

# BF SELECTION POLICY FOR GBR REPRESENTATION 2022-23

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# 1. OVERVIEW

## 1.1 PURPOSE OF POLICY

This document sets out the BF Selection Policy for individual, teams and squad selection for representing Great Britain in international competition for the 2022-23 season. It covers selection for Cadets (U17), Juniors (U20), Under 23s, and Seniors, for all International Competitions and Major Championships for all disciplines of fencing, including Para fencing.

This does not include selection for

- the Olympic Games which is covered under a separate nomination policy.
- the Paralympic Games which is covered under a separate nomination policy.
- The 2023 European Games (which replaces for this season the European Senior Championships) which is covered under a separate nomination policy.
- the Olympic Zonal Qualification Events which is covered under a separate policy
- Veteran representational fencing which is operated by British Veterans Fencing.
- Home Nation representational fencing (for example Commonwealth Championships) which are operated under Home Nation policies.

## 1.2 OWNER

Responsibility for the administration of the BF Selection Policy lies with the Pathways Director who is responsible for the BF Athlete Development Programme (ADP).

## 1.3 PURPOSE OF SELECTIONS

The overall aim and purpose of selection is to maximise the opportunities to:

- Win individual or team medals at International Competitions and Major Championships.
- Provide appropriate development opportunities for individual athletes and teams on their journey to future Olympic and Paralympic qualification and medal success (Paris 2024 & Los Angeles 2028 and beyond).
- Support the overall development strategy of individual weapons and GBR fencing and Para fencing as a whole.
- Promote time on task at appropriate competitions in the development pathway of an individual athlete or team.

## 1.4 APPLICATION

This policy applies to all selections for the 2022-23 season.

## **1.5 SELECTIONS & COVID**

In light of current COVID risks, the decision to enter GBR athletes in any representational event remains with the Board of BF. Selection decisions are independent of the decision to allow a squad to travel or any team or individual to be entered. All such decisions will be taken by the BF Board in light of guidance from relevant bodies (DCMS, FCO, UK Sport) and subject to ongoing risk assessments. Selection confers no rights to be permitted to travel or to be entered. BF reserves the right to withdraw previously entered individuals/teams in response to changing situations. Athletes and anyone travelling in support are expected to have travel insurance in place to cover the cost of travel disruption due to COVID. BF is not liable for any costs associated with decisions in this regard.

Selection dates may be subject to change if events are cancelled or postponed due to COVID. Any changes will be published on the BF website.

## **1.6 EXCEPTIONAL & CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES**

BF reserves the right in exceptional circumstances to adjust:

- the number of athlete or team selection spaces available for any event
- the status of a competition (e.g., from nominated to non-nominated)

Circumstances might include (but are not limited to) impact or risk in relation to covid, security, lack of resources (staff, officials, coaches, volunteers), cost, safeguarding and welfare.

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 on the BF website as soon as reasonably possible.

## 2. DEFINITIONS & ACRONYMS

The following words or expressions shall have the following meanings:

<b>ADP</b>	The BF Athlete Development Program
<b>Athlete Development Team (ADT)</b>	A team of people nominated by the Athlete Development Programme (ADP) which includes ADP executive team members, Weapon Leads and coaches
<b>BF</b>	British Fencing
<b>British Junior Ranking</b>	The Junior ranking list compiled by BF according to the published associated ranking scheme document. For the avoidance of doubt, unless specifically stated otherwise, this is a rolling ranking
<b>British Senior Ranking</b>	The Senior ranking list compiled by BF according to the published scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, unless specifically stated otherwise, this is a rolling ranking
<b>British Cadet Ranking</b>	The Cadet ranking list compiled by BF according to the published scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, unless specifically stated otherwise, this is not a rolling ranking
<b>Cadet</b>	Under 17 on or after 1st of January of the year when the next Cadet World Championships are to be held. Athletes must be at least 11 on 1st January to compete in any UK cadet events in that calendar year
<b>Calendar</b>	The BF, IWAS, FIE or EFC Calendar
<b>Championships Selection Panel</b>	The panel of selectors that perform Major Championships selection. (CSP). Different CSPs may be in place for different championship events, including Para fencing Major Championships.
<b>Competition</b>	A contest between a group of individuals using a single type of weapon (e.g., “Men’s Foil”, “Women’s Sabre”) organised in accordance with governing body (BF, EFC, FIE) rules
<b>Development International Competition (DCs)</b>	The EFC events or other selected international events that have been identified for the purposes for gaining international development experience. Performances in these events will be eligible for Cadet or Junior ranking points. (For seniors, all satellite and U23 events are considered development competitions and are eligible for Senior and Under 23 ranking points.)
<b>Disciplinary Record</b>	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 where a set date has been provided where the sanction is still considered active.
<b>Discretionary Factors</b>	Specific subjective and/or objective measures used to inform selection decisions for individuals and teams
<b>EFC</b>	European Fencing Confederation - <a href="https://www.eurofencing.info/">https://www.eurofencing.info/</a>
<b>EFC Competition</b>	EFC U17 and U23 Circuit events including those held in the UK and the European U23 Championships

<b>EIS</b>	The English Institute of Sport, funded by UK Sport to deliver the World Class Programme for Para fencing.
<b>Event</b>	One or more Competitions typically held in the same venue, under the same organising committee over a period of no more than a few consecutive days (e.g., UK Opens, FIE Competitions)
<b>FIE</b>	International Fencing Federation - <a href="https://fie.org/">https://fie.org/</a>
<b>IWAS</b>	International Association of Wheelchair Fencing - <a href="https://iwasf.com/">https://iwasf.com/</a>
<b>Junior</b>	Under 20 on or after 1st of January of the year when the next Junior World Championships are to be held
<b>Major Events/Championships</b>	World or European Championships (all age groups), World University Games
<b>Member</b>	A BF member in good standing holding a licence to compete in the relevant age group
<b>Nominated International Competitions (NCs)</b>	<p>International competitions in which performances (in the individual, team, or both) will be considered for GB selection for the category in which they are nominated.</p> <p>Senior World Cups (individual and team) and Grand Prix's (individual) are considered as nominated individual events for Senior for purposes of this document. There are exceptional circumstances (e.g., COVID, security) where these competitions may be deemed non-nominated.</p> <p>EFC Under 23 events are considered as nominated individual events for athletes that meet the criteria of for being an Under 23. This is not the case for Seniors that do not meet this criteria.</p> <p>Performances in these individual nominated events will be eligible for BF Ranking points in accordance with the appropriate schemes.</p>
<b>Non-nominated International Competitions</b>	International competitions where performances in these events will not be eligible for BF ranking points. (e.g., The non-nominated Junior World Cup individual events are not eligible for Junior BF Ranking points).
<b>Open</b>	A single weapon (from the 6 Weapon categories), individual Competition held in the UK which any Senior Member is permitted to enter on payment of the appropriate fee.
<b>Overdue debt</b>	An unsatisfied debt that is not paid within 30 days of notification and remains owed to BF, by BF or one of the authorised Team Managers.
<b>Para fencing</b>	The IWAS disciplines of Wheelchair Fencing
<b>Para Fencing Selection Panel (PSP)</b>	The panel of selectors that perform selections for Nominated Para fencing events. There will be a minimum of three Selectors on each panel.
<b>Para Fencing Strategy</b>	Para fencing strategic document authored by the outlining the aims and objectives of the individual weapons.

<b>P-WCP</b>	The Para fencing World Class Programme, operated by the EIS, funded directly by UK Sport.
<b>Season</b>	<p>Cadet &amp; Junior Fencing – Season ends with Cadet and Junior FIE World Championships and (unless event is postponed) season starts following this event.</p> <p>Senior Fencing – Season ends with Senior FIE World Championships and (unless event is postponed) season starts following this event.</p> <p>Para Fencing – As the European and World Championships move from year to year a reference to 'Season' will be interpreted as the 12 months prior to the World Championships.</p>
<b>Senior</b>	All athletes that are aged 13 or over on or before the first day of the Competition. "Senior" applies to all fencing events which are not Cadet (U/17), Junior (U/20), U23 or Veteran (over 40).
<b>Squad</b>	The group of athletes competing in a Development or Nominated International Competition or Major Championship, including any reserves.
<b>Under 23 or U23</b>	Aged 23 years on or after 1st of January of the year when the next European Championships are to be held.
<b>Weapon Selection Panel (WSP)</b>	<p>The panel of selectors that perform individual weapon (fencing only, for Para fencing selection see Para Fencing Selection Panel definition above), selections for Nominated Events where entry numbers are limited. There will be a minimum of three Weapon Selection Panels (Foil, Epee and Sabre) with a minimum of three Weapon Selectors on each panel. An individual WSP may select for more than one age group.</p> <p>The BF Athlete Development Programme can nominate an individual to sit on the WSP in an advisory capacity.</p>
<b>Weapon Strategy</b>	Weapon specific strategic document authored by the ADT outlining the aims and objectives of the individual weapons.



