

BF SELECTION POLICY FOR GBR REPRESENTATION 2023-24

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CONTENTS

1.	Overview	4
1.1	Purpose of Policy	4
1.2	Owner	4
1.3	Purpose of Selections	4
1.4	Application	4
1.5	Selections & Security OR PANDEMIC Risks	4
1.6	Exceptional & Changed Circumstances.....	5
2.	Definitions & Acronyms	6
3.	Governance	9
4.	Events	10
4.1	Major Championships (MCs)	10
4.2	Nominated International Competitions (NCs)	10
4.3	Development International Competitions (DCs)	11
5.	Selection Panels.....	12
5.1	The Weapon Selection Panel	12
5.2	The Para Fencing Selection Panel.....	12
5.3	The Championships Selection Panel	13
5.3.1	General Principles	13
5.3.2	Fencing Championship Panel	13
5.3.3	Para Fencing Championship Selection Panel	14
6.	General Criteria for Selection	15

6.1	General Eligibility Criteria	15
6.2	General Grounds for Discretionary Selection.....	16
6.3	Reserves	18
6.4	Team Selection	18
6.5	Pre-Selection.....	19
6.6	Accepting Selection	19
6.7	Post Selection.....	20
6.8	Applications to be considered for discretionary selection	21
6.9	Timing and announcement of decisions, ranking, publications & selections	22
7.	World & European Fencing Championships Selection (FIE/EFC)	23
7.1	Available Places per Weapon	23
7.2	Individual Event.....	23
8.	Cadet (U17) Selection	27
8.1	Nominated International Competitions (individual & team)	27
8.2	Non-Nominated and Development International Competitions (individual & team)	28
9.	Junior (U20) Selection	29
9.1	Nominated International Events.....	29
9.1.1	Nominated Individual Events	29
9.1.2	Nominated Team Events	30
9.1.3	Non-nominated and Development Internationals	30
10.	Under 23 GBR Selection.....	32
10.1	European U23 Events.....	32
10.2	FIE Senior Events	32
11.	IWAS Para Fencing Events Selection	33
11.1	Para Fencing Selection Overview	33
11.2	IWAS Satellite and World Cups	33
11.3	European and World Championships.....	34
12.	World University Games GBR Selection.....	37
12.1	Eligibility for World University Games 2025	37
13.	Senior GBR Selection	39

13.1	FIE Satellite Competitions	39
13.2	European U23 Circuit Competitions	39
13.3	FIE Grand Prix and World Cup Competitions	40
14.	Appeals & Complaints	41
15.	Appendix A - Quick Guide	42
16.	Appendix B - Constituting Selection Panels	44
17.	Appendix C - Good Practice for Selection Panels	45
18.	Appendix D - FISU & BUCS	47

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 PURPOSE OF POLICY

This document sets out the BF Selection Policy for individual, team and squad selection for representing Great Britain in the 2023-24 season for international competition. It covers selection for Cadets (U17), Juniors (U20), Under 23s, and Seniors, for all International Competitions and Major Championships for all fencing disciplines, including Para fencing.

But this does not include the selection for

- The Olympic Games, covered under a separate nomination policy.
- The Paralympic Games, covered under a different nomination policy.
- The Olympic Zonal Qualification Events, covered under a separate policy.
- Veteran representational fencing, which British Veterans Fencing (BVF) operates.
- Home Nation representational fencing (for example, Commonwealth Championships), operated under Home Nation policies.

1.2 OWNER

The BF Selection Policy administration lies with the Pathways Director, 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, GBR fencing, and Para fencing.
- 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 2023-24 season.

1.5 SELECTIONS & SECURITY OR PANDEMIC RISKS

Given any security or pandemic 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. The BF Board will take all such decisions

under 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 to cover the cost of travel disruption.

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. 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 concerning 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 Policy in 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:

