

DETAILED ATHLETE NOMINATION PROCEDURE FOR THE TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES **BEING HELD IN 2021**

AND SELECTION FOR THE EUROPEAN ZONE QUALIFICATION EVENTS **2021**

FINAL APPROVED VERSION AFTER JAN 2021 FIE CALENDAR UPDATE

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1. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this policy is to nominate fencers to the British Olympic Association (**BOA**) to represent Team GB at the Olympic Games 2020 being held in 2021 to maximise the chances of success.

Selection for the Tokyo Olympic Games 2020 being held in 2021 will be made by the BOA following the nomination by BF in accordance with this policy.

Notwithstanding anything written in this document, British Fencing (**BF**) 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.

2. ELIGIBILITY

Athletes are eligible for consideration for nomination provided they:

- are a British citizen with a valid British passport valid for at least six months after the Olympic Games in 2021;
- are a member of British Fencing (**BF**);
- satisfy all eligibility criteria of the BOA and/or the International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) from time to time, including (but not limited to) in respect of anti-doping and nationality requirements;
- have satisfied all eligibility criteria under the FIE rules including national eligibility and minimum age as may be adopted by the FIE from time to time; and
- satisfy any other eligibility rules as may be imposed by BF from time to time.

3. ADJUSTED RANKING LIST

For the purposes of Olympic nomination, on 5th April 2021, BF will produce an 'Adjusted Ranking List' for each weapon based on an athlete's points (**not** world ranking) from the official FIE World ranking points based on the following criteria:

- a) No points gained in FIE Satellite will be eligible to be included in the BF 'Adjusted Ranking List'.
- b) If athletes have equal ranking points then the athlete with the best result (e.g L16 v L32) from results achieved at the 2019 European Championship, 2019 World Championships and during the period 1st October 2019 – 5th April 2021 will be ranked higher. If both athletes have an equal best result, then the athlete with the best result during the period 1st October 2019 – 5th April 2021 will be ranked higher. If the athletes cannot be separated by best result as described above then the athlete with the best result (final finishing position) at the **LAST** FIE World Cup or Grand Prix competition immediately before the end of Olympic qualification, will be the higher ranked fencer.
- c) For the avoidance of doubt, any athlete can gain points from the 2019 European Championships or 2019 World Championships irrespective of the method of selection for those events.

4. OLYMPIC GAMES NOMINATION

4.1 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The Federation Internationale D'Esgrime (**FIE**) and International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) final qualification system for 2021 has been published and can be found on the FIE website [<here>](#)
- 4.1.2 There are two routes to direct qualification. In the first instance there is the Team qualification route. For the nations where a Team does not qualify there is then an Individual qualification route.
- 4.1.3 Should no Team or Individual fencer qualify by World Ranking from a weapon, it is the policy of BF to enter a fencer for the European Zone Competition 2021 in that weapon. Selection for the European Zone Competition will be carried out in accordance with the detailed selection criteria as outlined in this document.

4.2 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - TEAM

- 4.2.1 A Team can qualify directly through the team world ranking at 5th April 2021 as per the FIE / IOC final qualification document (4.1.1). Any GBR weapon team which qualifies by right in accordance with the FIE / IOC document will be nominated by BF to the BOA for selection.
- 4.2.2 If GBR qualifies a team by right through the FIE team world rankings, then three fencers and a reserve will be nominated in accordance with the nomination criteria and Adjusted Ranking List as described below.

4.3 TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA - AUTOMATIC NOMINATION

- 4.3.1 The top two fencers by rank order in the BF 'Adjusted Ranking List' at the end of the Olympic Qualification period (5th April 2021) will be automatically nominated by BF to the BOA for selection to Team GB for both the Team and Individual event
- 4.3.2 If the third placed fencer in the BF 'Adjusted Ranking List' has 30 points or more at 5th April 2021 then they will be automatically nominated by BF to the BOA for selection to Team GB for both the Team and Individual event. The fourth place reserve fencer will be nominated using the Discretionary Nomination process (Section 4.4).
- 4.3.3 If the third ranked fencer in the BF 'Adjusted Ranking List' does not have 30 points or more, then the third and fourth places will be nominated using the Discretionary Nomination process (Section 4.4).

4.4 TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA - DISCRETIONARY NOMINATION

- 4.4.1 The **Olympic Nomination Panel** (ONP) will be responsible for nominating athletes for discretionary team places which are not filled by the Automatic Nomination process (Section 4.3). These athletes will be nominated by BF to the BOA, for selection to Team GB.
- 4.4.2 Nomination for discretionary team places will be based on the following discretionary factors in **weighted order**:
- a) Performance in the GBR Team during the Olympic qualification period 3rd April 2019 – 5th April 2021 at the World Championships, European Championships, World Cups and Grand Prix events only. Performances in team matches against the teams that have qualified in that weapon for the Tokyo Olympics will be prioritised.
 - b) Contribution to a positive team dynamic
 - c) Any matters relating to injury or illness
- 4.4.3 In the event that two athletes for the team have been nominated using the criteria (4.4.2) above, then the athlete with the highest number of FIE ranking points excluding those awarded for FIE Satellites at the latest date of nomination (to be agreed with the BOA, expected to be after the 2021 European Championships) will be the third named fencer for the individual and team event. The next ranked athlete will be the reserve fencer for the team event only.