### 3. GOVERNANCE

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 the responsibility to the Athlete Development Programme (ADP) to administrate the selection policy.

The ADP is responsible for putting in place the structures, processes, and procedures in accordance with this policy.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Putting in place a structure, overseeing and ratifying the Selection Panels for International Competitions and Major Championships (see Appendix B & C)
- Defining the selection processes
- Setting out clear roles and responsibilities of all individuals involved in the selection process
- Ensuring consistency of application of any discretionary selections across the weapons and between athletes
- Ensuring that the Selection Panel members are kept up to date and informed with individual Weapon Strategies.

The ADP is responsible for ensuring that all athletes being put forward for consideration by the Selection Panel are eligible under the policy.

The ADP will assign an individual within the ADP (normally the Weapon Lead) to create the list of athletes nominated for selection to the relevant Selection Panel in accordance with this Policy.

For Para fencing the ADP may in turn pass some of these responsibilities to the P-WCP by agreement with EIS.

The names of the individuals involved in the selection process (including the members of the Selection Panels and ADP Coaches) will be published on the BF website.

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

BF reserve the right for more regular periodic reviews to ensure that it takes account of any external rule or policy amendments; and to ensure it includes any relevant feedback. There is an increased likelihood of such periodic review leading to amendment in the current circumstances where COVID and measures to control it by Governments/FIE/EFC and/or BF may affect events and competition opportunities and/or athletes' participation in them.

The BF Board reserves the right to make changes to this policy in exceptional circumstances.

## 4. EVENTS

The following selections are covered by this policy:

### 4.1 MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS (MCs)

Include:

- FIE Senior, Cadet & Junior World Championships 2023 – Individual and Team Selection (no Cadet Team event)
- EFC Senior, U23, Cadet & Junior European Championships 2023 – Individual and Team Selection
- IWAS European and World Championships
- World University Games (Nominations to BUCS) – Individual and Team Selection

Selections for all European & World Championships performed by: Championships Selection Panel.

NB The 2023 Senior Europeans is replaced by the 2023 European Games and will therefore be covered under a separate nomination policy.

Details of the WUGs Nomination process can be found in [section 13](#).

### 4.2 NOMINATED INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (NCs)

Include:

- \*All Senior FIE World Cups – Individual and Team – Senior Nominated
- \*All Senior FIE Grand Prix's – Individual Only – Senior Nominated
- Identified FIE Junior World Cups – Junior Nominated
- Identified EFC Cadet Events – Cadet Nominated
- Identified EFC U23 Events – U23 Nominated
- Identified FIE Satellite Events – U23 Nominated
- Identified IWAS Events (Para fencing)
- Other identified events – Senior, U23, Junior or Cadet

\*Subject to locations passing Security & COVID risk assessments

An identified competition may be nominated in more than one category. For example, an EFC U23 Event could be nominated for both U23 and Juniors.

A full list of Nominated International Competitions and the categories of BF rankings they count towards will be published on the BF website.

#### Selection

Selection performed by: Weapons Selection Panel, Para Fencing Selection Panel.

Nominations for Para fencing team events will by in the first instance proposed to the PSP by P-WCP.

Discretionary nominations for Para fencing individual events will by in the first instance proposed by ADT with input from P-WCP to the PSP.

Selections for FIE & EFC team events and discretionary places proposed/nominated by: The ADT.

For Senior & U23 Nominated Competitions (excluding IWAS World Cups and IWAS Major Events) where entry numbers are not limited (e.g., FIE Satellites) the selection/entry process will be managed by the ADT. For Para fencing events this will be done in collaboration with the P-WCP.

### **4.3 DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (DCS)**

Competitive development opportunities available to athletes on the development pathway. Points will be available for BF rankings (but in most cases fewer than for NCs).

Include:

- Identified Junior World Cups for Juniors
- Identified EFC Cadet Events & U23 Events – Individual Only
- Identified FIE Satellite Events for Juniors/U23s
- \*FIE Satellite Events and EFC Under 23 events for Seniors & U23s
- IWAS Satellite Events
- Other identified events

A full list of Development International Competitions and the categories of BF rankings they count towards will be published on the BF website.

GBR eligibility criteria and minimum standards will apply to these events.

Where entry restrictions exist, priority will be given to pathway athletes.

\*Subject to locations passing Security & COVID risk assessments

Selection/Entry Process performed by: **ADT**. For Para fencing events this will be done in collaboration with the P-WCP.

#### **Non-Nominated International Competitions**

There will be no formal selection process for the following events – there will be minimum standards (see below) and an entry process managed and published by the Athlete Development Programme in conjunction with Head Office to support athlete entry and manage demand for places in the unlikely event that it exceeds supply.

- Junior World Cups and other international Junior events which are not already Nominated or Development Competitions
- EFC Cadet Events and other international Cadet events which are not already Nominated or Development Competitions
- IWAS Events which are not already Nominated or Development Competitions

GBR eligibility criteria will still apply to these events. Entries subject to locations passing Security & COVID risk assessments

Entry Process managed by: **ADT**. For Para fencing events this will be done in collaboration with the P-WCP.

## 5. SELECTION PANELS

Selection panels should be constituted and run according to Appendix B & C.

Selection panels are responsible for selecting squads plus any reserves after scrutinising the information provided by the ADT in accordance with the selection process, including any proposed use of discretionary places (individual and team)

Selection panels will be published on the BF website in advance of selection.

### 5.1 THE WEAPON SELECTION PANEL

The Weapon Selection Panel (WSP) performs selection for Nominated International Competitions with restricted entry numbers according to this policy.

The WSP will consist of a minimum of 3 members, one of whom will be the Chair.

Members of the WSP cannot be personal coaches of any athletes being nominated for selection.

GBR Team Managers cannot be selectors, they may attend selection meetings in non-voting roles.

The ADP will nominate a member of the ADT to propose selections to the panel in accordance with this policy.

### 5.2 THE PARA FENCING SELECTION PANEL

The Para Fencing Selection Panel (PSP) makes selection decisions for designated international Para fencing competitions, that might have limited or unlimited places, most notably IWAS satellite world cup competitions and IWAS world cup competitions, according to this policy.

The PSP will be comprised from 3 of the following members, one of which will act as Chair and one of which must be from BF. The majority voting rights will lie with the nominated representatives from the EIS World Class Programme.

- WCP Lead Coach
- WCP Assistant Performance Coach
- WCP Performance Manager
- BF ADT Nominee

The EIS WCP and the BF ADT are entitled to nominate additional observers with non-voting rights.

The ADP will nominate a member of the ADT to collaborate with the EIS WCP Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to propose/nominate athletes to the PSP in accordance with this policy.

### 5.3 THE CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION PANEL

The selection panel will consist of an odd number of members. All voting members must have a fundamental technical understanding and experience of the event being selected for, and the athletes under consideration.

#### 5.3.1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Any Independent Member and Independent Observer must have no personal, financial or coaching links with any of the athletes being considered for selection.

The Independent Observer may be one of the Independent BF Board Directors, or an observer from an external organisation including UK Sport, Sport England, the BAC or the BOA.

#### 5.3.2 FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP PANEL

A typical Fencing Championship Selection Panel will consist of:

	How many	Do they vote?*	Example
Chair	1	Y	Pathways Director
ADP Performance Rep	1	Y	Head of Olympic Teams
ADP Weapon Rep	3 (min)	N	Weapon Leads
Panel Members	3 (min)	Y	Normally taken from members of WSPs
Independent Member	1	Y	
ADP Sport Science & Medicine Rep	1	N	
Independent Observer	1	N	
Data Analyst & Note taker	1-2	N	
*Stand-In	1-2	N	

\* A selector who has a personal coaching relationship (even in the recent past) with any of the athletes under consideration provides a risk of allegations of bias. Where this is unavoidable, the coach will not have a vote in regard to this athlete(s) and may only be present to give their opinion on the respective merits of each eligible athlete with others making the final decision. Stand-ins can be co-opted by the Chair to act in a voting capacity should this situation arise.

### 5.3.3 PARA FENCING CHAMPIONSHIP SELECTION PANEL

A typical Para Fencing Championship Selection Panel will consist of (Primacy of WCP voting):

The Para Fencing Championship Selection Panel (PCSP) performs selection for the major IWAS championships – European and World representative competitions. The majority voting rights will lie with the nominated representatives from the EIS World Class Programme.

