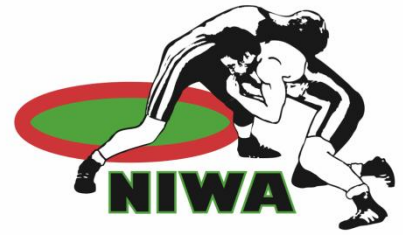


# Northern Ireland Wrestling Association

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## Commonwealth Games – Delhi 2010

### Selection Policy

#### Introduction

1. The Selection Policy provides detail of the process by which the Northern Ireland Wrestling Association (NIWA) will arrive at its nominations for the selection of athletes to be submitted to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council (NICGC) for consideration for the team for the Commonwealth Games in Delhi 2010.
2. In all cases, selection by the NIWA represents a nomination to the NICGC for ratification. The final decision in selection to the Commonwealth Games 2010 lies with the NICGC. Achievement of the selection criteria stated below therefore represents an “eligibility for nomination”

#### Selection Policy Aim

3. To select a team of athletes capable of competing with distinction at the Commonwealth Games 2010 with individuals having the ability to achieve at least a top eight placing in their respective category.

#### Athlete Eligibility

4. The eligibility criteria of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Article 24, must be met by all nominees - see Appendix 1.
5. Where prospective team members do not comply with the above they will only be nominated for the final selection if they receive prior dispensation from the Commonwealth Games Federation.

#### Competition Format

6. The wrestling competition in the Commonwealth Games 2010 includes all weight categories in Freestyle events (Male and Female) and Greco-Roman events (Males only). Each country may enter only one athlete in each weight category in each event.

#### Selection Criteria

7. The following criteria relate to the Freestyle wrestling events. There will be no specific criteria for Greco-Roman events but in the event of an athlete achieving the Freestyle criteria, selection for the Greco-Roman events may be allowed at the discretion of the NI coach, providing that selection to a Greco-Roman event in no way affects their performance in the Freestyle tournament.
8. The selection of nominees who have achieved the required standard will commence in May 2010 and the NICGC may choose to make announcements to the press about selection shortly afterwards. The



selection of the final team travelling to the Commonwealth Games will be formalized on Wednesday 30 June 2010 (since there are still qualifying events post May 2010)

9. NICGC requires that wrestlers have the ability to finish in the top eight or a minimum of a top half placing, whichever is the more demanding standard, at the Commonwealth Games 2010. To demonstrate this, the NIWA has set the following criteria:

Two out of the four must be achieved:

- Top six placing in the British Senior Open 2008 or 2009
- Top eight placing in the Commonwealth Championships 2009
- Top three placing (of eligible Commonwealth county athletes) in the English Senior Open 2010
- Top three placing in the British Closed Championships 2010

10. In each category, the NIWA will only recommend a wrestler who's national and international competition results and commitment suggest that they are the best available Northern Irish athlete in that category and who also meet the criteria at paragraph 9 above.

11. If necessary the NIWA reserves the right to hold a wrestle off to assist with the determination.

12. Athletes must also demonstrate a suitable level of fitness appropriate to the demands of international wrestling, as determined by the NI coach, and display correct attitude and behaviour in accordance with the BWA code of conduct.

### **Illness, Injury or other Exceptional Circumstances**

13. Failure to meet any of the selection criteria for reasons of illness, injury or any other exceptional circumstances by a wrestler who still wishes to seek selection must be supported by medical evidence or any such evidence as could be deemed relevant and reasonable. The evidence will be considered by the NI coach and a nominated member from the NIWA Executive and again the NIWA reserves the right to arrange a wrestle off.

14. Any unavailability for competition or training, for any of the above reasons, must be communicated to and agreed with the NI coach in advance.

### **Other Selection Factors for Consideration**

15. When a wrestler from Northern Ireland is competing against athletes from non Commonwealth countries in any of the events listed above, for example Russia, Ukraine or Iran then the caliber of their opponents must be taken into consideration.



