



2014 Commonwealth Games Glasgow



Selection Procedure for England Wrestling Team

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to outline the selection process for the English Wrestling Team attending the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.
- 1.2 A draft of this policy was circulated to athletes to gain their input.
- 1.3 Commonwealth Games England (CGE) has the ultimate authority in the selection of athletes to represent England at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. CGE will select such athletes in the sport of wrestling having due regard to nominations received from the British Wrestling Association (BWA), which in turn shall be made in accordance with the terms of this policy.
- 1.4 The BWA has the authority to nominate the English Wrestling Team to CGE and, for the purposes of Commonwealth Games, it is the National Governing Body for only the English Wrestling Team.
- 1.5 The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games weight categories (no weight allowance) as confirmed on 19th February 2014 are:

Men's Freestyle: 57K, 61K, 65K, 74K, 86K, 97K, 125K
Women's Freestyle: 48K, 53K, 55K, 58K, 63K, 69K, 75K
- 1.6 All prospective athletes should be aware that whilst England may be able to field a maximum of 7 male FS wrestlers and 7 female FW wrestlers, the Glasgow 2014 Games are different from previous Games in so much that *two or more wrestlers maybe selected to compete in the same weight category provided the maximum of 7 is not exceeded within the separate disciplines*. This will give the Selection Panel (see clause 4.1 below for the constitution of the Selection Panel,) the option of selecting only those athletes with a realistic chance of medalling at the Games, irrespective of their weight category up to a maximum of 7 wrestlers in each of the FS and FW disciplines.

2 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 In order to be eligible for selection by Commonwealth Games England to represent England at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, an athlete must:

- Comply with the eligibility conditions that the Commonwealth Games Federation may reasonably determine and impose from time to time.
 - Commonwealth Games Federation Constitution, Para 24, Eligibility, <http://www.thecgf.com/about/constitution.pdf>
 - E.G. Be a full British passport holder
- Read, understand, accept and sign their agreement to abide by the terms and conditions of the:-
 - Glasgow 2014 Team England Team Member Agreement
 - Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Selection Procedure for England Wrestling Team (this policy)

3 THE SELECTION PROCESS

3.1 The Selection Panel nominates athletes to CGE. The Selection Panel will use the following combination of objective and subjective criteria for the selection of athletes to be nominated to CGE for their selection to Team England for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. These criteria are listed in priority order, and will be weighted accordingly:

- a) The Selection Panel will select athletes who demonstrate the ability to win a medal at a Commonwealth Games, except where paragraph 3.3 below applies.
- b) In assessing ability to win a medal at a Commonwealth Games the Selection Panel shall have regard to the following factors in priority order. An athlete's:-
 - i) Competition results in Domestic & International Tournaments in the 18 months immediately prior to the time of selection
 - ii) Consistency of performances
 - iii) Current weight and the ability to make the 'fighting' weight
 - iv) Current level of physical fitness and current medical/injury status
 - v) Suitability as a team member (which may take into consideration the athlete's past behaviour, to include consideration of any disciplinary procedures against the athlete)

3.2 Any athlete seeking selection to represent England in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games should, unless they are incapacitated due to injury or illness (as evidenced by a medical certificate,), compete in the following qualification tournaments at the weight they seek selection:

2013 British Senior Championships - June 2013
2014 English Senior Championships - February 2014
2014 British Senior Championships - May 2014

3.3 Where there are 5 or more wrestlers contesting a particular weight category in the above qualification tournaments and where the winner of all the qualification tournaments is the same person and that person is eligible and wishes to wrestle for England, then he/she will automatically be selected to represent England at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, subject to their compliance and co-operation with the England Team Leader and National Coach in respect of their training programme and testing protocols. Their selection will be subject to ratification by CGE.

3.4 If, in the opinion of the Selection Panel, there is any ambiguity between two or more wrestlers of the same weight category, e.g. caused by an athlete being unable to

participate in any or all of the above referred tournaments due to injury or illness (as evidenced by a medical certificate,) the Selection Panel may request a wrestle-off.