The PFCP will consist of the voting members identified below, one of whom will act as Chair.

	<b>Do they vote?</b>
WCP Lead Coach	Y
WCP Assistant Performance Coach	Y
WCP Performance Manager	Y
BF Pathways Director	Y
BF ADT Nominee	Y

Several non-voting contributing observers will be invited to include – but not limited to.

	<b>Do they vote?</b>
WCP Performance Management Board nominee	N
BF Para Fencing Pathway Manager	N
Independent Observer	N
Secretariat	N

*Note – The athlete nominees for selection will be identified and put forward to the PFCP by the WCP coaches*

Note: A full list of eligible discretionary applications (submitted using the online form provided by BF) will be provided to the selectors.

## 6. GENERAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

### 6.1 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Athletes must be eligible to represent Great Britain.
2. Athletes must hold a **current BF Compete Membership** at the time of selection and/or the key selection dates. An athlete who does not have a current membership will not be considered for selection.
3. Athletes must have suitable medical and travel insurance.
4. Athletes have read and agreed to abide by all **BF Policies and Codes of Conduct**.
5. Athletes have read and agreed to abide by the **BF Athlete Commitment**, created by their fellow athletes.
6. Athletes will only be considered for selection if they have a **satisfactory disciplinary record** where any ban or measures that were sanctioned at the time, have been completed. The ADT, in conjunction with BF Equality and Safeguarding Manager, reserve the right to omit an athlete from selection for any event if they deem that the risk of the athlete's inclusion to that event, exceeds an acceptable level of risk and would negatively impact on the other athletes or staff invited.

"Disciplinary record" means the record of

- 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.
  - any current disciplinary sanction imposed by BF, Home Country Associations, FIE, IWAS and/or any other relevant authority.
7. No athlete will be eligible for selection if, at the relevant selection date, that individual has **an overdue and unauthorised debt to BF**. An "overdue debt" will be considered one that has not been paid within 30 days of notification of an amount that is owed to BF, by BF or one of the appointed Team Managers.
  8. Athletes 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 selection panel(s) reserves the right to request a fitness test or omit an athlete from selection for any event if they deem that their fitness or training record is unsatisfactory.
  9. In making any selection decision the selection panel(s) shall not be obliged to have regard to the fact that selection (or non-selection) may affect an athlete's ranking in any ranking scheme.
  10. Any athlete wishing to be selected for Great Britain at any International, FIE or EFC competitions must **compete in the most recent National Championships in the relevant category** – Cadet, Junior, U23 or Senior. For example, for 2022-23 selections this means

competing in the 2022 Cadet and Junior Championships, the 2022 Senior Championships and so on. (Applies to Para fencing from April 2023)

- 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.
  - Only in exceptional circumstances will an exemption request be granted. Requests for exemption must be submitted using the GBR National Championships Exemption Form, found on the BF website, two weeks in advance and have received official confirmation of acceptance from the CEO.
  - Additionally, exemptions after the event can be made in the following circumstances:
    - If an athlete does not have British Nationality at the point of the National Championships but subsequently receives British Nationality.
    - If an athlete can demonstrate that they were unable to compete and at the time did not intend to/expect to participate in subsequent international fencing.
    - At the discretion of the Pathways Director in consultation with the CEO.
11. Athletes must be compliant with the **BF Anti-Doping Policy**, with evidenced satisfactory completion of online Anti-Doping Training. Failure to comply will normally result in non-selection or de-selection.
  12. Entry to any competition will be governed by the conditions of the competition and the relevant and appropriate governing bodies (National Federation, EFC, FIE, IWAS). Any athlete must meet any such conditions/regulation to be considered for selection. Athletes will need to hold a **current EFC/FIE/IWAS licence and minimum classification status as applicable** to be entered for following the events:
    - a) FIE Licence: Junior World Cups, Senior Satellites, Senior Grand Prix, Senior World Cup and Cadet, Junior, EFC Under 23 Championships, Senior World Championship
    - b) EFC License: EFC Cadet competitions, Cadet European Championships, EFC Under 23 events.
    - c) IWAS License & Classification: World Cups, European Championships, World Championships. Classification: have at least a national classification and be eligible for international classification with relevant documents
  13. If any conflict occurs between the above eligibility rules and anything published or appearing on the BF website these rules will have precedence.

## **6.2 GENERAL GROUNDS FOR DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

14. **Discretionary factor/s** used where athletes who have not met the qualification standards or minimum requirements for selection, will be but are not limited to:
  - a) Regular attendance and engagement at ADP or P-WCP camps (virtual and/or physical).



- b) Demonstrable commitment to BF values and ability to uphold and role model the Athlete Commitment.
  - c) Performance Trajectory – recent significant improvements in performances and results. Priority will be given to athletes on demonstrable performance trajectories to qualify for Paris 2024 or Los Angeles 2028.
  - d) BF Pathway Stage Assessment (fencing only) and development trajectory to 2024/2028/2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games
  - e) Team strategy – e.g., skills to perform a specific role within the team event, the opportunity to trial new team members. Includes consideration of athlete’s ability to respond to coach feedback during matches.
  - f) 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.
  - g) Previous GBR team/individual performance identified by the ADT or P-WCP. This may include performances at appropriate international competitions that indicate an ability to perform at international level.
  - h) Specific Weapon/Para fencing Strategies in relation to the development of that discipline.
  - i) Evidence of an appropriate standard of training and fitness.
  - j) Commitment to a documented training plan which is shared with the ADP (or P-WCP for P-WCP athletes).
  - k) The ability of an athlete to seek out, listen to and act on feedback from the ADT/P-WCP/ADP coaches as evidenced by demonstrable steps to address the feedback as documented in the athlete’s individual training plan.
  - l) As part of a rotational plan, to provide development opportunities for a group of athletes within the squad - decided by the ADT or P-WCP.
  - m) Injury/illness – e.g., athlete returning from serious injury, returning from long COVID.
  - n) Return from a long period of absence (such as Pregnancy) which was notified to the ADT/P-WCP before taking the period out from training or competing.
  - o) Current or historic participation in any relevant performance pathway programme including those run by Home Nations, BF, or any other relevant institution.
15. Fencing only - The decision-making process will include reviewing the submitted Athlete Assessment which is based on the published BF Pathway Stages and components. Athletes will be assessed against the minimum Pathway Standards:
- T2 for the Cadet age category
  - T2/3 for Juniors and Under 23’s age categories
  - T3 or T4 for Senior athletes

16. Any athlete selected in the discretionary places may be given individual performance and training targets, which will be used in determining further discretionary selection opportunities as the season progresses.
17. The ADT reserves the right to consider the international performances of identified athletes that are residing abroad, who have not competed in sufficient competitions in the UK (Note – fencing athletes must still compete in the National Championships). Athletes will be expected to evidence that they are regularly training at a high level, competing at comparable competitions and has a ranking sufficient in their residing country, to compete for GBR at international events. These athletes may be required to attend an EFC, FIE or IWAS satellite event to further evidence consideration for selection.

### **6.3 RESERVES**

18. Reserves may not necessarily be identified for every competition.
19. Any reserves identified may be prioritised in number order by the Selection Panels. There will be no right to appeal this order. The Selection Panel may change the order of reserves if it believes this best serves the Weapon/Para fencing Strategy. If the requirement to use a reserve athlete does arise, there will be no subsequent right of appeal for any unused reserves.
20. The number of reserve places offered will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel. Any reserves will be selected using the same criteria listed above.

### **6.4 TEAM SELECTION**

21. The Selection Panel is not obligated to recognise the BF Ranking Schemes when selecting the team.
22. When making its decision, the Selection Panel will consider various factors set out above, in any order and with appropriate weighting that the ADT and the Selection Panel reasonably sees fit in order to achieve the aims set out in the policy.
23. In the event that a team member withdraws, the replacement will be selected by the Selection Panel. Should the Selection Panel be unavailable (eg withdrawals at or close to the event) the Pathway Director will approve a replacement or withdraw the team.
24. For Para fencing International Competitions prospective team members will be notified ahead of nomination and selection that they may be required for the team event. The WCP Lead Coach will confirm selection for the team event(s) at the relevant competition.
25. **Fencing Only** - For International Competitions (not Major Championships) the top 2 individually selected athletes will normally be selected for the team. The remaining places and reserve (if identified) will be at the discretion of the WSP with advice from the ADT in accordance with this policy.