ADP	The BF Athlete Development Program
Athlete	The individual fencer seeking selection or entry
Athlete Development Team (ADT)	A team of people nominated by the Athlete Development Programme (ADP), which includes ADP executive team members, Weapon Leads and coaches
BF	British Fencing
British Junior Ranking	The Junior ranking list compiled by BF according to the published associated ranking scheme document. For the avoidance of doubt, unless expressly stated otherwise, this is a rolling ranking.
British Senior Ranking	The Senior ranking list compiled by BF according to the published scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, unless expressly stated otherwise, this is a rolling ranking.
British Cadet Ranking	The Cadet ranking list compiled by BF according to the published scheme. For the avoidance of doubt, unless expressly stated otherwise, this is not a rolling ranking.
Cadet	Under 17 on or after 1st of January of the year when the next Cadet World Championships will be held. Athletes must be at least 11 on 1st January to compete in any UK cadet events in that calendar year.
Calendar	The BF, IWAS, FIE or EFC Calendar
Championships Selection Panel	The Panel of selectors that perform Major Championships selection. (CSP). Different CSPs may be in place for other championship events, including Para fencing Major Championships.
Competition	A contest between a group of individuals using a single type of weapon (e.g., “Men’s Foil”, “Women’s Sabre”) organised following governing body (BF, EFC, FIE) rules
Development International Competition (DCs)	The EFC events or other selected international events identified by BF for the purpose of 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.)
Disciplinary Record	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.
Discretionary Factors	Specific subjective and/or objective measures used to inform selection decisions for individuals and teams.
EFC	European Fencing Confederation - https://www.eurofencing.info/
EFC Competition	EFC U17 and U23 Circuit events, including those held in the UK and the European U23 Championships.

Event	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)
FIE	International Fencing Federation - https://fie.org/
IADP	Individual Athlete Development Plan – owned and maintained by the Athlete with input from their personal coaches, and shared and reviewed with BF. To include competition plan, training plan, objectives, performance tracking and areas of personal development, using the Development Pathway Stage descriptors.
IWAS	International Association of Wheelchair Fencing - https://iwasf.com/
Junior	Under 20 on or after 1st January of the year when the next Junior World Championships will be held.
Major Events/Championships	World or European Championships (all age groups), World University Games.
Member	A BF member in good standing holding a licence to compete in the relevant age group.
Nominated International Competitions (NCs)	<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 (individual) are considered nominated individual events for Senior purposes for this document. These competitions may be deemed non-nominated in exceptional circumstances (e.g., COVID, security).</p> <p>EFC Under 23 events are considered nominated individual events for athletes that meet the criteria for being an Under 23; this is not the case for Seniors that do not meet these criteria.</p> <p>Performances in these individual nominated events will be eligible for BF Ranking points in accordance with the appropriate schemes.</p>
Non-nominated International Competitions	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).
Open	A single weapon (from the 6 Weapon categories) individual competition held in the UK, which any eligible Senior Member can enter on payment of the appropriate fee, subject to minimum age limits.
Overdue debt	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.
Para fencing	The IWAS disciplines of Wheelchair Fencing.
Para Fencing Selection Panel (PSP)	The Panel of selectors that perform selections for Nominated Para fencing events. There will be a minimum of three Selectors on each Panel.

Para Fencing Strategy	Para fencing strategic document authored by the outlining the aims and objectives of the individual weapons.
P-WCP	The Para fencing World Class Programme, operated by the UKSI, is funded directly by UK Sport.
Season	<p>Cadet & Junior Fencing – The season ends with Cadet and Junior FIE World Championships, and (unless the event is postponed) the season starts following this event.</p> <p>Senior Fencing – The season ends with the Senior FIE World Championships, and (unless the event is postponed) the season starts following this event.</p> <p>Para Fencing – As the European and World Championships move in the calendar yearly, a reference to ‘Season’ will be interpreted as the 12 months before the World Championships.</p>
Senior	All athletes 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).
Squad	The athletes compete in a Development or Nominated International Competition or Major Championship, including any reserves.
Under 23 or U23	Aged 23 years on or after 1st of January of the year when the next European Championships will be held.
UKSI	The UK Sports Institute, funded by UK Sport, that delivers the World Class Programme for Para fencing.
Weapon Selection Panel (WSP)	<p>The Panel of selectors that perform individual weapons (FIE/EFC Fencing only, for IWAS (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 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>
Weapon Strategy	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 the structures, processes, and procedures in place 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 the Selection Panel members are updated and informed with individual Weapon Strategies.

The ADP is responsible for checking the eligibility of all athletes being considered by the Selection Panel 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 following 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 the BF Board will approve any changes.

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

The BF Board reserves the right to change this Policy in exceptional circumstances.

4. EVENTS

This Policy covers the following selections:

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.

Details of the WUGs Nomination process can be found in [section 12](#).

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 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 complete 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 be proposed to the PSP by P-WCP in the first instance.

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

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 ADP will manage the selection/entry process - this will be done in collaboration with the P-WCP for Para fencing events.

4.3 DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (DCS)

Competitive development opportunities are 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 complete 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 risk assessments

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

Non-Nominated International Competitions

There will be no formal selection process for the following events and no points available on the BF Rankings. 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 if it exceeds supply.

