

# GBR SENIOR SELECTION POLICY 2019-2020

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Date Approved by Board: 7<sup>th</sup> October

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## 1. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document lays out the BF selection policy for Senior World Cups, Grand Prix and European Championships. There will be no Senior World Championships held in 2020.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

**“International Senior Management Group (ISMG)”**. The ISMG will consist of one member of each Weapon Selection Panel (normally the Weapon Manager (WM)) and a Chair who will not be a member of any Weapon Selection Panel.

**“Weapon Selection Panel (WSP)”** means the panel of selectors chaired by the Weapon Managers. There will be three Weapon Selection Panels in total (Foil, Epee and Sabre) with a minimum of three Weapon Selectors. The BF Athlete Development Programme can nominate an individual to sit on the WSP in an advisory capacity.

An **“overdue debt”** will be considered one that has not been paid within 30 days of notification that an amount is owed to British Fencing, by British Fencing or one of the 1nauthoriz Team Managers.

**“Senior”** applies to all fencing events which are not cadet (U/17), junior (U/20), U23 or veteran (over 40).

**“disciplinary record”** means the record of

- a) the status, outcome and resulting sanction of any disciplinary cases and complaints relating to breaches of BF Codes of Conduct and/or BF Policy within the last 18 months.
- b) any current disciplinary sanction imposed by BF, Home Country Associations, FIE and/or any other relevant authority.

## 3. DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES

This document is approved by the BF Board.

The BF Board delegates the implementation and execution of the policy including any related selection processes, procedures and structure to the CEO.

In turn, the CEO delegates responsibilities as follows:

**Weapon Selection Panels (WSP):** Senior World Cup/Grand Prix, European\* and World\* Championships Individual and Team Selection.

\*subject to ISMG ratification.

**International Senior Management Group (ISMG):** Overseeing and ratifying the Weapon Selection Panels European and World Championship selections. Ensuring consistency of application of any discretion across the weapons for European and World Championship selections.

The Chair of the ISMG will be responsible for ratifying referred team selection.

The names of the individuals on the WSPs and the ISMG will be published on the BF website.

This document will be reviewed annually, and any changes approved by the BF Board.

#### 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES/ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

1. Fencers will only be considered for selection if they have a satisfactory disciplinary record. The Weapon Selection Panel/ISMG reserves the right to omit a fencer from selection for any particular event if they deem that fencer's disciplinary record to be unsatisfactory.
2. No fencer will be eligible for selection if, at the relevant selection date, that individual has an overdue and unauthorised debt to British Fencing.
3. Fencers are expected to maintain a satisfactory level of training and fitness and be able to evidence this if necessary (for example on production of a training diary). The Weapon Selection Panel/ISMG reserves the right to request a fitness test or omit a fencer from selection for any particular event if they deem that their fitness or training record to be unsatisfactory.
4. In making any selection decision the Weapon Selection Panel/ISMG shall not be obliged to have regard to the fact that selection (or non-selection) may affect a fencer's ranking in any ranking scheme.
5. If any conflict occurs between the above rules and anything published or appearing on the British Fencing website these rules will have precedence.
6. Applications for the correction of errors in the calculation of points for selection or any mitigating circumstances or discretionary case which an athlete wishes to be taken into account in the selection decisions, should be submitted in writing using the appropriate forms available on the British Fencing website. These should be sent to the Weapon Selection Panel/ISMG via BF Head Office no later than two weeks **before** the identified selection date.
7. Any athlete wishing to be selected for Great Britain at FIE or EFC competitions must compete in the National Championships in the relevant category – Cadet, Junior, U23 or Senior. Only in exceptional circumstances will an exemption be granted, which must be sought in advance and have received written approval of the CEO. In the event an athlete is unexpectedly injured or ill a doctor's note will be required to be submitted to Head Office within one week of the date of the Championships.

The only exception would be if an athlete does not have British Nationality at the point of the National Championships but subsequently receives British Nationality.

8. Entry to FIE Grand Prix and World Cup competitions will be governed by the conditions of the particular competition and/or FIE regulations and any fencer must meet any such conditions/regulation to be considered for selection including holding a BF Membership and an FIE licence.
9. According to FIE rules, a financial penalty can be imposed if a fencer fails to turn up to an event. The fencer will be liable for this penalty.