## 6.5 PRE-SELECTION

26. It is the responsibility of the athletes (and the parent/guardian for a minor) to keep athlete details complete and up to date on the Pathway/ADP database and the BF Membership Platform (<https://bf.sport80.com/>). Specifically, they must ensure the accuracy of their email address and contact details in the BF membership platform as these will be used in the event that an athlete (or their parent/guardian) needs to be contacted in relation to a selection issue. Any issue that results from a failure to keep these details up to date will not be grounds for an appeal against non-selection.
27. It is the athlete's responsibility (and the parent/guardian for a minor) to check rankings. Applications for the correction of errors in the calculation of ranking points should be sent to [rankings@britishfencing.com](mailto:rankings@britishfencing.com) and BF Head Office [headoffice@britishfencing.com](mailto:headoffice@britishfencing.com) within 48 hours of the ranking points being published. Please refer to the published GBR Ranking Scheme for full details.
28. The ADP will put in place a mechanism to opt-in to selections. This ensures that selection decisions for individual and teams are focussed on those athletes that wish to attend.
29. **Fencing Only:** For all Major Championships for all ages, JWCS, EFC Under 23, and SWC's and GP's, athletes will be expected to submit their most recently updated Athlete Assessment form as part of the process for selection. This will be based on the Pathway Stage appropriate to the competition.
30. Athletes that have missed the deadline for confirming their acceptance of selection (the 'entry window') as set by BF and published on the website, will be automatically de-selected and no longer entitled to enter the respective events. Their place will be passed to the first reserve unless there has been a technical issue with the platform or entry system. The failure to keep the BF Membership Platform up to date with the correct email address and contact details will not be classed as a 'technical issue'.
31. Where the Selection Panel believes that selection of an athlete would either contravene the duty of care owed to that athlete or would pose an unreasonable, as determined by the Selection Panel, risk to that individual, other individuals/groups of individuals or BF, it shall be under no obligation to select an individual, squad, or teams to which it is entitled in any International Competition or Major Championships.

## 6.6 ACCEPTING SELECTION

32. In accepting selection an athlete (and the parent/guardian for a minor) is agreeing to be bound by the Terms and Conditions of selection and all relevant BF Codes of Conduct, policies and procedures as published on the BF website.
33. Athletes are expected to ensure that they have all the appropriate level of equipment and clothing to compete. This not only means fencing equipment/clothing that meets international standards but also the correct National Tracksuit as identified by BF as appropriate for that event.

34. It is the responsibility of the athlete (and the parent/guardian) to review selections and take appropriate action. For International events selected athletes will receive an email with instructions about accepting their place which may include completing a 'Acceptance of Selection form'). If a payment is due, a selection will not be considered as accepted until the payment is made in full.
35. BF will not be responsible for following up with athletes who have not confirmed their places and paid by the published closing date. Athletes who have not accepted **and** paid within the 'entry window' will be deemed to have forfeited their place. Their place may then be offered to the named reserves or allocated to the ADP for a further discretionary selection if all the named reserves have been invited and accepted.
36. Athletes who are not intending to accept their place are encouraged to decline their selection as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than 7 calendar days of the invitation. This allows BF to plan to invite any reserve athletes and reduces the potential for increased cost that might be associated with any delay to the selection process.
37. Athletes selected for Major Championships must be available to attend any pre-Championships GBR Team Development Camps (where provided, by ADP or P-WCP) unless they have received an authorised exemption.
38. Athletes selected for Major Championships must be available to fence if selected, in any nominated pre-Championship team events unless they have received an authorised exemption.

## **6.7 POST SELECTION**

39. According to EFC & FIE rules, a significant financial penalty can be imposed if an athlete fails to turn up to an event, unless they are injured and can provide a medical certificate, or there are exceptional circumstances for the absence. The athlete will be solely liable for the entirety of this penalty and is required to inform BF and the EFC/FIE the reasons for any absence. Athletes must inform BF at the earliest opportunity of any illness or injury likely to require withdrawal (or no-show) at an event. Following the event, any appeals to World/European Governing Bodies in relation to penalty fines must be communicated through BF.
40. Athletes that decline their selection for any team event, before the entries to that event have closed, may be required to forfeit their individual place to allow another athlete to compete in that individual event.
41. All post-selection issues (including insufficient training and preparation evidenced against the agreed training plan, injury, illness, loss of performance, and disciplinary issues) will be considered by the BF Pathway Leadership Team and/or the P-WCP who will decide whether an athlete is to be de-selected. This includes issues where athlete's circumstances change, and they are no longer able to meet the terms and conditions of the selection or follow the individual development plan they submitted as part of the selection process.

42. De-selection decisions based on injury and/or illness should be taken in consultation with appropriate medical professionals, ADP or P-WCP Sports Science & Medicine team, and the BF Chief Medical Officer. Athletes may be required to undergo medical assessments (at their cost) and/or physical testing.
43. Agree and comply with any BF COVID Regulations, which for all selected athletes including reserves will include the requirement to undergo a COVID Test. Should any athlete test positive for COVID the athlete's selection will be rescinded with no right of appeal.
44. De-selection decisions based on disciplinary issues/breaches of BF Codes of Conduct will be taken in consultation with the Disciplinary Chair/CEO.
45. An athlete whose Compete membership expires will be removed from the selection and will forfeit their place.
46. Athletes that are selected as reserves will be expected to maintain an appropriate level of preparation for the competition.
47. Any athlete who is participating in a team match that deliberately forfeits their matches, or refuses to participate in a team match, negatively impacting on the result of the team or the opportunity for the team members to compete and gain experience; **may forfeit their right to compete at the Major Championships that season and may be subject to disciplinary proceedings.** There will be exceptions where the welfare of the athlete/s was at risk.

## **6.8 APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

48. To be considered for discretionary selection athletes must complete an online 'GBR Discretionary Selection Form' found on the BF website) by the published date. Any mitigating circumstances or discretionary case which an athlete wishes to be considered in the selection decisions should be submitted in writing using this form. **Fencing Only:** This includes uploading the most recent BF Athlete Assessment document, which is expected to be completed by the athlete and their personal coach.
49. All discretionary applications for events other than EFC Cadet Circuit events must be accompanied by a current Individual Development Plan which should set out the individual development goals for the attending event.
50. Fencing only: There will be a charge of £30 per event for any discretionary application where the athlete's ranking falls outside of the criteria for automatic or eligible discretionary selections except in the circumstances outlined in **item 51**.
51. The following discretionary applications will not be subject to a charge:
  - a) Those based on injury or illness or a period of agreed absence (e.g., Pregnancy), or
  - b) Those invited by the ADP or P-WCP to apply, or

- c) Those fencers nominated by the ADP or P-WCP.

## **6.9 TIMING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF DECISIONS, RANKING, PUBLICATIONS & SELECTIONS**

- 52. For all selections, the aim is to publish updated rankings within 4 working days of the event, subject to any corrections required. Please refer to BF Ranking Scheme for further information.
- 53. The ADP will publish a calendar of events which includes the selection cut off dates for all competitions on the BF website.
- 54. The aim is to announce selection decisions within 3 working days of the published selection date on the BF website.
- 55. Athletes will have 48 hours to appeal, starting from the date of publication of the selection decision on the BF website.
- 56. Athletes may request further feedback for non-selection. For clarity, this would not be considered as initiating an appeal but to support athlete development only.
- 57. Once the window for appeals has passed, athletes will receive confirmation that they can proceed with (for example) booking accommodation and flights.

## 7. WORLD & EUROPEAN FENCING CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION (FIE/EFC)

### 7.1 AVAILABLE PLACES PER WEAPON

- a) Cadet European Championships – up to 4 Individual places plus 1 Team
- b) Cadet World Championships – up to 3 Individual places. Individual Event only, no Team event.
- c) Junior European Championships – up to 4 Individual places plus 1 Team
- d) Junior World Championships – up to 4 Individual places plus 1 Team
- e) U23 European Championships - up to 4 Individual places plus 1 Team
- f) Senior European Championships – up to 4 Individual places plus 1 Team
- g) Senior World Championships – up to 4 Individual places plus 1 Team

The following applies to the required qualifying standards that are achieved during the current season, within the respective age category.