- Junior World Cups and other international Junior events which are not already Nominated.
- EFC Cadet Events and other international Cadet events which are not already Nominated.
- 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 risk assessments

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

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 at least three 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 comprise three of the following members, one of which will act as Chair and one 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

The purpose of selection is to develop athletes and teams for Major Championship success.

Unless otherwise stated below, Major Championships selections will be guided by performances in the following order:

- (1) the qualifying standards being met,
- (2) international results prioritising nominated international events,
- (3) team performance or performances in a team prioritising nominated international events,
- (4) the potential to achieve future success internationally
- (5) an active engagement with the ADP
- (6) when no other measures are available, the BF rankings are considered.

Any Independent Member and Independent Observer must have no personal, financial, or coaching links with any 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 the following:

	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 or ADP Coach
Panel Members	3 (min)	Y	Generally 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 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. The Chair can co-opt stand-ins 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.

	Do they vote?
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.

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

Athletes, outside of their WCP role, must declare an interest

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

6. GENERAL CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

6.1 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. The Athlete must hold a valid British passport or proof of British citizenship, stored, and approved on Sport80. For FIE competitions, a full British Passport is required.
2. Athletes must hold a **current BF Compete Membership** for the period of selection including at the point (date) of selection. 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 selected if they have a **satisfactory disciplinary record** where any ban or measures 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 the other athletes or staff invited.

"Disciplinary record" means:
 - 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 that individual has an overdue and unauthorised debt to BF at the relevant selection date. An "overdue debt" will be considered one that has not been paid within 30 days of notification of an amount owed to BF by BF or one of the appointed Team Managers, coaches or other persons operating on behalf of BF.
8. Athletes are expected to maintain a **satisfactory training and fitness level and be able to evidence this if necessary (for example**, in producing a training diary, a confirmation letter from a medical professional). The selection panel(s) reserves the right to request a fitness test or omit an athlete from selection for any event if they deem their fitness or training record unsatisfactory.
9. In making any selection decision, the selection panel(s) shall not be obliged to regard 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 or the British Open Championships "the Open" in the relevant category** – Cadet, Junior, U23 or Senior.

For example, for 2023-24 selections, this means competing in the 2023 British Cadet and Junior Championships and the 2023 British Senior Championships. (Applies to Para fencing from April 2023)

- If an athlete is unexpectedly injured or ill, a doctor's note must be submitted to Head Office within two weeks of the Championships date.
 - 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 comply with the **BF Anti-Doping Policy**, with evidenced satisfactory completion of online Anti-Doping Training. Failure to comply will typically 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 such requirements/regulations 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 the following 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 or engagement with the ADP or P-WCP camps (virtual 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 (excluding Para fencing) 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 the Athlete’s ability to respond to coach feedback during matches.
 - f) Evidence of ability to act as a supportive squad member and positively impact 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 the international level.
 - h) Specific Weapon/Para fencing Strategies concerning the development of that discipline.
 - i) Evidence of an appropriate standard of training and fitness.
 - j) Commitment to a documented training plan 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 IADP.
 - 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 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 residing abroad who have not competed in sufficient competitions in the UK (Note – fencing athletes must still compete in the relevant National Championships). Athletes will be expected to prove that they regularly train at a high level, compete at comparable competitions and have 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 arises, there will be no subsequent appeal right for 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 deciding, the Selection Panel will consider the factors above, in any order and with appropriate weighting, that the ADT and the Selection Panel reasonably see fit to achieve the aims set out in the Policy and in accordance with the Weapon Strategy.
23. If a team member withdraws, the Selection Panel will select the replacement. Should the Selection Panel be unavailable (e.g. 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 reserves (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. The Athlete (and the parent/guardian for a minor) is responsible for keeping 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 if an athlete (or their parent/guardian) needs to be contacted in regards 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. The Athlete (and the parent/guardian for a minor) is responsible for checking rankings. Applications for the correction of errors in the calculation of ranking points should be sent to rankings@britishfencing.com and GBR Support at gbr_support@britishfencing.com within 48 hours of the ranking points being published. Please refer to the published GBR Ranking Scheme for full details.
28. If necessary the ADP will manage mechanisms to opt-in to selections; this ensures that selection decisions for individuals and teams are focused on those athletes that wish to attend.
29. **Fencing Only:** For all Major Championships for all ages, JWCS, EFC Under 23, and SWCs and GPs, 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 be 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 the selection of an Athlete would either contravene the duty of care owed to that Athlete or would pose an unreasonable risk, as determined by the Selection Panel, whether 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, the Athlete (and the parent/guardian for a minor) agrees to be bound by the Terms and Conditions of selection and all relevant BF Codes of Conduct, policies and procedures published on the BF website.
33. The Athlete (and the parent/guardian for a minor) is expected to ensure they have all the appropriate equipment and clothing to compete; this means fencing equipment/clothing

that meets international standards and the correct National Tracksuit identified by BF as appropriate for that event.