### 5. FIE GRAND PRIX AND WORLD CUP COMPETITIONS

10. The top ten ranked British fencers in the British Senior Ranking at the time of selection, subject to fitness, being a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event and meeting the selection criteria listed above will be entitled to be selected for the individual event at both Grand Prix and World Cup competitions. Athletes accepting selection for an individual World Cup event are expected to be available for selection for the associated World Cup team event. Athletes who are unable to make themselves available must inform the Weapon Selection Panel in advance of the date of selection.

The exception to the minimum age requirement would be

1. where the Athlete Development Team, identifies an athlete whose development would be significantly hindered by non-selection
  2. where the Athlete Development Team, determines that the weapon team development strategy and the athlete development supports the selection of a younger athlete
11. The remaining two quota places may be filled by fencers, subject to fitness, age restrictions and eligibility, selected by the Weapon Selection Panel, taking into account:
    - Medical reason/injury/illness eg an athlete returning from injury
    - Commitment to training
    - Team Strategy – eg Skills to perform a specific role within the team event
    - Performance Trajectory and Athlete Development Programme Activity (Junior/U23 progress)
    - Demonstrable commitment to BF values

Athletes must be in the Top 20 of the Senior Rankings or the Top 3 of the (Rolling) Junior Rankings unless the discretionary case is based on injury/illness for which medical certificates must be provided.

Athletes residing abroad who have not competed in sufficient competitions in the UK to attain a Top 20 Senior Ranking may be considered provided they can demonstrate they have achieved equivalent (in performance terms) results or ranking in the Senior Domestic circuit in the country they reside in. The requirement to compete at the Senior National Championships still applies (paragraph 7.)

12. Any fencer wishing to be considered for a discretionary quota place must complete a **Discretionary Selection Application Form** and email it to [headoffice@britishfencing.com](mailto:headoffice@britishfencing.com) no later than two weeks before the selection date. There will be a charge introduced per event for any discretionary application not based on injury. ADP may apply for discretionary places for ADP fencers as part of the Junior development strategy and there will be no charge for

these applications.

13. In the event that any of the top 10 ranked fencers do not accept selection, the Weapon Selection Panel in exceptional circumstances may use up to three of these places as additional discretionary quota places in accordance with the discretionary factors in paragraph 11.
14. Any fencer selected in the discretionary quota places may be given individual performance and training targets, which will be used in determining further discretionary selection as the season progresses.
15. Fencers must accept selection by completing a Competition Entry Form and emailing it to headoffice@britishfencing.com by the published acceptance date or two working days after selection whichever is the latest. Fencers may choose to complete forms in advance of selection.
16. Fencers competing in the individual event will not automatically be selected for the Team event at the associated World Cup.
17. Fencers for the team events will be selected at the same time as the individual event by the Weapon Selection Panel. The Panel will take into account any factors and results that they feel to be relevant in making their decision, and any relevant Board approved strategy for team development. Any decision not to select athletes ranked 1 and 2 for the team (other than athlete injured/unavailable for selection) should be referred to the Chair of the ISMG for review. Where a GBR coach or manager is nominated for a team event the Weapon Selection Panel reserve the right to select a squad of up to six athletes for the team event and delegate the final selection of athletes to that coach/manager on the day of the event.

## 6. EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020 INDIVIDUAL QUALIFICATION

18. Selection to fence in the individual events at both the European and World Championships 2020 will initially be made from those fencers who have reached the necessary qualifying standard, subject to meeting the eligibility selection criteria listed above and the provisions of the following paragraphs.
  1. The qualifying standard for individuals for the 2020 European Championships will be 2 x L64s or 1 x L32 from the **first SIX** FIE international WC / GP competitions.  

The qualifying standard for the 2020 World Championships will be 1 x L32 from **all EIGHT** FIE international WC/GP competitions in addition to the 2020 European Championships (as appropriate).
  2. In the event that more athletes qualify than places available, athletes will be selected according to the number of points achieved in that seasons FIE WC/GP/European Championship events as appropriate.

Result	Points Awarded
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L64	5
L32	15
L16	30
L8	45
L4	60
L2	75
1 <sup>st</sup>	90

3. In the event that two athletes qualifying for the last place have the same number of points the selectors will use discretionary factors (other relevant results, performance trajectory, training plans, fitness) to make a selection.
4. Fencers selected for the individual competition shall not automatically be selected to fence in the Team event at either the European or World Championships 2020.