### 7.2 INDIVIDUAL EVENT

For Para fencing selection qualification standards [see section 11 and Appendix E.](#)

58. The qualification standards for all European & World Championships are:
- a) an individual medal winning performance at one of the Nominated International Competitions in the same competitive age category or above (excluding U23) during the current season; or
  - b) an individual medal winning performance at a Major Championship in the previous season in the same competitive age category or above.
  - c) Meeting the qualification standards of the competitive age categories above their current FIE age categories (U17, U20, Senior) they normally compete within, would be deemed to have met the qualification standards for their lower age groups as well.
    - E.g., Meeting the qualification standards at the Junior age category as a Cadet, would be deemed as a qualification standard for Cadet major championships as well. Juniors qualifying at Senior level would be deemed to have qualified at Junior level as well.
  - d) their final individual placing percentage is less than or equal to 8%\* at one of the Nominated International Competitions in the same competitive age category from competitions held during the current season plus previous season's European and World Championships; or

- e) their final individual placing percentages average less than or equal to 40%\* from their best three (of a minimum of three) Nominated International Competitions in the same competitive age category from competitions held during the current season plus previous season's European and World Championships.

\* percentages calculated based on actual number athletes who started the competition, not on athletes entered or failed to appear at start.

59. Selection to fence in the individual events at European & World Championships will initially be made from those eligible athletes who have reached the necessary qualifying standard, subject to the provisions of the following Paragraphs.
60. Excluding Cadet World Championships: If more than **three** eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the European & World Championships, then: the first **three** athletes on the respective BF ranking list will be selected. The fourth athlete and any non-travelling reserve will be selected/proposed by the ADT, at their discretion. These will normally be selected from any remaining qualified athletes using a combination of assessing comparative qualification standards and discretionary factors, except in Seniors where in the case that an athlete with recent Senior qualification form fails to make a qualification standard due to significant injury/illness or pregnancy, the ADT reserve the right to propose that athlete for either place (instead of a qualified athlete), subject to that athlete being able to demonstrate a return to fitness.
61. As the selection date is often before the European Championships, if places remain unfilled with athletes qualified by right, a strong performance at the European Championships can be considered if the planning for the World Championships allows.
62. If fewer athletes qualify than places available, and the decision is made not to select a team, the ADT reserve the right to propose additional individual athletes based on discretionary factors ([section 6.2](#)).

### **7.3 TEAM EVENT**

63. Notwithstanding the qualifying standard for individual events, any weapon which stands in the Top 16 of the respective FIE senior world cup team rankings as of the date of selection, may send a full team of four athletes to the senior European or World Championships.
64. Notwithstanding the qualifying standard for individual events, the ADT may use its discretion to propose inclusion of a team or propose adding team members to compete at the Team event.
65. Athletes selected for the individual event shall not automatically be selected to fence in the Team event.
66. Athletes for the Team events will be proposed by the ADT who may consider any discretionary factors and results that they feel to be relevant in making the selection.



67. Athletes selected for the Team events may fence in the individual event, even if not qualified, provided that in doing so they do not displace a selected qualified athlete from competing in the individual event.
68. The ADT/CSP will delegate decisions regarding order and substitutions to a named coach who will also be the tactical coach for that event, where physically in attendance.

#### **Cadet World Championships only**

69. If more than two eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the Cadet World Championships, the two athletes with the highest positions on the BF Cadet Ranking (including points from events up to the published cut-off date) will be selected. Unless **item 71** applies, the next two highest ranked qualified athletes will normally be selected in third place and as a non-travelling reserve.
70. If fewer than three eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the Cadet World Championships, **the qualified athletes will be selected.**
71. **In exceptional circumstances only**, unqualified athletes may be selected by the CSP with advice from the ADT. This might include injury or illness that affected part of an athlete's season, when performance history and evidence indicate an athlete might have achieved the required standard.

#### **U23 European Championships only**

72. BF reserve the right for this specific event, depending on location, to require athletes to be aged 18 or over on the date of travel. This decision will be based on safeguarding and security considerations.

## 8. CADET (U17) SELECTION

### 8.1 *NOMINATED INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (INDIVIDUAL & TEAM)*

73. Cadet (U17) Nominated International Competitions are usually identified EFC Cadet Circuit competitions, but other international competitions may be nominated.
74. The Weapon Selection Panel (WSP) is responsible for selecting the squad (including reserves where applicable) according to the selection procedure up to the available places.
75. Available places:
  - a. Up to a maximum of **20 eligible athletes in the ranking lists per weapon** will be selected for these squads based on the Weapon Strategy.
  - b. For any international cadet event in the UK, however, up to **64 British athletes** can be entered.
76. Selection procedure:
  - a. Up to **4 discretionary places** and the first two reserves per weapon can be selected. The remaining places will be selected according to the BF Cadet Ranking list, including events up to the published selection cut-off date and
  - b. For any international cadet event in the UK, there will be open entry up to the entry maximum (see item 75b. above)

The ADT will be responsible for providing the WSP with a list of athletes recommended for discretionary places.
77. If spaces become available through places being declined the WSP, in consultation with the ADT, reserve the right to select replacements from the top 25 eligible athletes on the British ranking list using the Discretionary Factors. Names of any selected replacements will be published in order of selection.
78. For those events which include a team event, teams must be entered by the formal deadline and via the BF office. There will be an extra levy to cover the referee and administrative costs. Allocation of athletes to teams will be the responsibility of the ADP Coach, who will also coordinate the coaching tasks for the team event. (Please note that some EFC Cadet events are introducing maximum numbers of teams, therefore not all athletes selected for the individuals may be allocated to a team. The intention is to enter as many teams as possible and allocate all athletes to a team where possible.

## **8.2 DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (INDIVIDUAL & TEAM)**

79. U17 Development International Competitions are usually identified EFC Cadet circuit events, other international events may also be identified as Development International Competitions.
80. The ADT is responsible for selecting the squad (including reserves where applicable) according to the selection procedure up to the available places.
81. Up to **4 athletes per weapon** will be selected for these squads who are ranked between 21 and 25, with a further three non-travelling reserves, and further 4 spaces are made available to athletes wishing to compete who are ranked in the top 30 of the British Cadet Rankings.
82. Athletes may use these events to improve their EFC ranking. In such cases, priority may be given to the highest ranked athletes who are in contention for European Championships.
83. If more athletes apply than places available, the allocation will be done by order of application.
84. If more than 4 athletes wish to go, referees will be needed so the responsibility for finding/providing referees and the associated cost will be equally shared by all.
85. Up to 4 athletes, no referee is required.
86. For those events which include a team event, teams must be entered by the formal deadline and via the BF office. There will be an extra levy to cover the referee and administrative costs. Allocation of athletes to teams will be the responsibility of the ADT, who will also coordinate the coaching tasks for the team event (if required).

## 9. JUNIOR (U20) SELECTION

### 9.1 NOMINATED INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

#### Lower age limits for junior squads

87. For Junior World Cups held in the UK e.g., Eden Cup the minimum age of 13 will apply.
88. For all other Junior Nominated International Competitions the minimum age requirement is set by birth year – athletes must have a birth year no later than 2005.
89. Exceptions to the age requirements can only be considered on the nomination of the ADT as follows:
  - a) Final year Cadets (Birth Year 2006) transitioning to Juniors.
  - b) Cadet athletes with an evidenced performance trajectory above their current competition pathway (e.g., EFC Cadets, **item 90**)
  - c) The development strategy for the team event supports the selection of a younger athlete.
90. Cadets who perform to a high standard at their own age group and are physically and mentally developed sufficiently to tolerate the challenge (decided by the ADT), may be considered for selection for Junior Internationals. This is dependent on them achieving a single result that places them in the top 8% or their average finish position % is less than 16% (correct to two decimal places) from their best two (of a minimum of two) Nominated International Competitions.
91. BF reserve the right for specific nominated team events, depending on location, to require athletes to be aged 18 or over on the date of travel. This decision will be based on safeguarding and security considerations.
92. BF will not guarantee accompanied travel and parents will be expected to make the arrangements for athletes under the age of 18 to meet the squad at the agreed entry point, typically at the hotel.

#### 9.1.1 NOMINATED INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

93. Nominated Individual Events are usually identified Junior World Cups, but other international events may be nominated.
94. The WSP will select the squad plus reserves after scrutinising the information provided by the ADT in accordance with the selection process, including any proposed use of discretionary places.
95. Up to Twelve (12) places, based on the Weapon Strategy, will be available to:
  - a) Eligible athletes in the top 20 of the British Junior Ranking
  - b) Cadets not in the top 20 of the British Junior Ranking, proposed by the ADT as stated (**item 90**)

96. Exceptional circumstances can be considered for eligible Juniors outside the top 20 of the British Junior Ranking e.g., injury in the previous season (See section 6.2) above.
97. **The top eight (8) ranked athletes** in the BF Junior Ranking at the time of selection, will be entitled to be selected for the individual event if they meet the eligibility requirements set out in section 6.1. and item 90.
98. If an athlete is in the top eight but does not meet the standard lower age limit, then they must be proposed in advance by the ADT to be selected (see item 89).
99. **Four discretionary places** and the first two reserves may be filled by the ADT based on the Discretionary Factors.
100. If discretionary places are not used, **remaining places will revert to eligible athletes in BF Junior Ranking order.**
  - a) If an athlete does not meet the standard lower age limit, then they must be nominated in advance by the ADT to be selected (see item 89).
101. If spaces become available through places being declined the ADT reserve the right to select replacements from the top 20 eligible athletes on the BF Junior Ranking List using the Discretionary Factors.