34. The Athlete (and the parent/guardian) is responsible for reviewing selections and taking appropriate action. For International events, selected athletes will receive an email with instructions about accepting their place, which may include completing an 'Acceptance of Selection form'). If a payment is due, a selection will not be considered 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. An Athletes who has 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 designated reserves have been invited and accepted.
36. An Athlete not intending to accept their place is encouraged to decline their selection as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than seven 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. An Athlete 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. An Athlete 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 entered athlete fails to attend 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 this penalty. In cases where an Athlete wishes to be withdrawn prior to the date of the competition, the Athlete is responsible for notifying BF at the earliest opportunity. BF in turn will notify the FIE or EFC. The Athlete must notify BF immediately of any illness or injury likely to require withdrawal (or no-show) at an event. All correspondence and/or any appeals to World/European Governing Bodies concerning withdrawals and 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 particular event.
41. All post-selection issues (including insufficient training and preparation evidenced against the agreed training plan, injury, illness, loss of performance, and disciplinary matters) 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 an Athlete's circumstances change, and they can no longer 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 made in consultation with appropriate medical professionals, ADP, 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. De-selection decisions based on disciplinary issues/breaches of BF Codes of Conduct will be taken in consultation with the Disciplinary Chair/CEO.
44. An Athlete whose Compete membership expires will be removed from the selection and forfeit their place.
45. An Athlete selected as a reserve will be expected to maintain an appropriate level of preparation for the competition.
46. An athlete who is participating in a team match that deliberately forfeits their matches, or refuses to participate in a team match, negatively impacting 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 is at risk.

6.8 APPLICATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

47. Selectors can consider any eligible athlete for a discretionary place in accordance with the Policy. The choice of which athletes to consider will be guided by published performance data (individual and team), IADP reviews and Weapon Strategy. It is the responsibility of an Athlete to update their IADPs before the selection point. IADPs should clearly identify the development goals that an athlete would hope to achieve in the event of a discretionary selection.

Unqualified athletes may be requested to confirm availability for the event before selection.

48. Discretionary Selection Forms are only to be completed for **Returning Performers** - these are athletes for whom:

- a) Their recent performances were impacted by illness, injury, pregnancy, significant life-changing events or periods of absence*, and
- b) They have previously demonstrated appropriate/qualification performance levels at relevant international competitions.

*Significant life-changing event or period of absence:

- Includes: If an athlete does not have British Nationality at the point of the National Championships but subsequently receives British Nationality.
- Does NOT include: Moving to a different coach/club/country, changing vocation or educational institutions, as this is expected to be managed by athletes and their personal coaches and reflected in the athlete IADP.

Any mitigating circumstances or discretionary cases an Athlete wishes to be considered in the selection decisions should be submitted in writing using this form.

BF reserve the right to charge for Discretionary Application Forms.

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

49. For all selections, the aim is to publish updated rankings within four working days of the event, subject to any corrections required. Please refer to BF Ranking Scheme for further information.
50. The ADP will publish a calendar of events which includes the BF selection and BF entry cut-off dates for all competitions on the BF website.
51. The aim is to announce selection decisions within five working days of the published selection point on the BF website.
52. An Athlete has 48 hours to appeal, starting from the date of the selection announcement (either on the BF website, or via email).

An Athlete (or their parent/guardian if U18) may request further feedback in regard to their non-selection. For clarity, this would not be considered as initiating an appeal but to support athlete development only. These requests for feedback will be considered in light of the resource available to BF at the time, and athletes meeting qualification standards will be prioritised. The ADP will de-prioritise athletes who have previously been provided with feedback and no circumstances have changed. Once the window for appeals has passed, athletes will receive confirmation through the Sport80 invitation 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 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.](#)

53. 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 typically compete within would also be deemed to have met the qualification standards for their lower age groups.
 - E.g., A Cadet meeting the qualification standards for the Junior Major Championships would be considered as meeting the qualification standard for Cadet Major Championships. A Junior meeting qualification standard for the Senior Major Championships would also be considered as meeting qualification standard at the Junior level.
 - 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 the previous season's European and World Championships; or

- e) from their best three (of a minimum of three) Nominated International Competitions in the same competitive age category, their final individual placing percentages average less than or equal to:

- Seniors and U23s Only: 40%*
- Juniors Only: 38%*
- Cadets Only: 35%*

* Nominated International Competitions in the same competitive age category from competitions held during the current season plus the previous season's European Championships, European Games, and World Championships. Percentages are calculated based on the actual number of athletes who started the competition, not on athletes who entered or failed to appear at the start.

