

## **EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC WINTER FESTIVAL 2015 – MINIMUM SELECTION CRITERIA**

### **1. Selection process for alpine athletes**

The 2015 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival will be held in Liechtenstein and the Vorarlberg from January 25<sup>th</sup> to January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Great Britain has been awarded eight quota places for Alpine athletes at these games, four each for male and female athletes.

The EYOWF events for Alpine athletes will consist of Slalom and Giant Slalom and a mixed gender parallel slalom team event.

Only athletes born in 1997 and 1998 are eligible to compete in EYOWF 2015.

The Alpine U18 selection committee will select up to four male and four female athletes to nominate to the British Olympic Association (BOA) as British Alpine representatives. Nominations will be based on the criteria outlined below. We expect to form the Alpine U18 selection committee in accordance with procedures laid out in the BSS Alpine Squads selection policy published in December 2012. Any substantive changes to this will be notified.

The U18 selection committee will submit its nominations to the BSS board who will then combine recommendations from each discipline and nominate athletes to the BOA. The BOA will make the final selection decisions on the British team.

These minimum criteria are based on the BSS Athlete Tracker requirements for men and women. This tool tracks athletes' improvements and percentages behind the best in the world for their age. BSS has threshold requirements which are designed to be consistent with progress to the top 10 in the world at an average age of medalling in Winter Olympic Games.

### **2. Eligibility Criteria**

Nominations for selection to represent Britain at the EYOWF are open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- Athletes must hold a British passport
- Athletes must be registered with FIS as British
- Athletes must meet the BOA eligibility criteria
- Athletes must meet or exceed the BSS qualification criteria outlined below

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- They are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence
- The BSS medical officer considers after an examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not physically fit to compete

### 3. Nomination Process

#### *General Comments*

All athletes should recognise that the U18 selectors and the BSS Board may be tasked by the BOA with ensuring that any athletes selected for EYOWF can be reasonably expected to produce a certain level of performance. If such expected performance levels change significantly from our understanding in June 2014 then these criteria may need to change. [If these criteria do change then BSS will notify each British FIS Alpine licence holder born in 1997 or 1998 by email of that change within two weeks of such a change occurring]. We also believe that the criteria outlined below will need to be cleared by the BOA but they are based on the criteria used for EYOWF 2013. Though written as definitive, the criteria below are subject to this caveat.

The pool of potential athletes will contain year 1 FIS athletes who will have had limited chances to reach FIS point based targets. With this in mind there will be a two tier selection process.

The U18 selection committee will also need to confirm that all nominations are adequately supported by current form.

These criteria also contain provision for qualification through a single FIS point score. This is designed to allow recognition for athletes who have clearly made substantial progress since the end of the previous season but have not been able to produce two runs by the time of selection. As such and for the avoidance of doubt, the single FIS point score criteria will need to be achieved during the 2014-15 season.

#### *“A” Criteria*

Up to four male and four female nominations will be awarded to athletes on the basis of achieving the following FIS point targets. Subject to the application of the B criteria below it may be that only three male or female athletes qualified through the A criteria will be nominated for slots.

| Men          | FIS points | Single FIS point score |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
|              |            |                        |
| Slalom       | 75         | 65                     |
| Giant Slalom | 80         | 70                     |
|              |            |                        |
| Women        |            |                        |
|              |            |                        |
| Slalom       | 75         | 65                     |
| Giant Slalom | 80         | 70                     |

The U18 selection committee will use the last FIS list published prior to their final selection meeting. For the judgement of whether athletes have met the criteria the selectors will be expected to take account of results scored between the calculation point of that FIS list and the final selection meeting.

If there are more than three athletes in either gender who are qualified through the A criteria then quota slots will be allocated through adding the athletes' world rankings for SL and GS on the last FIS

list published prior to the selectors final selection meeting. If this process is necessary it will not incorporate results scored after the calculation point of that FIS list.

The A criteria will be open to athletes born in both 1997 and 1998.

### ***“B” Criteria***

The B criteria will only be open to athletes born in 1998. If there are three or more male or female athletes nominated through the A criteria, one male or female nominations may be awarded to athletes on the following basis. If there are less than three male or female athletes nominated through the A criteria then two male or female nominations may be awarded to athletes on the following basis.

The selectors will endeavour to nominate one or possibly two race meetings in December which will serve as B criteria selection meetings. If needed, BSS will give athletes in serious contention preferential slots for these races. BSS aims to choose these race meetings in September and will notify each British FIS Alpine licence holder born in 1997 or 1998 by email of the race or races.

The U18 selectors will appoint a group of coaches to attend these meetings. These coaches will make recommendations to the U18 selectors based primarily but not exclusively on race results. Other factors taken into consideration will be at these coaches’ discretion.

The U18 Selection panel will need to provide a written explanation of why it feels that any athlete being selected through B criteria is worth their place. Only athletes who attend any selection race may be put forward. And the explanation will need to provide specific comparison with any athlete qualified through the A criteria that is not put forward as a result of the use of the B criteria.

If such selection races cannot be held BSS reserves the right to use other methods for selection at the direction of the U18 selection committee and in conjunction with the Alpine Business Manager.

## **4. Draft Selection Timelines**

At this stage these dates cannot be precise and may be subject to change. However BSS is hoping that the following timelines will be in place:

|                              |                                                                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 2013 – December 2014 | Qualification Period                                                    |
| September 2014               | Submission of long list of potential athletes                           |
| September 2014               | Publication of B criteria race details                                  |
| September 2014               | Announcement of precise selection dates                                 |
| End December 2014            | U18 selection committee meeting and publication of proposed nominations |
| End December 2014            | BSS board submission of nominations to BOA                              |
| Early January 2015           | BOA announcement of selections                                          |

## **5. Coaches**

The U18 selection committee will appoint management of the EYOWF team in conjunction with the Alpine Business Manager and BSS. This team will also need to be approved by the BOA. It may also

be that the team is designed in part to work across disciplines. It is not likely that any coaches outside of this team will receive accreditation or support from the BOA.

## **6. Appeals Process**

All BSS appeals must be made in writing, with accompanying evidence and additional information to the BSS office. Given the short timelines involved in selection, notification of appeal will need to be within 36 hours of the publication of the list of proposed nominations. Precise timings will be advised nearer the date. A £250 bond must be included with the submission of the appeal. The bond will be returned if the appeal is successful.

All appeals will be considered on an individual basis and must be made on the grounds that this selection policy was not followed. Appeals will first be reconsidered by the original selection committee, who will explain their reasons for the decision to the athlete. If the athlete is not happy with the process or the outcome of the Selection Committee's final decision, then the athlete may opt to refer the matter to an internal appeals committee.

A BSS Appeals Chairman will be appointed by the BSS Chief Executive and he/she will constitute an internal Appeals Committee made up of at least three people who did not sit on the original Selection Committee but including at least one person with specific Alpine experience.

In cases of appeal against non-selection for teams/squads, all appellants should be aware that it is not the task of the Appeal Panel to substitute its selection views for those of the original committee. They are asked only to determine whether, on all the facts which they had – or should have had – before them, the original Selection Committee made a reasonable and fair decision using the currently applicable Selection policies. The Appeal Panel has no power to alter these policies but may comment on them.

Given the short timelines involved and the importance of allowing reasonable preparation for other athletes involved, for championship selections there will be no further appeals process.