4.5 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - INDIVIDUALS

4.5.1 In the event that a Team does not qualify then Individual fencers can qualify directly through the world ranking at 5th April 2021 as per the FIE / IOC final qualification document. Any GBR fencer who qualifies by right in accordance with the FIE/IOC document will be nominated by BF to the BOA for selection.

5. OLYMPIC NOMINATION PANEL

BF will form an Olympic Nomination Panel (ONP) to deal with all nominations, non-nominations and de-selection issues (7.1.2).

The members of that panel will be appointed by the Board.

The ONP will ideally be made up of a minimum of:

3 Members with Voting Rights

- 1 member of the Senior Weapon Selection Panel from each qualified Weapon (Weapon = Foil, Epee, Sabre). This person will have the casting vote in the event of a tie.
- 1 legally qualified member of the BF Disciplinary & Appeal Panel
- In the event that only 1 Weapon is qualified the panel will include 1 additional member of the Senior Weapon Selection Panel from an unqualified Weapon.

2 Observers

- An independent BF Board Director will be present as an observer.
- The BOA will nominate an observer to the panel to ensure due process.

Weapon/Team Managers, GB National Coaches, personal coaches, any person with a close relationship with any eligible athlete or their coach or any person with a conflict of interest (perceived or otherwise) that is considered by the BF Board to be unmanageable will not be eligible to be a selector.

The ONP may request information from Team Managers or Coaches but all such information must be presented to the ONP in writing.

Decisions of the ONP will be subject to the BF Appeals Policy and Procedures.

The BF Conflict of Interest Policy will apply.

For the avoidance of doubt, the ONP will not be responsible for selecting athletes to attend the Zonal events (6.2).

6. EUROPEAN ZONE QUALIFICATION EVENT

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 There will be a European Zone qualifying competition in which European nations that have no FIE fencers qualified during the period 3rd April 2019 – 5th April 2021, in the weapon concerned, can participate with a maximum of one (1) fencer per nation per weapon.
- 6.1.2 It will be BF policy to enter an athlete in the European Zone qualifying event in all eligible weapons.
- 6.1.3 Any GBR fencer who qualifies through the European Zone Competition in accordance with the FIE/IOC final qualification document will be nominated by BF to the BOA for selection.

6.2 SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria will be applied, in order, when selecting athletes for the European Zone qualifying competition.

6.2.1 FIE World Ranking:

For selection under criteria 6.2.1 an athlete MUST be ranked in the top 50 of the FIE World Rankings at 5th April 2021. If more than one fencer is in the world top 50, then the highest ranked athlete based on the BF Adjusted Ranking List will be selected subject to fitness and being free from injury.

If no athlete meets the criteria in 6.2.1 or if the highest ranked fencers are on equal points then 6.2.2. will be applied:

6.2.2 Current Form:

Current form will be based on results from 1st October 2019 – 5th April 2021 in FIE Grand Prix and World Cup competitions.

The fencer with the highest ranking on the BF Adjusted Ranking List only including points awarded for competitions between 1st October 2019 and 5th April 2021 will be eligible for selection subject to fitness and being free from injury.

7. DELEGATION REGISTRATION MEETING

- 7.1.1 The BOA will inform BF of the date of the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM) (provisionally estimated to be 6 July 2021). At this date the BOA puts the entry of the full British Olympic Team in to the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games in 2021.
- 7.1.2 BF may request a medical examination at any time before the DRM. Prior to the DRM, BF reserves the unconditional right to not nominate or to de-select any athlete who does not fulfil the necessary medical standards following an assessment by the appointed NGB doctor, or who otherwise fail to adhere to this selection policy.
- 7.1.3 In respect of any decision to de-select on grounds of a failure to fulfil the necessary medical standards, such decision will be made by the ONP based on the reports of the medical examination from the nominated doctor.
- 7.1.4 After the DRM has been completed, de-selection and selection of a replacement athlete is only allowed in accordance with the IOC's Late Athlete Replacement Policy (or any revised or amended IOC policy dealing with athlete replacement) and is the responsibility of the BOA.
- 7.1.5 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 after the DRM 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 7.1.5 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.
 - c) 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 nomination policy.

8. APPEALS

- 8.1.1 An athlete may appeal their non-nomination / selection by BF, only in cases where the procedure outlined in this policy document is not adhered to.

- 8.1.2 Appeals against decisions must be made within 3 working days of the notification from the BF confirming the nomination / selection decision(s).

- 8.1.3 An athlete must lodge their appeal, with BF Head Office headoffice@britishfencing.com alongside a deposit of £250.00, which will be reimbursed should the athlete win their appeal. The appeals policy can be found on the British Fencing Website.