For season 2024-25 due to the increasing rate of cancellation and re-locations in the FIE and EFC calendar and the reduction in numbers of international competitions being held in Europe, from season 2024-25 the final individual placing percentages will be best three from ALL nominated competitions in same competitive category in the previous 12 months.

Selection to fence in the individual events at the 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.

54. 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 chosen/proposed by the ADT at their discretion. These will typically be chosen 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.
55. If at the published point of selection, places remain unfilled with athletes qualified by right, selection for the remaining individual places may be delayed to allow for additional results to be taken into account and/or athletes to have the opportunity to achieve the selection standard. For example as the selection date for World Championships 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.

56. 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).
57. To qualify through the percentage finish performance route (as described above), athletes must have won one Direct Elimination match or made two L64s (where a complete L128 exists) during that competitive season in the relevant competitive age category in Nominated International Competitions.

Team Event

58. Notwithstanding the qualifying standard for individual events for Junior and Senior teams, any weapon placed in the Top 16 of the respective FIE world cup team rankings as of the selection date may send a team of four athletes in that weapon to the respective Junior or Senior European or World Championships.
59. Notwithstanding the qualifying standard for individual events, the ADT may use its discretion to propose including a team or adding team members to compete at the Team event.
60. An Athlete selected for the individual event shall not automatically be chosen to fence in the Team event.
61. The ADT will propose athletes for the Team events, considering any discretionary factors and results that they feel to be relevant.
62. An Athlete selected for the Team events may fence in the individual event, even if not qualified, provided that they do not displace a selected qualified athlete from competing in the individual event.
63. 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

64. 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 66 applies, the next two highest-ranked qualified athletes will typically be selected in third place and as a non-travelling reserve.
65. If fewer than three eligible athletes have reached the qualifying standard for the Cadet World Championships, the qualified athletes will be selected.

66. **In exceptional circumstances**, the CSP may select qualified or unqualified athletes with advice from the ADT where injury, illness or other significant event or circumstance may have affected part of the current Athlete's season when performance history and evidence indicate the Athlete might have achieved the required standard.

U23 European Championships only

67. BF reserves the right for this specific event 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)*

68. Cadet (U17) Nominated International Competitions are usually chosen from the EFC Cadet Circuit competitions, but other international competitions may be nominated.
69. The Weapon Selection Panel (WSP) is responsible for selecting the squad (including reserves where applicable) according to the selection procedure and based on the Weapon Strategy up to the available places.
70. Whilst the intention is to select all available places, in exceptional circumstances the WSP reserve the right, under guidance from the ADP to select fewer places. Exceptional circumstances would include insufficient eligible or available athletes, or the costs of the additional referees/fines creating a significant barrier to all athletes.
71. Available places:
- Up to a maximum of **20 eligible athletes per weapon**
 - However, up to 64 British athletes can be entered for any international cadet event in the UK.
72. Selection procedure:
- 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
 - For any international cadet event in the UK, there will be open entry up to the entry maximum (see item 71b. above)
- The ADT will be responsible for providing the WSP with a list of athletes recommended for discretionary places.
73. If spaces become available through places being declined the WSP, in consultation with the ADT, reserves the right to select replacements from the top **40** eligible athletes on the British ranking list using the Discretionary Factors. Names of any selected replacements will be published in order of selection.
74. For those events that 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 assign all athletes to a team where possible, taking into account the developmental needs of the athletes.

8.2 NON-NOMINATED AND DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS (INDIVIDUAL & TEAM)

75. U17 Development International Competitions are usually chosen from EFC Cadet circuit events, and other international events may also be identified as Development International Competitions.
76. The ADP manages the selection/entry process for Non-Nominated or Development Internationals. Athletes wishing to compete in the Individual event of a Non-nominated or Development Competition should complete a GBR Competition Entry Form on the BF website.
77. If more than two athletes wish to go to an EFC U17 Circuit event a referee is required. Rules on referee provision for non-EFC Circuit events will be set by the Competition Organisers
78. Suppose a Non-nominated or Development EFC event has a nominated Team event attached. In that case, 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 will be issued based on the order of application with a minimum requirement that an athlete is in the top 40 of the BF Cadet rankings. The ADT can approve, at their discretion, applications from athletes that do not meet these criteria if spaces are available. If more than six athletes (including the team) wish to attend, the non-team athletes must source and fund a referee.
79. A referee will not be allocated to a Non-nominated or Development event if a nominated team is not attending. If more athletes apply than places available, allocation will be based on the order of application with a minimum requirement that an athlete is in the top 40 eligibles of the BF Cadet Rankings. If places are available, the ADT can approve applications from athletes not meeting these criteria. If referees are required (e.g., for EFCs, if more than three athletes wish to go, referees will be needed), the responsibility for finding/providing referees and the associated cost will be equally shared by all.