16. Wrestlers must maintain the same weight they have been selected for and must compete in the same weight category for three months prior to the Commonwealth Games 2010.
17. As per the NICGC general criteria, consideration will be given by the NICGC to selecting individuals who may not have met the standards above but are agreed to be potential medal winners in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014. All individuals nominated under this category must be identified as such and meet a general criteria of making the top two thirds of the potential field in their event. Selection on this basis may take into account anticipated future performances but these must be based clearly on results in competitions, both junior and senior, prior to nomination.
18. The NIWA will discuss and obtain agreement with the NICGC six months in advance of the event if any wrestler is likely to be proposed on this basis. Athletes will not be considered under this category just on the basis of having missed the agreed standards.
19. The NI Coach and the Executive of the NIWA will select the athletes to be nominated to the NICGC. Decisions will be ratified by the Board of the NIWA before being passed to the NICGC for consideration and confirmation.

#### **De- Selection**

20. A competitor may be removed from the Commonwealth Games team at any stage in the selection process if there is a reason that the NI Coach, in consultation with the NIWA Executive, considers may affect their performance at the Games, for example, illness or injury, non compliance in training or competition, lack of consistency in performance or training, failure to make the correct weight or breach of the BWA Code of Conduct.
21. Prior to any competitor being removed they must be given the right of appeal against the decision. A de-selected wrestler will have the opportunity to meet with the NI Coach and a delegated member of the NIWA Executive with seven days.
22. The de-selected wrestler is entitled to have a "friend" present and can present any evidence which they consider to be relevant.

#### **Anti – Doping**

23. All athletes must adhere to the WADA Code and UK Anti - Doping rules

#### **Athlete Appeal Process**

24. Any athlete not nominated to the NICGC for selection to the Commonwealth Games team has the right to meet with the NI Coach and NI Executive in order to seek clarification regarding their non selection. The meeting will take place within four days of the nominations being confirmed. After this meeting the



athlete may appeal in writing to the NIWA and that appeal must arrive with the interim Secretary of the NIWA within four days.

25. The Board of the NIWA will convene a meeting within four days of receipt of the appeal to discuss the matter. The athlete will be notified of the decision of Board forthwith and the decision of the Board is final.
26. An athlete not included for nomination should not appeal directly to the NICGC

Barry Pollin

Chairman of the NIWA

28 February 2010



## Appendix 1

### Eligibility and Conditions for Representation

Eligibility and conditions for representing Northern Ireland are outlined in the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Constitution and Regulations. This is as follows:

#### Article 24

1. Subject to Article 24(2), as a condition of entry to compete in the Commonwealth Games, all competitors must be citizens or subjects of the Commonwealth Country that enters them and must:
  - Not be currently under disqualification or suspension by the Federation or their respective affiliated CGA or IF or under the World Anti Doping Code;
  - Comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation, their respective IFs and the World Anti Doping Code as may be modified and applied by the Federation to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.
2. Subject to article 24(3), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country that has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the competitor may initially represent either the competitor's Commonwealth Country of birth; or the Commonwealth Country of birth of his or her father or mother that shares the same citizenship/passport.
3. After having represented one Commonwealth Country at the Commonwealth Games, a competitor may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless he or she receives the approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the Affiliated CGAs of the two Commonwealth Countries concerned.



4. It is the responsibility of all affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with the eligibility rules of the Federation.
5. The Executive Board shall have the power to waive the provisions of Articles 24 (1-3) in its discretion.

In relation to this clause, the CGF Executive at its meeting in August 2004 gave the following guidelines:

- If an athlete has previously represented a country at a Commonwealth Games they may continue to represent that country at future Games.
- Athletes wishing to compete for a country on the basis of residency must show they have resided in that country for five years immediately prior to those Games.

Further guidelines were given in August 2005 as follows:

#### Athlete Eligibility – Athlete Dispensation Criteria

- The General Assembly noted the Executive Boards decision that in accordance with article 25 (5) dispensations would be granted to athletes where common passports exist in that an athlete may represent the new country subject to having fulfilled all the requirements of the relevant International Federation.
6. All nominations for selection must fulfill the requirements as outlined above and in addition all nominated wrestlers must be a member of the NIWA.
  7. Commitment by competitors regarding future availability for competition for Northern Ireland as a member of either constituent Governing Body or for NICGC teams will be taken into account by both the NIWA and the NICGC when applying selection guidelines.