## 7. EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2020 TEAM QUALIFICATION

19. Notwithstanding the qualifying standard for individual events, any weapon which stands in the Top 12 16 of the world cup team rankings after 4 World Cup team events may send a full team of four fencers to the 2020 European championships. Any weapon which stands in the Top 12 of the world cup team rankings after the European Championships may send a full team of four fencers to the World Championships. All other Team selections will be discretionary. To be eligible for discretionary selection a Weapon Team must have competed in at least 2 World Cup events prior to the selection cut-off date in the current season. The selection cut-off date will be no later 6 weeks before the first day of the European Championships.
20. Discretionary decisions to send a team to the European Championships will be based on the following factors:
  - a. Team Performance at World Cups
  - b. Evidence of commitment of team members to training.
  - c. Current fitness/injury status of team members.
  - d. International performance depth of potential team members who have not met the individual qualification criteria
  - e. Behaviour, professional approach, team mentality and resultant impact on wider GB squad (athletes, officials etc)
21. Athletes that have qualified for the individual event will automatically be considered for the team event. All other athletes must submit a discretionary application two weeks prior to the selection date. Athletes that have not qualified for the individual event that do not submit a discretionary application have no right to be considered for selection.
22. Fencers who decline selection for the team event will not be permitted to fence in the individual event.

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23. Up to four fencers for each Team event will be selected by the Weapon Selection Panel and ratified by the ISMG taking into account the following discretionary factors.
- Medical reason/injury/illness eg an athlete returning from injury
  - A track record of performances in individual and team events at Senior World Cup and Grand Prix events, demonstrating the ability in these events to win Direct Elimination bouts and team relay bouts against a reasonable standard of international opponent.
  - Commitment to fitness and training, including detailed training plan for the weeks prior to the event
  - Team Strategy eg skills to perform a specific role within the team event
  - International Performance & Ranking Trajectory
  - Athlete Development Programme Activity (Junior/U23 progress)
  - Demonstrable commitment to BF values
  - Evidence of ability to act as a supportive squad member and have a positive impact on the team mentality and overall professional culture of the GB team.
24. If fewer than three fencers present a credible case for team selection using the factors listed above, the selectors (with the approval of the ISMG) reserve the right not to select a team, or to defer team selection until a later date.
25. If only three fencers present a credible case for team selection, the selectors will defer selection of a team reserve until such time that all selected fencers accept their places.
- Once all three fencers accept their place, a fourth fencer will be nominated by the Athlete Development Programme (ADP) as a reserve for the team event. The ADP will support the nominated athlete to ensure that they receive the maximum development benefit and are able to meet the professional behaviour standards expected of a member of the Senior team. The ADP will consider performances at 2020 Junior European and World Championships and 2020 U23 European Championships\* supported by Athlete Development Programme Activity (Junior/U23 progress). If the ADP declines to nominate an athlete the selectors may select an athlete using any factors they see fit.  
  
\*this will depend on the closing date of the Senior European Championships in relation to the U23 European Championship events.
  - If all three fencers do not accept their team selection, a team will not be entered, however the remaining selected fencers will still be able to compete in the individuals, provided that they do not displace a qualified fencer from competing in the individual event
26. Fencers who have not met the individual qualification standard and accept selection for the team event are also eligible to fence in the individual event provided that in doing so they do not displace a qualified fencer from competing in the individual event.
27. For the purpose of selection for both the individual and team events at the 2020 European and World Championships, the ISMG and the CEO may in their absolute discretion modify the rules for points and the qualifying standard retrospectively where special circumstances affect the result of any particular competition (e.g. significantly reduced participation, walk-over result, or minimal entry).

## 8. APPEALS & COMPLAINTS

28. Any athlete who has not met the performance criteria in paragraph 19 for automatic qualification for the 2020 European and World Championships, shall have no right of appeal against non-selection for these competitions.
29. Any athlete who has not achieved the criteria in paragraph 10 for automatic selection for Senior World Cups/Grand Prix, shall have no right of appeal against non-selection for these competitions.
30. The Appeal Policy and Procedure will be published on the BF website.
31. Outside of matters that fall under the Appeal Policy and Procedure, general comments and complaints relating to selection can be sent to [headoffice@britishfencing.com](mailto:headoffice@britishfencing.com) and will be handled according to the Comments and Complaints Policy.

### Version History (can be placed at end)

Version Number	Date Updated	Updated by	Comments
v0.2	04.10.19	GU	Updated after Consultation. Changes from 18/19 policy highlighted in yellow.