9. JUNIOR (U20) SELECTION

9.1 NOMINATED INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Lower age limits for junior squads

80. For Junior World Cups, the minimum age of 13 will apply.
81. 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 2006.
82. Exceptions to the age requirements can only be considered on the nomination of the ADT as follows:
 - a) Final year Cadets (The birth year 2007) transitioning to Juniors.
 - b) Cadet athletes with an evidenced performance trajectory above their current competition pathway (e.g., EFC Cadets, **item 83**)
 - c) The development strategy for the team event supports the selection of a younger athlete.
83. Cadets who perform to a high standard in their 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.
84. 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.
85. BF will not guarantee accompanied travel and parents will be expected to arrange for athletes under 18 to meet the squad at the agreed entry point, typically at the hotel.

9.1.1 NOMINATED INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

86. Nominated Individual Events are usually chosen from the FIE Junior World Cup circuit, but other international events may be nominated.
87. 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.
88. 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 (see **item 83**)

89. 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.
90. **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 83.
91. If an athlete is in the top eight but does not meet the standard lower age limit, they must be proposed in advance by the ADT to be selected (see item 82).
92. **The ADT may propose four discretionary places and the first two reserves** based on the Discretionary Factors.
93. If discretionary places are unused, the **remaining places will be filled by eligible athletes in the order of the BF Junior Ranking.**
 - 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 82).
94. Should spaces become available through places being declined, the ADT reserves 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

95. Nominated Team Events usually take place at Junior World Cups, but other international events may be nominated.
96. 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.
97. Nominated Team Events held with Non-Nominated Individual Events – The ADT will select athletes for these team events (4 minimum).
98. 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

99. The ADT manages the selection/entry process for Non-Nominated or Development Internationals.
100. Development International Competitions are eligible for Junior BF Ranking points. Non-nominated International Competitions are not eligible for Junior BF Ranking points.
101. Athletes wishing to compete in the Individual event of a Non-nominated or Development Competition should complete a GBR Competition Entry Form on the BF website.

102. Suppose a Non-nominated or Development JWC event has a nominated Team event attached. In that case, 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 the 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 nine athletes (including the team) wish to attend, the non-team athletes must source and fund a referee.
103. A referee will not be allocated to a Non-nominated or Development event if a nominated team is not attending. If more athletes apply than places available, allocation will be based on the order of application with a minimum requirement that an athlete is in the top 25 eligibles for 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 referees are required (e.g., for JWCs, if more than four 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

104. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set out in [section 6.1](#).
105. 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.
106. The number of athletes that can be entered will depend on entry numbers and referee allocations/availability.
107. The ADT and/or BF Head Office will manage the entry process and any discretionary applications from athletes that fall outside the requirements in [item 105](#).

10.2 FIE SENIOR EVENTS

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

11. IWAS PARA FENCING EVENTS SELECTION

11.1 PARA FENCING SELECTION OVERVIEW

109. **Rationales** - Selections made for Satellites, World Cups and Zonal (European) and World Championships are guided by the following grounds:
- Paris Qualification - ensure that the stated medal target in the Paris 2024 World Class Programme submission to UK Sport, 2-6 medals, has the most substantial 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.
110. **Eligibility Criteria:** Athletes must meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 6.1 to be eligible for selection.
111. **Discretionary Factors:** See section 6.2. In addition, an athlete qualified for selection for one discipline may be considered for discretionary selection in other disciplines.
112. **First Time Selection:** where athletes put themselves forward to be selected for their first IWAS international, they must submit a nomination form completed by an L3 or above BF registered coach with expertise in international para-fencing, accompanied by their Individual Athlete Development Plan (IADP).
113. BF will manage the entry process.
114. BF will manage discretionary applications from athletes outside 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

115. The number of domestic and international competitive development opportunities for para-fencing is limited. As entries for IWAS Satellites and World Cups are currently not fixed, they can play an essential part in developing pathway athletes. To be considered for selection to these events, athletes should 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 the 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.