- 3.5 All the qualification tournaments, but with the exception of the 2014 English Senior Championships, will carry a 2K weight allowance, as will any wrestle-off sanctioned by the Selection Panel. Wrestlers nominated to take part in any wrestle-off must comply with the regulations sanctioned by the Selection Panel.
- 3.6 The Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games event does not carry a weight allowance and it is therefore imperative that all wrestlers demonstrate that they can make the same weight in which they seek to participate in the Games within a reasonable time span prior to the Games and still achieve medal status. Hence the English Senior Championships 2014 will not carry a weight allowance.
- 3.7 All wrestlers seeking nomination to represent England at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games must attend international competitions as directed by the England Team Leader and England National Coach. In addition they must attend all England Senior Squad training sessions as scheduled and co-operate with the England Team Leader and England National Coach in any training or testing programmes designed for squad members either individually or collectively. Failure to comply may result in de-selection as a squad member and non-selection from Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games. Wrestlers seeking nomination may miss the international competitions and training sessions outlined above only with the written permission of both the National Coach and Team Leader. Such permission is unlikely to be given unless it relates to injury.
- 3.8 Additionally, all wrestlers must be aware that only those who:-
 - a) Display a willingness and seek to improve their technical, tactical, physical and mental skills; and
 - b) Display an understanding of, and can demonstrate that they possess the qualities identified in a) above, in competition both domestically and internationally;

will be considered for selection for Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

- 3.9 The Selection Panel shall exercise its discretion in selecting athletes fairly, rationally and without bias.
- 3.10 The selection of athletes by the Selection Panel is subject to ratification by CGE.

4 THE SELECTION PANEL

- 4.1 The constitution of the Selection Panel is The Chair of the England Committee (Chair of Selection Panel); England Team Leader (1 vote); England National Coach (1 vote); England Talent Lead (1 vote); an independent legal observer and the British Wrestling Chief Executive (who will act as secretary and take detailed contemporaneous notes of the Selection Panel meetings).
- 4.2 The Selection Panel will declare any perceived conflict of interest. In cases where there is conflict of interest, then the Selection Panel member affected will remain in the meeting and able to discuss the merits of any subjective criteria, but not to vote

on the selection of the athlete subject to the declaration to which their conflict of interest extends.

4.3 The Selection Panel is expected to meet in the third full week of week of May 2014.

5 INJURY AND REPLACEMENT

- 5.1 From the time of signing that they would like to be considered for selection, until the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, all athletes agree not to withhold from the National Coach or Team Leader any information on training fitness, injury status or illness that could affect training or competition at any time.
- 5.2 From the time of signing that they would like to be considered for selection, until the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games, all selected athletes must declare ANY medications they are taking or may propose to take, in particular the use of any restricted medications (refer to WADA website for [current list of Prohibited Substances and Methods](#).) and submit these to the Team Doctor for medical approval.
- 5.3 Any wrestler who is selected as a member of Glasgow 2014 CGE Team will be required to adhere to an agreed preparation and training programme. The preparation and training programme will be produced by the England National Coach in consultation with the selected athlete and the England Team Leader. Material and/or repeated failures to adhere to the programme will result in the nomination to CGE being withdrawn.
- 5.4 An athlete may be removed from the team in the event of non-compliance in training, a breach of responsibility to the team or a violation of the Codes of Behaviour adopted by the team. Prior to removal the athlete must be presented with the opportunity to attend a removal interview with the Selection Panel. Written justification must be provided for all removals by the Selection Panel. Any appeal to such a decision would be to the Appeals Committee, following the procedure at 6.3 below.
- 5.5 Should, at any stage following the selection announcement, the National Coach and Team Leader have any reasonable doubt over the ability of an athlete to compete to the best of his / her ability due to an injury or illness, the following procedure will be adhered to:
- a) The athlete will be referred to the Team Doctor to undergo a medical examination to determine their fitness to participate. Initially this will be based on an assessment of whether or not the injury and/or illness is such that the athlete is physically unable to compete or is at risk of causing medical harm to themselves, or endangering other competitors, officials or spectators.
 - b) If the athlete passes the initial medical examination carried out by the Team Doctor but the National Coach and Team Leader still have concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to the best of his / her ability due to the underlying injury or illness, the athlete will be required to undertake a "Fitness Test".
 - c) The "Fitness Test" which is to be assessed by the National Coach and Team

Leader is an objective assessment which will require the athlete to prove their fitness to compete. The athlete may also be subjected to any medical examination or physiological test deemed required to establish the fitness of the athlete to compete.