### **9.1.2 NOMINATED TEAM EVENTS**

102. Nominated Team Events usually take place at Junior World Cups, but other international events may be nominated.
103. For Team Events held with Nominated Individual Events – Athletes for these team events will be proposed by the ADT from the pool of selected individuals using Discretionary Factors.
104. Nominated Team Events held with Non-Nominated Individual Events – Athletes for these team events (4 minimum) will be selected by the ADT.
105. The ADT will delegate decisions regarding order and substitutions to a named coach who will also be the tactical coach for that event.

### **9.1.3 NON-NOMINATED AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONALS**

106. The ADT is responsible for managing the selection/entry process for Non-Nominated or Development Internationals.
107. Development International Competitions are eligible for Junior BF Ranking points. Non-nominated International Competitions are not eligible for Junior BF Ranking points.
108. Athletes wishing to compete in the Individual event of a Non-nominated or Development Competitions should complete an GBR Competition Entry Form on the BF website and submit to BF.

109. If a Non-nominated or Development JWC event has a nominated Team event attached, one referee will be allocated, and all the athletes selected to be part of the Team will be entitled to fence in the Individual event. The remaining places (up to 12) will be allocated based on order of application with a minimum requirement that an athlete is in the top 25 of the BF Junior rankings. The ADT can approve at their discretion applications from athletes that do not meet these criteria if spaces are available. If more than 9 athletes wish to attend (including the team), the non-team athletes will be required to source and fund a referee.
110. If a nominated team is not attending, a referee will not be allocated to a Non-nominated or Development event. If more athletes apply than places available, allocation will be based on order of application with a minimum requirement that an athlete is in the top 25 eligible of the BF Junior Rankings. The ADT can approve at their discretion applications from athletes that do not meet these criteria if spaces are available. In the case that referees are required (e.g., for JWCs if more than 4 athletes wish to go, referees will be needed) the responsibility for finding/providing referees and the associated cost will be equally shared by all.

## 10. UNDER 23 GBR SELECTION

### 10.1 EUROPEAN U23 EVENTS

111. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set out in [section 6.1](#).
112. To be entitled to enter, athletes must be a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event and be in the:
  - a) **Top fifty (50) ranked athletes** in the British Senior Ranking at the time of entry opening or,
  - b) **Top thirty (30) ranked athletes** in the British Under 23 Ranking at the time of entry opening or,
  - c) **Top twenty-five (25) ranked athletes** in the British Junior Ranking at the time of entry opening
113. The number of athletes that can be entered will depend on entry numbers and referee allocations/availability.
114. The ADT and/or BF Head Office will manage the entry process and any discretionary applications from athletes that fall outside of the requirements in [item 112](#).

### 10.2 FIE SENIOR EVENTS

115. Please [see section 13](#) for FIE event entry criteria.

## 11. IWAS PARA FENCING EVENTS SELECTION

### 11.1 PARA FENCING SELECTION OVERVIEW

116. **Rationales** - Selections made for Satellites, World Cups and Zonal (European) and World Championships are guided by the following rationales:
- Paris Qualification - ensure that the stated medal target in the Paris 2024 World Class Programme submission to UK Sport, 2-6 medals, has the greatest chance of success by ensuring those with proven and identifiable medal potential are given priority in the selection process.
  - Future Paralympic Qualification – promote the development of a pipeline of athletes capable of success in future Paralympic Games 2028 and beyond.
117. **Eligibility Criteria:** To be eligible for selection athletes must meet the eligibility criteria as set out in [section 6.1](#).
118. **Discretionary Factors:** See [section 6.2](#). In addition, an athlete that has qualified for selection for one discipline may be considered for discretionary selection in other disciplines.
119. **First Time Selection:** where athletes putting themselves forward to be selected for their first IWAS international, they will need to submit a nomination form completed by a L3 or above BF registered coach with expertise in international para-fencing, accompanied by their individual athlete development plan.
120. BF will manage the entry process.
121. BF will manage discretionary applications from athletes that fall outside of the minimum performance standards. Athletes are expected to have an up-to-date Individual Athlete Training Plan (overseen by a registered coach with para fencing expertise) and make this available to selectors on request.

### 11.2 IWAS SATELLITE AND WORLD CUPS

122. The number of competitive development opportunities for para-fencing both domestically and internationally are limited. As entries for IWAS Satellites and World Cups are currently not limited, they can play an important part in the development of pathway athletes. To be considered for selection to these events, it is vital that athletes can demonstrate that they are engaged in a domestic training and competition programme (overseen by a BF registered coach with para fencing expertise) that prepares them to be able to travel and compete at international level. This is to ensure that the competition experiences provide positive learning opportunities that form part of a balanced individual development programme which, over time, support performance improvements.



123. For international events, particularly those that are linked to Paralympic qualification, it is vital that any athlete travelling (along with their parents and personal coaches) are fully aware of the expectations that come with selection. All those travelling will be automatically bound by the BF Codes of Conducts.

124. Non-discretionary selections - athletes will be selected subject to

- meeting the Eligibility Criteria (section 6.1)
- being a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event
- meeting the Performance Standards below

125. Discretionary selections for athletes competing in IWAS events for the first time may be limited to those events where BF staff are attending. These are likely to be the events taking place in Europe.

126. **Team Events** - If sufficient selected athletes notify BF (in accordance with published timescales) that they wish to form a team (any weapon, not necessarily those weapons they are fencing in the individual), the Selection Panel will consider selecting a team taking into consideration the personal development programmes of the individual athletes and overall weapon strategy.

127. **IWAS Satellites** - Individual performance standards:

- National Championships – top 4 finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months, OR
- IWAS Senior event - top 70% finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months

128. **IWAS World Cups** - Individual performance standards:

- National Championships – top 4 finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months, OR
- IWAS Senior event - top 60% finish in the individual event of the relevant discipline in the last 12 months

129. Where National Championships are combined category events the performance standards will be interpreted so that the top 4 finishing Cat A and top 4 finishing Cat B and top 4 overall will all be considered to have met this standard.

### **11.3 EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

130. The Para Fencing Championships Selection Panel (PCSP), will be guided firstly by the Paris Qualification rationale.

It will ensure that WCP nominated athletes, in order of medal priority, are allocated selection places ahead of other athletes in the selection process, provided those athletes

have met the required performance standard, are demonstrating the appropriate trajectories or meet the discretionary criteria as a result of illness or injury.

131. For clarity, where more athletes have achieved the qualification standard than there are qualifying places available (within the weapon and category) the **Prioritisation Order** will be as follows:

- WCP athletes with proven medal ability on track to medal in 2024
- WCP athletes on a medal trajectory for Paris
- Non-WCP athletes with a proven medal ability on track to medal in 2024
- WCP athletes on an upward performance trajectory for 2024 or 2028
- Non WCP pathway athletes

132. Where fewer athletes have qualified than qualification places available, the Para Fencing Championships Selection Panel reserve the right to fill the remaining places on a discretionary basis.

133. **Team events** - If two athletes meet the individual qualification standard for a discipline, selectors will consider entering a team.

134. An unqualified athlete selected to fence in the team event will be selected to fence in the individual event providing they do not displace a qualified athlete.

**135. Available Individual Places per Discipline**

- h) IWAS Senior European Championships – up to 6 Individual places
- i) IWAS World Championships – up to 4 Individual places

136. There is no requirement for the selectors to fill all available spaces.

137. **Qualification Standards:** Over the Paris Paralympic qualification cycle, athlete performances and trajectories will be monitored with the intention of putting in place additional alternative qualification standards, for example those based on an average percentage finish for Europeans and World Championships and qualification standards for teams.

138. **Individual Qualification Standard** - The qualification standards for all European & World Championships are:

- a) Individual Medallist at the previous zonal or world championships, OR
- b) Last 8 individual result at a world cup in the last 12 months, OR
- c) Current IWAS Senior Individual World ranking in the world top 20

139. Selection to fence in the individual events at European & World Championships will initially be made from those eligible athletes who have reached the necessary qualifying standard, subject to the provisions of the following Paragraphs.

