

OLYMPIC GAMES NOMINATION POLICY - DRAFT

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CONTENTS

1. Introduction	1
2. Governance	2
3. Eligibility	3
4. Olympic Nomination Panel (ONP)	3
4.1 Adjusted Ranking List	5
5. Olympic Games Nomination	5
5.1 Direct Qualification - Introduction	5
5.2 Direct Qualification - Team	6
5.3 Team Nomination Criteria - Automatic Nomination	6
5.4 Team Nomination Criteria - Discretionary Nomination	6
5.5 Direct Qualification - Individuals	7
6. Delegation Registration Meeting	7
7. Appeals	8
8. APPENDIX A - Constituting Nomination Panels	9
9. APPENDIX B - Good Practice for Selection/Nomination Panels	9

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 The objective of this policy is to nominate fencers to the British Olympic Association (BOA) to represent Team GB at the **Paris Olympic Games 2024** to maximise the chances of success.
- 1.1.2 Selection for the Olympic Games will be made by the BOA following the nomination by British Fencing (BF) in accordance with this policy.

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

- 1.1.3 Notwithstanding anything written in this document, 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.
- 1.1.4 For the avoidance of doubt BF and the BOA is not responsible for the scheduling of major events and qualification tournaments. This is the responsibility of the International Federation (the FIE). The dates in this document are based on the expected 2023-24 qualification schedule which has a) not been yet published at the time of writing and b) is subject to change by the FIE.

2. GOVERNANCE

- 2.1.1 The BF Board delegates the implementation and execution of the policy including any related processes, procedures, and structure to the CEO.
- 2.1.2 In turn, the CEO delegates the responsibility to the Athlete Development Programme (ADP) to administrate the policy.
- 2.1.3 The ADP
- is responsible for putting in place the structures, processes, and procedures in accordance with this policy.
 - is responsible for ensuring that all athletes being put forward for consideration by the Nomination Panel are eligible under the policy.
 - will assign an individual within the ADP (normally the Weapon Lead) to create the list of athletes to be put forward to the Nomination Panel in accordance with this Policy.
- 2.1.4 This document is reviewed by the BOA prior to being approved by the BF Board and published on the BF website. Any changes will be approved by the BF Board and agreed with the BOA.
- 2.1.5 BF reserve the right to undertake regular periodic reviews to ensure that it takes account of any external rule or policy amendment; and to consider including 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 OR
 - Changes to qualification events as a result of changes and uncertainty around FIE/IOC participation rules
- may affect events and competition opportunities and/or athletes' participation in them.

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

2.1.6 The BF Board reserves the right to make changes to this policy in exceptional circumstances, including but not limited to those circumstances covered in 2.1.5

3. 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 Paris Olympic Games in 2024;
- 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 all eligibility rules as contained within the 2023-24 British Fencing GBR Selection Policy
- satisfy any other eligibility rules as may be imposed by BF from time to time.

4. OLYMPIC NOMINATION PANEL (ONP)

BF will form a Paris Olympic Games Nomination Panel (ONP) to deal with all nominations, non-nominations and de-nomination/selection issues.

The Nomination Panel should be constituted and run according to Appendix A & B.

The Nomination Panel is responsible for nominating squads plus any reserves after scrutinising the information provided by the ADT in accordance with the nomination process, including any proposed use of discretionary places (individual and team).

The members of the ONP will be appointed by the Board and will be published on the BF website in advance of selection.

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

The ONP will be made up of a minimum of:

	How many	Do they vote?*	Example
Chair	1	Y	BF Pathways Director
ADP Performance Rep	1	Y	BF Head of Olympic Teams
ADP Weapon Rep	3 (min)	N	BF nominated Weapon Leads/Reps
Weapon Selectors	3 (min)	Y	Normally taken from members of BF Senior Weapon Selection Panels. Min one from each of the 3 weapons. Foil Epee, Sabre
ADP Sport Science & Medicine Rep	1	N	
Independent BOA Observer	1	N	
Independent BF Board Observer	1	N	
Data Analyst & Note taker	1-2	N	
*Stand-In	1-2	N	

*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 voting member of the panel or an independent observer.

Stand-ins can be co-opted by the Chair to act in a voting capacity should this situation arise.

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.

4.1 ADJUSTED RANKING LIST

For the purposes of Olympic nomination, by 5th April 2024, BF will produce an 'Adjusted Ranking List' for each weapon based on an athlete's points (not world ranking) from the official FIE Individual Official Ranking establish using World ranking points ranking points gained from 1st April 23 to 1st April 24 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 2023 European Championships, 2023 World Championships and during the period 1st October 2023 – 1st April 2024 will be ranked higher. If both athletes have an equal best result, then the athlete with the best result during the period 1st October 2023 – 1st April 2024 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 2023 European Championships or 2023 World Championships irrespective of the method of selection for those events.

