

BRITISH FENCING OLYMPIC SELECTION POLICY FOR LONDON 2012

Objectives

1. The objective is to nominate fencers to the British Olympic Association (**BOA**) to represent UK and maximise our chances of success, within a system that sets realistic qualifying standards. In addition we may nominate, (in accordance with this selection policy) and subject to the agreement of the BOA, fencers who are considered a prospect for future Olympics and in particular Rio 2016.

Eligibility

2. Fencers must:
 - a. Be British citizens with a valid British passport;
 - b. Satisfy criteria of the BOA and not be ineligible to compete by virtue of the operation of the BOA's bye-law on 'Eligibility of Membership of Team GB of Persons Found Guilty of a Doping Offence';
 - c. Satisfy the FIE rules on national eligibility and minimum age; and
 - d. Satisfy any other eligibility rules as may be imposed by BF from time to time.
3. Selection for the 2012 Olympic Games will be made by the BOA following nomination by British Fencing (**BF**) in accordance with this selection policy.

Direct Qualification

4. The FIE qualification system for 2012 is attached as Annex A. Individual fencers will qualify directly through the world rankings at 31.03.12. Teams may qualify for MF, WF, WE and MS based on the world team ranking.
5. Any GB fencer who qualifies by right in accordance with the FIE/IOC qualification pathway set out in Annex A will be nominated to the BOA for selection.
6. There will also be a European zonal qualifying competition in which European nations that have no FIE qualified fencers will be eligible to compete.
7. It will be the BF policy to enter the European zonal qualifying competitions in all eligible weapons.
8. The fencers for the zonal events will be selected by the Olympic selectors, (see section 16), taking into account amongst other things:
 - a. fencers' world rankings;
 - b. current and projected form;
 - c. any other factor the selectors consider relevant in giving the best possible chance of BF qualifying a fencer.
9. Any fencer winning an automatic place via the European zonal competition will be nominated to the BOA for selection.
10. If a team qualifies by right then the 3 fencers and reserve will be selected by the Olympic selectors based on:

- a. Their performance in the team over the season;
- b. Their world ranking and hence their potential for the individual;
- c. Maintaining a balance to the team;
- d. Any other factors that the selectors consider relevant.

Host Nation Places

11. The BOA has been allocated 8 host nation places in total across all disciplines subject to the satisfaction of the criteria below. **To be eligible for nomination** for these places athletes must meet the minimum qualifying standard below (satisfying the criteria below shall not guarantee nomination of an athlete):

- a. As an **individual**, a fencer must have been ranked in the top 50 of the world rankings at some time between 1st April 2010 and 9th May 2012; (this latter date may be changed in the light of the calendar as published by the FIE for next season), or they must be in the top 45 of the world ranking on 1st April 2012 amended to contain only those fencers eligible for the Olympic Games. [i.e. only 2 fencers per nation, or 3 where teams have qualified, are left in].
- b. For a team to be eligible for selection it must have been ranked in the top 75% of the world ranking based on the number of teams taking part in the 2011 World Championships at the relevant weapon, rounded to the nearest whole number with 0.5 being rounded up at some time between 1st April 2010 and 9th May 2012. For instance if 20 teams take part in the World Championships in 2011, then the team must be in the top15 of the World rankings at some time in the relevant period.

NOTE: the FIE world rankings will be checked after each relevant FIE event but fencers are advised to notify the Performance Manager (PM) if they achieve the above level during the qualifying period.

12. In addition to the qualifying standards set in 11, British Fencing may consider other fencers eligible to take up host nation places if:

- a. in the opinion of the selectors, an athlete shows potential for future Olympics based on current and projected form; and/or
- b. the Olympic selectors believe that the fencer would have qualified, but for exceptional circumstances such as injury or illness.

Selection Process

13. It is the responsibility of all fencers who wish to be considered for selection to ensure that the PM has both their valid email address and mobile phone numbers on 31st March 2012. The fencers will be sent a copy of the results and rankings of all the fencers at their weapon, which will be used by the selectors to decide who should be nominated. The names of the Olympic selectors will also be included. The candidates will have [5] working days from receipt of this information to question the accuracy of any of the data, or challenge the impartiality of any of the selectors. Any challenge to the impartiality of the selectors will be referred to the Appeal body (which shall be independent of the selection panel and free from bias) for an immediate ruling. They may also supply the selectors with any other information that they feel may be relevant to their selection, e.g. periods of injury

during the past 12 months etc. The selectors will not be obliged to consider any further information from the fencers after this 5 day period.

14. The Olympic Selectors will be appointed by the Board of British Fencing and free from any conflict of interest or bias.