140. **European Championships:** If more than four eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the European Championships, then four of those athletes will firstly be selected based on Prioritisation Order and secondly by IWAS ranking. The fifth and sixth athlete and any non-travelling reserve will be selected/proposed by the Selection Panel at their discretion.
141. **World Championships:** If more than two eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the European Championships, then two of those athletes will be selected firstly based on Prioritisation Order and secondly by IWAS ranking. The third and fourth athlete and any non-travelling reserve will be selected/proposed by the Selection Panel at their discretion.
142. If fewer athletes qualify than places available, and the decision is made not to select a team, the ADT and WCP reserve the right to propose additional individual athletes based on discretionary factors.

## 12. WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES GBR SELECTION

143. The ADT is responsible for administrating the BF processes which support the BUCS nomination and selection process for athletes for the World University Games individuals and teams.
144. The CSP will review the nomination process and the resulting athlete nomination list.
145. Based on the received nominations, BUCS officiate and make final selections with support from the ADT according to the performance criteria below.
146. Available Places
  - a) Each country is authorised by FISU to enter 24 athletes, with a maximum of 4 athletes in each weapon and a maximum of 1 team per weapon.
  - b) BUCS reserve the right to reduce the available places for fencing.

### 12.1 ELIGIBILITY FOR WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES 2023

147. Athletes must meet the FISU criteria which defines who may participate as a competitor in a FISU Sporting Event.
148. Athletes must meet the BUCS criteria which includes the minimum level of study.
149. The BF Performance criteria are subject to agreement with BUCS.
150. BF Performance Criteria - To qualify for consideration for selection Athletes must have achieved either:
  - (1) A L64 in an FIE Senior World Cup or Grand Prix Individual Event between 1st September 2019 and 13th April 2023 or a L64 at the Senior European or World Championships 2022; OR
  - (2) A L8 place in a nominated Junior World Cup Individual Event, Junior World Championships or Junior European Championships between 1st September 2019 and 13th April 2023; OR
  - (3) A L8 place as part of a Team competing in an FIE Senior World Cup Team Event between 1st September 2019 and 13th April 2023 or at the Senior European or World Championships 2023; OR
  - (4) A Medal in the Team event at the Junior World or European Championships between 1st September 2019 and 13th April 2023.
  - (5) In addition, BF may select athletes from its Athlete Development Programme as part of their development towards 2024 and 2028.
151. Codicils to the above Fencing Performance Criteria are:
  - a. Qualification via criteria (1) and (2) are on the proviso that these results have led to the athlete finishing at least in the top half of the entered field.

- b. Qualification via criteria (3) is on the proviso that the team won through at least one direct elimination round.
- c. Qualification via criteria (3) and (4) is only applicable to the qualification of a team to compete in the WUG – it cannot be used to qualify an individual where no team is fencing; and
- d. Athletes selected under (5) will only be selected to fill vacancies not taken by athletes qualified under (1) to (4) above (i.e., no athlete qualified under (1) to (4) above will be displaced by an athlete selected under (5)).
- e. BF reserves the right to downgrade an event which is not deemed to be of a sufficiently high standard for the purposes of qualification.

152. The selection date will be confirmed by BUCS and published on the BF website.

## 13. SENIOR GBR SELECTION

### 13.1 FIE SATELLITE COMPETITIONS

154. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set out in [section 6.1](#).
155. To be entitled to enter, athletes must be a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event and be in the:
  - a) **Top thirty (30) ranked athletes** in the British **Senior** Ranking at the time of entry opening or,
  - b) **Top thirty (30) ranked athletes** in the British **Under 23** Ranking at the time of entry opening or,
  - c) **Top twenty-five (25) ranked athletes** in the British **Junior** Ranking at the time of entry opening
156. The number of athletes that can be entered will depend on entry numbers and referee allocations/availability.

The ADT and/or BF Head Office will manage the entry process and any discretionary applications from athletes that fall outside of the requirements in [item 155](#).

### 13.2 EUROPEAN U23 CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

157. These are Senior international competitions nominated by the EFC for U23 European Ranking points.
158. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set out in [section 6.1](#).
159. To be entitled to enter, athletes must be a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event and be in the:
  - a) **Top fifty (50) ranked athletes** in the British **Senior** Ranking at the time of entry opening or,
  - b) **Top thirty (30) ranked athletes** in the British **Under 23** Ranking at the time of entry opening or,
  - c) **Top twenty-five (25) ranked athletes** in the British **Junior** Ranking at the time of entry opening
160. The number of athletes that can be entered will depend on entry numbers and referee allocations/availability.

The ADT and/or BF Head Office will manage the entry process and any discretionary applications from athletes that fall outside of the requirements in [item 159](#).

### 13.3 FIE GRAND PRIX AND WORLD CUP COMPETITIONS

161. The Weapon Selection Panel (WSP) is responsible for selecting squads for FIE Grand Prix and World Cup competition.
162. **The top eight (8) eligible ranked athletes** in the British Senior Ranking at the time of selection, being a minimum age of 18 years at the date of the event, will be entitled to be selected for the individual event if they meet the eligibility requirements (see section 6.1).
163. If an athlete is in the top eight but does not meet the standard lower age limit, then they must be nominated in advance by the ADT to be selected.
164. **Four discretionary places** and the first two reserves may be proposed by the ADT based on the Weapon Strategy.
165. If discretionary places are not used, **remaining places will revert to the Senior Ranking order.**
  - If an athlete does not meet the standard lower age limit, then they must be proposed in advance by the ADT to be selected.
166. If spaces become available through places being declined the ADT reserve the right to select replacements from the top 20 eligible Senior athletes or using the Discretionary Factors set in section 6.2.
167. Athletes competing in the individual event will not automatically be selected for the Team event at the associated World Cup.
168. Athletes for the team events will be selected at the same time as the individual event by the Weapon Selection Panel (WSP), taking into account any ADT team proposal. The Panel will consider 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 Pathways Director 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.
169. Juniors (Or Cadets performing at Junior International Level) who perform to a high standard at the junior age group and are physically and mentally developed sufficiently to tolerate the challenge (decided by the ADT), may be considered for selection for Senior Internationals. This is dependent on them achieving a single result that places them in the top 8% or their average finish position % is less than 16% (correct to two decimal places) from their best two (of a minimum of two) Nominated International Competitions.

## 14. APPEALS & COMPLAINTS

170. Any athlete who has not achieved the eligibility criteria and qualifying performance standards for automatic selection for any International Competitions or Major Championships shall have no right of appeal against non-selection for these competitions.
171. Any athlete who has not completed and submitted a 'GBR Discretionary Selection Form', shall have no right of appeal against non-selection for these competitions.
172. Any athlete who has not provided a completed Athlete Assessment Form (submitted as part of the Selection Application Form where applicable), shall have no right of appeal against non-selection for these competitions.
173. Submitting the Selection Application Form is the opportunity for the athlete to provide any relevant data to the Selection Panel. An athlete shall have no right of appeal against non-selection on the grounds that the data supplied by the athlete was missing or inaccurate.
174. The Appeal Policy and Procedure is published on the BF website.
175. 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.



## 15. APPENDIX A - QUICK GUIDE

If any conflict exists between this table and the text above, the text above prevails. Eligibility criteria apply and may vary between competitions.

Competition	Number of Places	Min Qual Standard	Non-Disc Places filled by	Discretionary Places Available
Nominated EFC Individual competitions	Up to 20	Top 8 in Cadet BF Ranking	Cadet Ranking List	Yes (Up to 4 places)
EFC Cadet competition in UK	Up to 64	Top 60 in Cadet BF Ranking	Cadet Ranking List	Yes (Up to 4 places)
EFC Team events	Varies per event	None	Team proposed by ADT from selected individuals.	
Junior World Cup in UK (Eden Cup)	Up to 20 (min age criteria not applied)	Top 12 in Junior BF Ranking	Junior BF Ranking List	Yes (up to 8 places)
Nominated Junior World Cups (Ind)	Up to 12	Top 8 in Junior BF Ranking	Junior BF Ranking List	Yes (up to 4 places)
Nominated Junior World Cups (Team)	4	None	Team proposed by ADT from selected individuals.	
FIE Senior Satellites	Unlimited (subject to referee availability)	Top 30 Seniors BF Ranking Top 30 U23 in BF ranking Top 25 Juniors in BF ranking	Senior BF Ranking List	Yes (up to 4 places)
Senior World Cups & Grand Prix (Ind)	Up to 12	Top 8 in Senior BF Ranking	Senior BF Ranking List	Yes (up to 4 places)
Senior World Cups (Team)	Up to 6	None	Team proposed by ADT from selected individuals.	
European Championships for all ages (Ind & Team)	Up to 4	<p><b>*One of:</b></p> <p>Current Medallist Nominated</p> <p>Previous Major Medallist</p> <p>Top 5% Nominated</p> <p>Top 40% (best 3 results) Nominated</p> <p>Higher age group standard met</p> <p>*See section 7 for more details</p>	Max 3 qualified	Yes (Up to 4 places)