- a. Aims: To assess the athlete's fitness to compete
 - i. To make a decision about whether the athlete will be continue to be selected or be deselected for the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games;
 - ii. If necessary, decide on a follow-up course of action (i.e., retest at a later date)
- b. Pre-test procedure
 - i. Prior to testing the athlete's fitness to compete, ongoing assessment of rehabilitation progress will normally be conducted by the physiotherapist in consultation with the athlete (and possibly the Team Doctor). This might include some aspects of physical activity that are used to evaluate functional fitness but this would not constitute a fitness to compete test and the coach would, therefore, not normally be involved.
 - ii. The athlete and medical team will make a judgment about the athlete's readiness for a "fitness to compete" test. The athlete has the right to a "fitness to compete" test even if the medical teams do not think that the athlete is yet ready to successfully complete the test. The medical team must ensure that the athlete is fully informed and aware of the potential risks involved in completing an early "fitness to compete" test. The athlete has the right to demand that the medical team's opinion is not shared beyond the medical team and individuals involved in the selection procedure.
 - iii. A time and date will be agreed with all parties for the "fitness to compete" test to be conducted. Consideration needs to be given to the post-test response of the athlete and selection deadlines.
- c. "Fitness to compete" test
 - i. Personnel: Core people present may vary depending on fitness/injury but would normally include the athlete, National Coach, Team Leader and physiotherapist. Additional personnel might include the Team Doctor.
 - ii. Content: The "fitness to compete" test will be led by the physiotherapist. The specific content will vary according to injury, etc, but will have been agreed by the medical team, athlete and coach prior to the test and the athlete informed of the expected content.

- iii. The test will be designed to assess the athlete's functional fitness (i.e. their ability to complete the physical, technical and tactical requirements of the sport at an international level). This comprises two main elements:
 1. Physical function – speed, endurance, power flexibility, agility, etc.
 2. Wrestling-specific functions
- d. Post-test procedure:
 - i. In the event of an athlete, either not meeting the standard (but may meet it before the Games) or who meets it but for whom there is ongoing concern about fitness, they may be required to undertake further fitness tests.
 - ii. In the event that an athlete fails to complete the "fitness to compete" test to the required standard, they will be removed from the team, a decision which is not open to appeal; and an action plan regarding further rehabilitation (and possible retest under the criteria set out above and reinstatement) will be agreed.
 - iii. If the athlete is able to complete the "fitness to compete" test then an initial open discussion will take place with all present regarding the degree of fitness to compete that the athlete has achieved. This should include judgments about:
 - The athlete's physical function fitness
 - The athlete's wrestling-specific fitness
 - The risk of re-injury or secondary injury
 - iv. The physiotherapist will keep a written record of this discussion and the conclusions drawn which will be kept with the athlete's patient notes.
- d) Decision: The decision about the athlete's fitness to compete rests with the National Coach and Team Leader.
- e) Dissemination of Information: With the athlete's permission, the Team Leader will then inform other relevant personnel (e.g., the other athletes and staff, media, etc.)

6 COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

- 6.1 The Team Leader will communicate selection decisions in writing by email, (with copy by post,) to the selected athletes and non-selected athletes within three working days of the Selection Panel meeting taking place. These communications will be confidential until such time as CGE makes a media announcement.

