

WINTER YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES 2016 – MINIMUM SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Selection process for alpine athletes

The 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games will be held in Lillehammer from 12th – 21st February. BSS is expecting GBR to be awarded one female quota slot and one male quota slot for Alpine. It is possible that this could rise to two quota slots but our understanding is that this would require GBR to be one of the top seven non-Norwegian countries in the Marc Hodler trophy at the 2015 World Junior Championships.

The WYOG events for Alpine athletes will consist of Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G and Alpine Combined. There will also be a mixed-gender parallel slalom team event, but BSS believes this is likely to be restricted to those nations that gain double quota entries.

Only athletes born in 1998 and 1999 are eligible to compete in WYOG 2016.

The Alpine U18 selection committee will select athletes to be nominated to the British Olympic Association (BOA) as British Alpine representatives. Nominations will be based on the criteria and process 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 2014. Any substantive changes to this will be notified.

The U18 Alpine selection committee will submit its nominations to the BSS board who will then review the Alpine recommendations 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. These criteria have been adjusted in line with the unusually significant changes introduced for the 2014-15 season to the "F" factors that are used to calculate FIS points. These changes apply to both Slalom and Giant Slalom but not to Super G.

2. Obligations of Selected Athletes

Athletes selected by the BOA to take part in the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games will need to cooperate with any BOA requirements. Specifically:

- The 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games is scheduled to have a significant educational component. Selected athletes will be expected to take part in these activities and will also be expected to be in Lillehammer for the full 10 days of the Games and ancillary activities.
- Athletes selected by the BOA are likely to be required to sign a BOA specific Code of Conduct over and above any BSS commitments they may already have signed.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Nominations for selection to represent Britain at the WYOG 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

4. Nomination Process

General Comments

BSS would prefer to select athletes via a time trial, the process used for the inaugural 2012 WYOG. There are inevitable risks in running a time trial based process, particularly if it needs to take place during December. BSS is hoping that the final BOA deadlines for nominations for the 2016 WYOG will be in early January. If so, BSS will organise a time trial that fits in with those deadlines as soon as it has full information from the BOA. BSS will provide an update to this process and details of any potential alternative selection process by the first week in September 2015 at the latest.

If a time trial is organised and then cancelled for any reason then the U18 selection committee will have the right to nominate athletes based on FIS point rankings, world rankings or a combination of those methods as it feels appropriate at the time.

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 WYOG can be reasonably expected to produce a certain level of performance. If such expected performance levels change significantly from our understanding in November 2014 then the criteria outlined below may need to change. If these criteria do change then BSS will notify each British FIS Alpine licence holder born in 1998 or 1999 by email of that change within two weeks of such a change occurring. While we believe that the criteria outlined below may need to be cleared by the BOA, they are based on the criteria used for EYOWF 2015. Though written as definitive, the criteria below are subject to this caveat.

Minimum Qualification Criteria

All athletes better than the following FIS point thresholds in one or more of the three disciplines will be eligible to attend the time trial that is envisaged.

Men	FIS points	Single FIS point score
Slalom	85	75
Giant Slalom	85	75

Super G	85	75
Women		
Slalom	85	75
Giant Slalom	85	75
Super G	85	75

When BSS issues the update on the expected time trial, with the update expected to be at the start of September, it will also publish details of which FIS point list it expects to use as a cut off for passing these criteria.

These criteria contain provision for qualification through a single FIS point score. This is designed to allow recognition for 1998 athletes who have made substantial progress since the end of the 2014-15 season but have not been able to produce two completed races at the right level by the time of selection. Additionally it will give more chance for 1999 athletes who will have had limited opportunities to race. As such and for the avoidance of doubt, the single FIS point score criteria will need to be achieved during the 2015-16 season.

Exemptions from minimum selection criteria for specific 1999 athletes

When BSS produces its update on the expected time trial at the start of September 2015, the U18 selection panel will also confirm six exemptions to the minimum qualification criteria for the time trial. There will be three each for 1999 born men and for 1999 born women. These exemptions will be given as follows:

- All 1999 athletes with GBR FIS licences by the end of August will be considered
- These athletes will be ranked according to the aggregate of their SL, GS and SG BASS points from the final BASS point list of the 2014-15 season.
- The top three men and the top three women on this basis will be awarded the exemptions

BSS hopes that this process will reduce the pressure on our best 1999 athletes to chase races in the early part of their first year as FIS athletes.

5. 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:

June 2014 to early December 2015	Qualification Period
September 2015	Submission of long list of potential athletes
September 2015	Announcement of precise selection dates
Early January 2016	U18 selection committee meeting and notification of proposed nominations
Early January 2016	BSS board submission of nominations to BOA
Early January 2016	BOA announcement of selections

BSS will endeavour to provide updates to this timeline as more information becomes available

6. Coaches

The U18 selection committee will appoint management of the WYOG 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.

7. 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 Chair will be appointed by the Chair of the Alpine, Speed and Telemark Committee 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.