116. For international events, particularly those linked to Paralympic qualification, it is vital that any athlete travelling (along with their parents and personal coaches) are fully aware of the expectations of selection. The BF Codes of Conduct will automatically bind all those who travel.
117. 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
118. Discretionary selections for athletes competing in IWAS events for the first time may be limited to those events that BF staff are attending. These are likely to be the events taking place in Europe.
119. **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.
120. **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 previous 12 months
121. **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 previous 12 months
122. 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

123. The Paris Qualification rationale will guide the Para Fencing Championships Selection Panel (PCSP).

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, demonstrated the appropriate trajectories, or met the discretionary criteria due to illness or injury.

124. 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

125. 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.

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

127. 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.

128. Available Individual Places per Discipline

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

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

130. **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.

131. **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 previous 12 months, OR
- c) Current IWAS Senior Individual World ranking in the world top 20

132. Selection to fence in the individual events at the 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.

133. **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 Athletes and any non-travelling reserve will be selected/proposed by the Selection Panel at their discretion.
134. **World Championships:** If more than two eligible athletes have reached the European Championships qualifying standard, 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.
135. 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

136. 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.
137. The CSP will review the nomination process and the resulting athlete nomination list.
138. Based on the received nominations, BUCS officiate and make final selections with support from the ADT according to the performance criteria below.
139. Available Places
 - a) FISU authorises each country 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 2025

140. Athletes must meet the FISU criteria, which define who may participate as a competitor in a FISU Sporting Event.
141. Athletes must meet the BUCS criteria, which includes the minimum level of study.
142. The BF Performance criteria are subject to agreement with BUCS.
143. 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 the 1st of September 2023 and the 13th of April 2025 or a L64 at the Senior European or World Championships 2023; OR
 - (2) A L8 place in a nominated Junior World Cup Individual Event, Junior World Championships or Junior European Championships between the 1st of September 2022 and the 13th of April 2025; OR
 - (3) A L8 place as part of a Team competing in an FIE Senior World Cup Team Event between the 1st of September 2023 and the 13th of April 2025 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 the 1st of September 2023 and the 13th of April 2025.
 - (5) In addition, BF may select athletes from its Athlete Development Programme as part of their development towards 2024 and 2028.
144. 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 that is not deemed of a sufficiently high standard for the purposes of qualification.

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

13. SENIOR GBR SELECTION

13.1 FIE SATELLITE COMPETITIONS

147. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set out in [section 6.1](#).
148. 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.
149. 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 the requirements in [item 148](#).

13.2 EUROPEAN U23 CIRCUIT COMPETITIONS

150. These are Senior international competitions nominated by the EFC for U23 European Ranking points.
151. Athletes must meet the eligibility requirements as set out in [section 6.1](#).
152. 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.
153. 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 the requirements in [item 152](#).

13.3 FIE GRAND PRIX AND WORLD CUP COMPETITIONS

154. The Weapon Selection Panel (WSP) is responsible for selecting squads for FIE Grand Prix and World Cup competitions.
155. **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).
156. 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.
157. **Four discretionary places** and the first two reserves may be proposed by the ADT based on the Weapon Strategy. **If the WSP reject the ADT proposals their reasons must be given in writing to the Pathway Director and request the ADT re-submit a new proposal for consideration.**
158. **If the WSP fail to decide in accordance with the Selection deadlines, the ADT proposals will be deemed to be accepted.**
159. 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, they must be proposed in advance by the ADT to be selected.
160. 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.
161. Athletes competing in the individual event will not automatically be selected for the Team event at the associated World Cup.
162. **Team Event – Selection Points for Team Events will be published on the GBR calendar. These Selection Points may take place earlier than the individual selection.** Athletes for the team events will be selected 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.
163. Juniors (Or Cadets performing at Junior International Level) who perform to a high standard in 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 depends 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

164. 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.
165. Any athlete who has not provided a completed IADP shall have no right of appeal against non-selection for these competitions.
166. An athlete shall have no right of appeal against non-selection because the data supplied by the Athlete (via the most recent submitted IADP or in the case of returning performers, the Discretionary Application Form) was missing or inaccurate.
167. The Appeal Policy and Procedure is published on the BF website.
168. Outside of matters that fall under the Appeal Policy and Procedure, general comments and complaints relating to selection can be sent using the following form: [Click here](#). They 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 the 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	The team proposed by ADT from selected individuals.	
Junior World Cup in the UK	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	The team proposed by ADT from selected individuals.	
FIE Senior Satellites	Unlimited (subject to referee availability)	Top 50 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	The team proposed by ADT from selected individuals.	
European Championships for all ages (Ind & Team)	Up to 4	<p>*One of:</p> <p>Current Medallist Nominated</p> <p>Previous Major Medallist</p> <p>The top 5% Nominated.</p> <p>Top 40% for Seniors, 38% for Juniors and 35% for Cadets (best three nominated results).</p> <p>Higher age group standards met</p>	Max 3 qualified	Yes (Up to 4 places)

Competition	Number of Places	Min Qual Standard	Non-Disc Places filled by	Discretionary Places Available
		*See section 7 for more details		
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 place)

16. APPENDIX B - CONSTITUTING SELECTION PANELS

Voting members. The selection panel should have at least three voting members to prevent deadlock. 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 selected event and 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 must have proven 'chairing skills and experience as 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 complete 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 upon 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 sports 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, data analysis should support the operation of a selection panel.