- 6.2 An athlete who was eligible for selection but was not selected for nomination to CGE may appeal against the decision of the Selection Panel only on the grounds that:
- a) the provisions of this selection policy have not been followed and/or properly implemented.
 - b) the Selection Panel ignored relevant information and or took into account incorrect, incomplete or irrelevant information in making the selection decision; or
 - c) the selection process was tainted by bias.
- 6.3 An appeal must be made in writing by e-mail to the Chair of the Selection Panel (via admin@britishwrestling.org) within 72 hours of receipt of the communication of the Selection Panel's decision (i.e. the date of sending of the selection decision e-mail at 6.1). Any notice of appeal must state the grounds on which the appeal is being made with reference (if appropriate) to the parts of this Policy which are alleged not to have been followed and/or properly implemented. At the time of appeal a deposit of £50 must be paid to the BWA, refundable in the event of a successful appeal.
- 6.4 The Chair of the Selection Panel will confirm receipt of the notice of appeal within 48 hours of receipt.
- 6.5 As soon as possible, and in any event no later than within seven working days of receiving the appeal, the Chair of the Selection Panel will establish an Appeals Committee comprising three independent people: one will have an elite sporting background from a sport or sports other than wrestling; one will be a member of the BWA Executive who has no connection with the appellant; and one will have appropriate legal expertise. No member of the original Selection Panel will be involved in or sit on the Appeals Committee.
- 6.6 The Appeals Committee will stage a hearing as soon as is practicable, on paper, by telephone/Skype or face to face, as appropriate, at which it will investigate the appeal. At this hearing:
- The Chair of the Selection Panel will be required to state in writing the reason for the Selection Panel's decision, and the process which was conducted to arrive at that decision, and to provide any relevant supporting evidence;
 - The athlete may make personal representation to the Appeals Committee, and provide relevant supporting evidence. S/he may be accompanied by a third party who may observe the appeal proceedings but may not contribute to them.
- 6.7 The athlete, and the Selection Panel, may be legally represented at any Appeals hearing with costs for the representation borne by the party retaining the representative.
- 6.8 The Appeals Committee shall have power either to uphold the appeal or to reject it. A nominated member of the Appeals Committee will inform all parties of their decision in writing within 48 hours of the appeal hearing being staged.
- 6.9 In the event that the Appeals Committee upholds the appeal, the Selection Panel shall be reconvened to reconsider its selection, having due regard to the comments of the Appeals Committee.

6.10 In the event that:

- a) the Appeals Committee rejects the appeal, or
- b) the Selection Panel reconsiders its selection and decides not to select the appellant notwithstanding the outcome of the appeal and the comments of the Appeals Committee, the appellant shall have the right to take the matter to Sport Resolutions UK, first paying the BWA a deposit of £150. The appellant and the BWA will both agree that the decision of a Sport Resolutions Tribunal shall be final and binding on both the parties.

6.11 The Sport Resolutions Tribunal will be entitled but not obliged to award costs against either the Appellant or, in exceptional cases only, the BWA. In deciding whether to award costs, the Appeals Panel will have regard to the success or failure of the Appellant and the conduct of the Parties. Costs include the professional fees (if any) of the chairperson of the Appeals Panel, the reasonable expenses of the Appeals Panel members, and any costs associated with hiring a suitable venue for the Appeal Hearing. The BWA will act reasonably in seeking to keep all these costs to a minimum. The Appeals Panel may in its discretion order the refund of the whole or part of the deposit paid by the Appellant. In calculating the costs to be paid to a party nothing shall be included on account of professional representation.

7 AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROCEDURE

7.1 This policy is owned by the BWA. However, due to the ultimate authority of CGE in the selection of the England team, any amendments to this policy must be approved by CGE. Any matters arising from the selection process which are not covered within this policy shall be determined by the Selection Panel, to be confirmed with CGE and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the complete amended procedure on the British Wrestling website.

8 REFERENCES

Commonwealth Games Federation Constitution; Page 15; ARTICLE 24; Eligibility ([link](#))

9 APPLICATION FORM

Availability for selection to the England Wrestling Team for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

I, [Athlete Name] would like to be considered
for selection to the England Wrestling Team for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

I have read and understood the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games Selection Procedure
for the England Wrestling Team (this policy and the contract with each athlete) and agree
to abide by its terms and conditions.

As at [2.1] above, I understand that to be eligible for selection by Commonwealth Games
England to represent England at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, I must
understand, accept and sign my agreement to abide by the terms of the Glasgow 2014
Team England Team Member Agreement that will be made available in due course.

My e-mail address:

My postal address:

Signature:

Date: