primarily a squad for younger athletes who are dedicated to a performance pathway programme leading to GB squad/team status. Athletes are selected for admission to one of the development groups based on their results in run and strength tests, along with such other factors as



skiing potential, adherence to training plans, and motivation. Further details can be found by contacting the BNDS through its website: www.britishnordic.org.

5. GB Teams

See Section 3 General Requirements and Restrictions above relevant to team selections.

5.1 Olympic Winter Games (OWG)

The next OWG will be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea between 9 and 25 February 2018. The BOA want selected athletes to finish within the top two-thirds of an OWG event. Detailed selection criteria are available separately on the BSS website. The final qualification date is 21 January 2017.

5.2 World Cup

Qualification standards are set by FIS in the International Competition Rules (ICR) for Cross-Country. For direct entry the FIS points required in one distance event are 60 for men and 90 for women. Alternatively, men and women can qualify for both types of events by gaining 120 FIS points in one sprint event. An athlete is required to qualify in either Distance or Sprint to be eligible to compete in both types of events. An athlete remains qualified for World Cup competition for 12 months following qualification in any one FIS points' event.

An athlete's current form will be taken into account when there are more athletes asking to be considered for an event than Britain has places. The FIS points gained in the 12 months prior to the final date of event entry will be taken into consideration.

5.3 Senior World Championships (WCh.)

The next WCh. will be held in 2019. Selection criteria will be announced in May 2018.

5.4. World Under 23 (WU23) Championships 2018

Maximum WU23 team of 4 men and 4 women.

5.4.1 Selection Criteria

An athlete may qualify for sprint and/or distance races by meeting either of the required FIS points for one event in the 12 months before the selection date (to be announced) which are:

- Men = 195 Sprint,
- Women = 200 Sprint,
- or Men = 170 Distance,
- Women = 180 Distance.

5.4.2 Other Requirements

To demonstrate current form, athletes (men and women), who have met the selection criteria in the previous Northern Hemisphere winter season, must score 200 distance or sprint FIS points or better



in one event between 1 October 2016 and the final date of application for selection. Final selection for an individual race will be at the Head Coach's discretion.

5.5. World Junior Championships (WJC) 2018

The WJC will be held together with the WU23 Championships, with maximum junior team of 6 men and 6 women.

The FIS points gained in the 12 months prior to final date of application for selection (to be announced) will be taken into consideration.

5.5.1 Selection Criteria

Consideration will be given to men with 200 and to women with 220 FIS points gained in one distance or sprint race in the 12 months before the final date of application for selection. Attendance at a nominated selection race will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

5.5.2 Discretionary Selection Criteria (1)

If insufficient athletes meet the selection criteria, consideration may be given to athletes with 260 (men) and 280 (women) FIS points for one distance or sprint race. Attendance at a nominated selection race, e.g. Norwegian Junior Trials, is also required. The nominated selection race will be announced.

They must be born in 2000 or 2001 whilst also show evidence of weekly training history and planning to national coaches.

5.5.3 Race Selection

Athletes who meet the direct qualification in Distance or Sprint are eligible to compete in both types of races in the competition. Final selection for an individual race, however, will be at the Head Coach's discretion.

5.6 Continental Cup and Other FIS Events

To take account of the varying standards in Continental Cup events across the world, selection criteria for the groupings below will apply. The FIS points gained in the 12 months prior to final date of application will be taken into consideration.

5.6.1 Group 1 – Scandinavian and OPA

5.6.1.1 Selection Criteria

Consideration will be given to FIS points gained in one race: Men = 150 Distance or 170 Sprint and Women = 170 Distance or 190 Sprint.

5.6.1.2 Discretionary Selection Criteria



An athlete who does not meet the above criteria but who demonstrates performance potential under General Requirements and Restrictions 3j) may be considered for selection. In this instance an athlete is allowed to compete in one Group 1 event.

5.6.2 Group 2 – Nor-Am, Australia/New Zealand, Far East, Balkan and Slavic

Selection will be at the discretion of the Head Coach.

5.7 Other FIS Events

Other FIS events exclude those events that do not count for FIS qualifying points. Team selection will be at the discretion of the Head Coach and athletes must meet the mandatory requirements. Individuals who meet the Mandatory Requirements (2) and General Requirements and Restrictions 3g), but who are not selected for GB Team membership, may compete as individuals only, providing the Head Coach is notified in advance of an event.

5.8 Loppet/Marathon Cup

Team selection for athletes who meet the mandatory requirements is at the discretion of the Head Coach. For both team selection and individual athlete entry, see also General Requirements and Restrictions 3f), g), and h). There are no selection criteria for athletes who meet the mandatory requirements and who are not seeking team status but intending to compete as individuals, providing the Head Coach is notified in advance of an event.

For an athlete to be considered for selection under GB Team status, and hence national team start position, evidence of previous experience in long distance races, and the potential to be able to finish within 10 % of the winner in a World Loppet/Marathon Cup event, is required.

5.11 World University Games (Universiade)

The Universiade is not included in the BSS programme. An athlete wishing to compete in these Games must apply to the Head Coach who will decide on selection.

6 Appeals

The BSS appeals processes are structured to conform to UKSport guidelines. All appeals must be made in writing, with accompanying evidence and additional information to the BSS office. Regarding British Team selections, notification of appeal must be made within five days of the announcement of the team. Appeals relating to major events may have a shorter timescale; this will be advised.

All appeals will be considered on an individual basis. Appeals will first be reconsidered by the original Selection Panel, who will explain their reasons in writing for the decision to the athlete. If the athlete is not happy with the process or the outcome of the Selection Panel, the athlete may then opt to refer the appeal to an internal Appeals Panel.





The BSS Nordic Committee Appeals Chairman will constitute an internal Appeals Panel made up of at least three people who did not sit on the original Selection Panel. The athlete may submit further written evidence to the Appeals Panel in support of their appeal, once they have been notified of the reasons for the selection decision. It is not the task of the Appeals Panel to substitute its selection views for those of the original Selection Panel. The Appeals Panel are asked only to determine whether the original Selection Panel made a reasonable and fair decision based on all the facts which they had, or should have had, before them and using the currently applicable Selection Policies (i.e. that the original decision fell within bounds of what was objectively reasonable).

If the dispute remains unresolved, it will be submitted for an exclusive, final and binding determination to the Sports Dispute Resolution Panel (SDRP). Both parties will undertake to execute in good faith any decision of the SDRP. An appellant has the right to be heard by the Appeals Panel, but he/she will have to meet any travel and subsistence expenses for themselves or their representative.