Competition	Number of Places	Min Qual Standard	Non-Disc Places filled by	Discretionary Places Available
World Championships (Ind Cadet)	Up to 3	As above	Max 2 qualified	Yes (Up to 3 places)
World Championships (Ind & Team Junior, Senior)	Up to 4	As above	Max 3 qualified	Yes (Up to 4 places)
Non nominated Junior World Cups with Nominated Teams	Up to 12 (application required, referees to be found by athletes if >9 places filled, min age criteria not applied)	Yes (Top 25 in ranking)	Junior BF Ranking List	Team (up to six, selected by ADT) Ind – yes if spaces
Non nominated Junior World Cups	Up to 12 (application required, referees to be found by athletes, min age criteria not applied)	Yes (Top 25 in ranking)	In order of application	Yes, if spaces
IWAS Satellites	Unlimited (subject to referee availability)	Top 4 @ National Championships OR Top 70% @ IWAS Senior event		Yes, if spaces
IWAS World Cups	Unlimited (subject to referee availability)	Top 4 @ National Championships OR Top 60% @ IWAS Senior event		Yes, if spaces
IWAS Senior European	Up to 6	One of: L4 @ previous Euros/Worlds L8 @ Senior World Cup World ranked top 20	Max 4 qualified	Yes (Up to 2 places)
IWAS Senior World	Up to 4	One of: L4 @ previous Euros/Worlds L8 @ Senior World Cup World ranked top 20	Max 3 qualified	Yes (Up to 1 places)

## 16. APPENDIX B - CONSTITUTING SELECTION PANELS

**Voting members.** The selection panel should consist of a minimum of three voting members to prevent dead lock. There can be more than three members but an odd number (five, seven, nine) is recommended. All voting members must have a fundamental technical understanding and experience of the event being selected for, and all of the athletes under consideration.

**Chair.** A chair is required to lead the process (briefing members, applying the policy and criteria, and overseeing the communication of the results). The chair needs to have proven 'chairing skills and experience of being a selection panel member. The chair of the selection panel for Major Championships is responsible and accountable to the Chief Executive for the operation of the selection panel. For other International Competitions the chair is responsible and accountable to the Pathways Director.

**Recording of decisions and outcomes.** Decisions and outcomes of the selection panel must be recorded. Major Championships selection panel meetings must have a formally nominated note-taker. This can be a decision log or a full set of minutes. An audio recording can also be made, which is only used to support any appeal process. All decisions and outcomes must be agreed and recorded before the selection panel is concluded, which includes any areas of conflict of opinion. Notes must be factual and not contain personal observations.

**Independent member or observer.** An independent member or observer to provide confidence to athletes about the fairness and objectivity of the process. The independent member or observer must be familiar with high performance sport, either as an athlete, coach or legal expert. Their role is to act as an observer – scrutinising the process, holding the panel accountable to the policy and its criteria, and ensuring the principles of fairness and acting without bias are upheld.

**Data Analysis.** Where appropriate, a data analysis should support the operation of a selection panel.

## 17. APPENDIX C - GOOD PRACTICE FOR SELECTION PANELS

The following good practice underpins the way in which selection panels operate.

**Apply selection criteria fairly and consistently.** The Chair should provide a thorough briefing on the standards expected and those selectors understand and agree to their responsibilities.

- The panel must follow the published policy and not be influenced by any other interests. All eligible athletes should be given a fair chance of selection using all the criteria identified in the selection policy.
- BF (or any individual associated with delivery of the Athlete Development Programme) must not reach verbal or written agreements with any individual athlete which conflict with the published criteria.
- Acting fairly requires that where discretion needs to be exercised, then it should be restricted to the area and scope identified. For example, if no athletes have met the criteria outright or all selection places have not been filled, then the policy may allow selectors to use their discretion to select the athlete they consider most suitable to fill the place(s), or not to make a selection, as consistent with the overall aims set out for the selection.

**Act honestly, in good faith and in an unbiased manner.** The selectors must act rationally and with integrity and professionalism. They must be impartial and not show bias or favouritism, or even appear to show it. They must not pre-judge the outcome but must let their consistent application of the agreed criteria and processes drive their decisions.

- Selectors should have no personal or business involvement with any of the competitors in question – they should not stand to gain (or lose) personally or financially because of the decisions. They must not be related to the competitors or have any personal preference as to which of them is selected.
- A selector who has a personal coaching relationship (even in the recent past) with any of the athletes under consideration provides a risk of allegations of bias. Where this is unavoidable, coaches must not have a vote regarding this athlete(s) and may only be present to give their opinion on the respective merits of each eligible athlete with others making the final decision.

**Declare any conflict of interest.** If selectors are concerned that they may have a conflict of interest (or potential conflict of interest) - including as acting as a personal coach to any eligible athlete - they should declare it. This gives the Chair and other selectors the opportunity to consider the conflict, assess the risk and agree how to manage it. Whenever possible, the person with the conflict should be replaced by another suitably qualified person. If this is not, then the other selectors will need to consider the recommendations or opinions of the conflicted selector, keeping in mind how the conflict may be influencing his/her views. The conflicted panel member cannot vote.

**Communicating decisions respectfully.** The outcome of a selection decision can be life changing for an athlete. For example, selection for a funded programme may be the point at which an athlete commits to around a decade of full-time training and puts their education or career path on hold. Selection for a Major Championships is often the culmination of a significant amount of time and resources from athletes (and their parents). Even when a selection policy has been well

communicated in advance, the decision itself, particularly on occasions when close calls have to be made, can be devastating for athletes who are not selected.

For all Major Championships:

- The Chair of the Selection Panel must give careful consideration about how the decisions are communicated, especially to those who are not selected.
- The formal decision should be conveyed in writing and, if practical, should include the offer of a de-brief with an informed coach. The timing on this de-brief will be dependent on the proximity of the selection to the event and in some circumstances may have to take place afterwards. The athlete should be invited to bring a companion. For some athletes, this will provide the necessary understanding and acceptance of the decision, for others it may provide a focus on future performances and selection opportunities.
- BF will refer athletes to additional appropriate sources of support at this time for example:
  - Performance Lifestyle (for funded programme athletes), whose advisers are specially trained to support athlete transitions.
  - the BAC ([support@britishathletes.org](mailto:support@britishathletes.org)) for any athlete thinking of making an appeal.

Selection decisions must be described as 'provisional' until the end of the appeal process relevant to the particular selection process.

## 18. APPENDIX D - FISU & BUCS

This appendix does not form part of the BF Selection Policy, it is provided for background context and the relevant source documents can be found on FISU and BUCS websites. BF is not responsible for the FISU and BUCS eligibility criteria and these may be subject to change.

### FISU Criteria (General)

FISU WUG 2021 Regulations 5.2.1

Only the following may participate as competitors in a FISU Sporting Event:

- Students who are currently officially registered as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at the university or similar institute whose status is recognised by the appropriate national academic authority of their country (e.g., the Department of Education in the UK).
- Former students of the institutions mentioned in (i) who have obtained their academic degree/diploma in the year preceding the event. i.e., students graduating in 2021/22 are eligible to compete.

FISU Regulations 5.2.3

All competitors must satisfy the following conditions:

- be a national of the country they represent (therefore hold a full 10-year UK passport)
- be at least 17 and less than 26 years of age on January 1st in the year of the event (born between 1 January 1993 and 31 December 2003)

Students studying abroad are eligible for selection provided they satisfy FISU regulations 5.2.1 and 5.2.

Students attending courses franchised out from an institution [complying with FISU Regulations 5.2.1 (i)] are eligible for selection providing they also satisfy FISU Regulation 5.2.3.

### BUCS Criteria (Academic)

The minimum level of study has been set at Level 4 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, or equivalent. Level 4 is equivalent to Higher National Certificates (HNC) and Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE).

Exemptions to permit the selection of student athletes studying below Level 4 can be considered where:

1. The student still meets the FISU regulation 5.2.1.i) above.
2. There is no direct financial implication to BUCS.

3. It can be demonstrated that this inclusion encourages additional benefit to Level 4 students.

The inclusion of students studying below Level 4 should not be at the expense of a student studying at Level 4 or above.

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