17. APPENDIX C - GOOD PRACTICE FOR SELECTION PANELS

The following good practice underpins how 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 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 delivering the Athlete Development Programme) must not reach verbal or written agreements with any athlete that conflict with the published criteria.
- Acting with fairness requires that where discretion needs to be exercised, then it should be restricted to the area and scope identified. For example, suppose no athletes have met the criteria outright, or all selection places have not been filled. In that case, 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 consistent with the overall aims 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). They 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 allows the Chair and other selectors to consider the conflict, assess the risk and agree on how to manage it. Whenever possible, the person with the conflict should be replaced by another suitably qualified person. If this is not possible, the other selectors will need to consider the recommendations or opinions of the conflicted selector, considering how the conflict may influence their 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 Championship 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 carefully consider how the decisions are communicated, especially to those 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 of this de-brief will depend on the selection's proximity 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) is for any athlete thinking of making an appeal.

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

18. APPENDIX D - FISU & BUCS

This appendix is not 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.

4. Eligibility Criteria

4.1. For an individual to be eligible to represent BUCS & GB Students in FISU competitions they shall:

4.1.1. Be a British (United Kingdom) national and passport holder.

4.1.2. Be a registered student at an institution which is a recognised provider of Higher Education (HE).

AND

4.1.3. Be within the age range limits for the specific Games or Championships they are attending, as set by FISU.

4.1.4. Be at least 18 and no older than 25 years of age on the 31 December of the year of the event.

4.1.5 A former student of an eligible institution (as per 4.1.2) who has obtained an eligible qualification (as per 4.1.6) from said institution in the calendar year preceding the event.

AND

4.1.6 Be registered on a course which is at or above one of the following minimum levels:

- Level 4 on the Framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ).
- Level 7 on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF).
- Level 4 on the Regulated Qualifications Framework for England and Northern Ireland (RQF).
- Level 4 on the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW).

4.1.6.1 An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be registered on a course equivalent to those covered under 4.1.6.

AND

4.1.7 Be undertaking a study programme equivalent to:

- Where the course is credit rated under CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme), at least 60 credits per year.
- Where the course is run using guided learning hours, a minimum of 225 hours per year.
- Where the course is a postgraduate course which is not credit rated, no less than 50% of the full-time student programme per year.

4.1.7.1 A year will be taken as 12 months from the start date of their course.

4.1.7.2 An individual at an institution outside of the UK shall be undertaking a study programme equivalent to the requirements of 4.1.7

AND

4.1.8. Be a player who is permitted by the International or National Governing Body of the sport concerned to participate in FISU competition alongside any other competition in that sport.

4.2 Special cases for participation further to any FISU regulations in place at the time, the following individuals are classified as eligible to represent BUCS & GB Students in FISU competitions:

4.2.1 Notwithstanding 4.1.7, an individual who is otherwise eligible under 4.1 on a sandwich/industrial placement as part of their course is eligible during this time.

4.2.2 A student who would otherwise be eligible under INT 1.1. who has their studies suspended will not be eligible to compete until such a time as their studies recommence.

4.3 All participants in BUCS sanctioned competitions are subject to the Anti-Doping rules of UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), FISU, and the specific sport's International and/or National Governing Body. As such:

4.3.1 All participants are subject to testing.

4.3.2 Any individual who is serving a suspension as a result of an Anti-Doping rule violation will not be eligible to participate in BUCS international university programme competitions.

4.3.3 All Athlete Support Personnel (ASP) are strongly advised to complete the UKAD Introduction to Clean Sport qualification prior to attending the FISU Winter World University Games.

4.3.4 All Athletes are strongly advised to complete the new Complete Clean + eLearning course

4.4 Assuming an athlete meets the above conditions, the athlete is eligible for Selection. An athlete cannot be selected for any FISU World University Games or FISU World Universities Championship unless that athlete has been selected by BUCS & GB Students in association with BF.

4.5 Any Selection does not entitle an athlete to receive funding.

4.6 Allowing ineligible participants to represent an institution will result in appropriate disciplinary action being taken.

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