The Chair of the Olympic Selectors will be independent, non-voting and from outside the sport, nominated and appointed as above and will be responsible for setting a quorum and ensuring that the meeting is accurately recorded.

The selectors may discuss the selection using any form of communication (such as telephone conference or electronic mail etc) but the decisions must be taken and recorded at an actual meeting. The PM will present the fencers results, any other relevant information and recommendations of nominations to the selectors. The selectors will also consider recommendations from the team coaches, captains and any other person they consider relevant. The selectors will use majority voting to decide which fencers to nominate. The selectors may delay the decision on a particular fencer or team to obtain more information.

15. The Olympic Selectors will choose, from among those qualified, the fencers and teams who in their opinion have the best chance of achieving success in the competition and meeting BF's objectives. They will use the results of the fencers, current form, any fitness reports and any other factors they consider relevant in making the selections.

For the team event they will pay particular attention to the results from the team competitions and obtaining a proper balance for the team. It is the **TEAM** that qualifies and hence the selectors are not bound to follow any ranking for the selection to the team and may even select an unqualified individual over a qualified fencer. All fencers selected for the team will automatically be nominated for the individual event. However any fencer who qualifies by their own right under the FIE world or zonal route will be automatically nominated for any team at that weapon.

Announcements

16. All fencers in contention will be notified of the decisions reached, as soon as possible after the selection meeting which shall be within 7 days of the cut-off date in section 11. No athlete shall be permitted to make any announcements to the media or general public in any form whatsoever including any announcement on any social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook of their possible or confirmed selection or non-selection prior to official announcement by the BOA of such selection or non-selection.
17. Selection shall be conditional on athletes signing and agreeing to the British Fencing Team Members Agreement and codes of conduct along with the BOA's Team Members Agreement for London 2012.
18. Any fencer wishing to appeal against a decision of the selectors must do so within 5 working days of being informed of the decision. Appeals may only be made on the basis that the process outlined in this document has not been followed.

In particular no appeal can be accepted based on disagreement with the

discretionary decisions made by the selectors. The appeal process is available at www.britishfencing.com or from headoffice@britishfencing.com.

Delegation Registration Meeting

19. The date of the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) is 8 July 2012. At this date the BOA puts the entry of the full British Olympic Team in to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games. The PM or the selectors may request a medical examination and/or a fitness test at any time before the DRM. Prior to DRM, BF reserves the unconditional right to not nominate or de-select any athlete who does not fulfil the necessary fitness or performance standards, following assessment by the appointed NGB doctor and/or any other person nominated by the PM. This decision will be made by the Olympic selectors based on reports from the appointed assessors, from the PM and from the relevant coaches, etc. British Fencing will, through the Olympic selectors, make any decisions on selection of any replacement athletes based on the criteria for selection outlined in this document. BF shall keep the BOA informed of all such decisions.
20. After the DRM has been completed, but before the event, de-selection and selection of a replacement athlete is only allowed in accordance with the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Late Athlete Replacement Policy (or any revised or amended IOC policy dealing with athlete replacement) and is the responsibility of the BOA.
21. In the event of there being a query over the ability of an athlete to be able to compete to the best of his/her ability due to an injury or illness the following procedure will be adhered to:
 - a. Team GB's Chief Medical Officer can require an athlete to undergo a medical examination to determine his/her fitness to participate. This examination will be carried out by Team GB's Chief Medical Officer or another doctor delegated by him/her. If the athlete fails the medical examination he/she will be withdrawn from the Team and the Governing Body may (if appropriate) nominate a replacement athlete in accordance with its selection policy.
 - b. if the athlete passes the medical examination carried out in accordance with (a) above but BF and/or the BOA still have concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to a level which would ordinarily have been expected of the athlete due to the underlying injury or illness, the Chef de Mission (in consultation with the Governing Body) can require the athlete to undergo a set of pre-determined sports specific performance tests. The tests or the framework for the tests (accepting that it is not necessarily appropriate to establish in advance the exact tests that are required for a specific injury or illness) should be set out in the selection policy and may not be varied or amended without prior approval of the BOA. The tests will be conducted under the guidance of the sport's Team Leader (or his/her delegate e.g. team physiotherapist) and a BOA representative or delegate will be present (if possible/available). If the athlete fails the test (which can be undertaken on more than one occasion and within a short time frame if appropriate), he/she will be withdrawn from the Team on medical grounds and, if appropriate, a replacement can be nominated by BF in accordance with the selection policy.

22. Notwithstanding anything written in this document, British Fencing reserves the right to amend the document in the light of changed circumstances. All changes will be communicated to the fencers as soon as reasonably possible.