5. OLYMPIC GAMES NOMINATION

5.1 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The Federation Internationale D'Esgrime (FIE) and International Olympic Committee (IOC) final qualification system for 2024 has been published and can be found on the IOC website https://stillmed.olympics.com/media/Documents/Olympic-Games/Paris-2024/Paris2024-QS-Fencing.pdf?_ga=2.42986789.1284756619.1682844749-138025882.1674766823
- 5.1.2 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**.
- 5.1.3 Should no Team or Individual fencer qualify by World Ranking from a weapon, there is a further opportunity to qualify through winning the European Zonal Qualifying Event 2024. Selection for the European Zonal Qualifying Event will be carried out in accordance with the detailed selection policy published here: <https://www.britishfencing.com/gbr-fencing/gbr-selection-policies-procedures/>.

5.2 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - TEAM

- 5.2.1 A Team can qualify directly through the team world ranking at 1st April 2024 as per the FIE/IOC final qualification document (see 5.1.1). 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.
- 5.2.2 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.

5.3 TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA - AUTOMATIC NOMINATION

- 5.3.1 The top two fencers by rank order in the BF 'Adjusted Ranking List' at the end of the Olympic Qualification period (1st April 2024) will be automatically nominated by BF to the BOA for selection to Team GB for both the Team and Individual event.
- 5.3.2 If the third placed fencer in the BF 'Adjusted Ranking List' has 30 points or more as at 1st April 2024 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 5.4).
- 5.3.3 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 5.4).

5.4 TEAM NOMINATION CRITERIA - DISCRETIONARY NOMINATION

- 5.4.1 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 5.3). These athletes will be nominated by BF to the BOA, for selection to Team GB.
- 5.4.2 Nomination for discretionary team places will be based on the following discretionary factors in weighted order:
- a) Performance in the Senior GBR Team during the Olympic qualification period 3rd April 2023 – 1st April 2024 at the World Championships, European Games, World Cups and Grand Prix events only. Performances in team matches against the teams that have qualified in that weapon for the 2024 Olympics will be prioritised. Performances in the individual event may be taken into account, performances against athletes likely to be at the 2024 Olympics will be prioritised.

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

- b) Medal winning performances in the individual events of the 2024 Junior World Championships and 2024 Junior European Championships, with a demonstrable performance trajectory and commitment to future Olympic success. (The expectation is that these competitions will be held prior to 30th April 2024).
- c) Contribution to a positive team dynamic
- d) Any matters relating to injury or illness

5.4.3 In the event that two athletes for the team have been nominated using the criteria (<>) 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 2024 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.

5.5 DIRECT QUALIFICATION - INDIVIDUALS

- 5.5.1 In the event that a Team does not qualify then Individual fencers can qualify either
- a) through the world ranking at 1st April 2024, or
 - b) through winning the European Zonal Qualifying Event
- as per the FIE/IOC final qualification document.
- 5.5.2 Any GBR fencer who qualifies by right in accordance with the FIE/IOC document will be nominated by BF to the BOA for selection.

6. DELEGATION REGISTRATION MEETING

- 6.1.1 The BOA will inform BF of the date of the Delegation Registration Meeting (DRM). At this date the BOA puts the entry of the full British Olympic Team into the Organising Committee for the Olympic Games 2024.
- 6.1.2 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.
- 6.1.3 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.

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

- 6.1.4 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.
- 6.1.5 In the event of there being a query over the ability of an athlete to be able to compete to the best of **their** 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 **their** fitness to participate. This examination will be carried out by Team GB's Chief Medical Officer or another doctor delegated by **them**. If the athlete fails the medical examination **they** 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 **6.1.5 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 **their** 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), **they** 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.

7. APPEALS

- 7.1.1 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.
- 7.1.2 Appeals against decisions must be made within 3 working days of the notification from BF confirming the nomination / selection decision(s).
- 7.1.3 An athlete must lodge their appeal, with BF Head Office headoffice@britishfencing.com, copying athletedevelopment@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.

8. APPENDIX A - CONSTITUTING NOMINATION PANELS

- 8.1.1 Voting members. The 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.
- 8.1.2 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/nomination panel member. The chair of the selection/nomination panel for Major Championships is responsible and accountable to the Chief Executive for the operation of the selection/nomination panel. For other International Competitions the chair is responsible and accountable to the Pathways Director.
- 8.1.3 Recording of decisions and outcomes. Decisions and outcomes of the selection/nomination panel must be recorded. Major Championships selection/nomination 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/nomination panel is concluded, which includes any areas of conflict of opinion. Notes must be factual and not contain personal observations.
- 8.1.4 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.
- 8.1.5 Data Analysis. Where appropriate, a data analysis should support the operation of a selection/nomination panel.

9. APPENDIX B - GOOD PRACTICE FOR SELECTION/NOMINATION PANELS

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

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

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

- 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/nomination using all the criteria identified in the selection/nomination 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/nomination 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/nomination, as consistent with the overall aims set out for the selection/nomination.

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/nominated.
- 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 **their** views. The conflicted panel member cannot vote.

Communicating decisions respectfully. The outcome of a selection/nomination decision can be life changing for an athlete. For example, selection/nomination 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/nomination 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/nomination 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/nominated.

2024 Paris Olympic Games Nomination Policy

For all Major Championships:

- The Chair of the Selection/nomination Panel must give careful consideration about how the decisions are communicated, especially to those who are not selected/nominated.
- 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/nomination 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/nomination 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) for any athlete thinking of making an appeal.

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

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