



Registered Office  
12, Westwood Lane,  
Chesterfield,  
Derbyshire S43 1PA  
Phone/Fax: +44 (0)1246-236443  
Company Number: 4190868  
Email: [admin@britishwrestling.org](mailto:admin@britishwrestling.org)  
[www.britishwrestling.org](http://www.britishwrestling.org)

---

## Selection Policy – Major Events

The following selection process will be used for all major international events for which Great Britain athletes are selected – including and especially senior World and European Championships, and Golden Grand Prix events, but excluding Olympic Games:

### 1. Eligibility criteria

Wrestlers will be eligible for consideration provided they are:

- A member of the British Wrestling Association (BWA);
- A British citizen holding a British passport and / or
- Eligible to compete for Great Britain by virtue of possessing a current International Licence as issued by FILA.

### 2. Selection Panel

2.1 The Selection Panel will consist of the following:

- BWA Performance Director
- BWA National Senior Coach
- BWA National Junior Coach
- Chair of the BWA Performance Management Group (PMG)

2.2 Members of the selection panel will perform the following duties:

**Chair of the PMG:** The Chair of the PMG will assume the role of Chair of the Selection Panel, and will ensure that selections are made according to due process and the selection criteria detailed in this policy document. The Chair of the PMG will be involved in the discussions and will provide advice on procedural matters but will not be entitled to vote.

**BWA Performance Director:** will assume the role of a Selection Panel Member and will participate in the selection discussions and will be entitled to one vote in the selection.

**BWA National Senior Coach:** will assume the role of a Selection Panel Member and will participate in the selection discussions and will be entitled to one vote in the selection.

**BWA National Junior Coach:** will assume the role of a Selection Panel Member and will participate in the selection discussions and will be entitled to one vote in the selection.

2.3 The BWA Performance Analyst will assume the role of Recording Officer of the Selection Panel and will document in writing the selection decisions. The Performance Analyst will not be involved in the discussions. The Performance Analyst will be responsible for compiling results and other relevant details on all

athletes being considered for selection, for the information of Selection Panel members.

- 2.4 If for any reason any member(s) cannot attend, the Chair of the PMG (in the capacity as the Chair of the Selection Panel) will appoint an appropriate substitute(s) who will perform the duties of the member(s) that they are substituting.
- 2.5 It will be the responsibility of the Chair of the Selection Panel to ensure that Panel members have sufficient information in advance of the meeting on which to make their decisions.
- 2.6 Decisions of the Selection Panel will be made on a simple majority of votes taken. There will not be fewer than three voting members in attendance at any meeting of the Selection Panel, either in person or through telecommunications.

### 3. Selection criteria

3.1 The BWA Selection Panel will use the following criteria for the selection of athletes to represent Great Britain in major international events. These criteria are listed in priority order, and will be weighted accordingly:

- (a) The athlete with the most potential to win a medal and / or to contribute to the fulfilment of the BWA's performance targets for the event.

**Note:** *"The athlete with the most potential to win a medal"* is considered the major criteria to be used in the selection process and it will have precedence over all other criteria listed below.

- (b) The athlete's competition results in the 24 months immediately prior to the time of selection. Performance in the following events, which are listed in priority order, will be taken into consideration:

- World Championships
- European Championships
- Golden Grand Prix events
- International FILA Tournaments
- Major Domestic Events (British and English Open Championships only) – an athlete will not normally be considered for Great Britain selection unless s/he has achieved a podium finish in these tournaments.

An athlete will normally need to achieve a top five finish in a minimum of two FILA International tournaments within the twelve months prior to selection to be considered for selection to a European or World Championships at Senior levels.

In considering previous competition results, factors other than the final placing will be taken into account. These factors may include the standard of the event, the draw, the opposition, officiating, injury and any other factors that may have influenced the final results.

- (c) Additional factors which may be considered include:
  - consistency of performances and current rate of improvement

- current weight and the ability to make the fighting weight
  - age
  - current level of physical fitness and current medical/injury status
  - bona-fide medical evidence for absence
  - suitability as a team member (past behaviour)
- 3.2 While at all times having due regard to principles of equity and transparency, the Selection Panel reserves to itself the following rights:
- to give added weight to a specific criterion under particular circumstances
  - not to select an athlete for a weight category if there is no athlete judged to be of a suitable standard
  - where there is not an athlete judged to be of a suitable standard, to select an athlete who does not fulfil the selection criteria but has the potential to perform at major World and European events in the future and who will in the Panel's opinion benefit from the experience of participating in the event

#### **4. Proceedings of the Selection Panel**

- 4.1 The Selection Panel will meet to select athletes for each event in time to meet the entry requirements which are stated within the event regulations.
- 4.2 Each selection decision will be formally recorded, including details of discussions regarding each of the athletes being considered for selection.
- 4.3 The Performance Director will communicate selection decisions to the selected athletes within three working days of the Selection Panel meeting.
- 4.4 All athletes who accept their selection will be required to abide by such BWA rules, regulations and codes of conduct as may be in force from time to time, and to sign such athlete agreements as the BWA may require from time to time. In any event, if an athlete accepts his/her selection into a Great Britain squad or team, then this will be held to imply acceptance of the rules, regulations and codes of conduct of the BWA and of the terms of any relevant athlete agreement, whether this has been signed or not.

#### **5. Appeals Procedure**

- 5.1 An athlete who was eligible for selection but was not selected by the Selection Panel may appeal against the decision of the Selection Panel only on the grounds that this selection policy and / or the selection criteria were not applied correctly.
- 5.2 An appeal must be made in writing to the Chair of the Selection Panel within 72 hours of the publication of the Selection Panel's decision. An appeal must be made with appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation.
- 5.3 Within seven working days of receiving the appeal, the Chair of the Selection Panel will establish an Appeals Committee comprising of 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 the Appeals Committee.

- 5.4 The Appeals Committee will stage a hearing at which it will investigate the appeal. At this hearing the Selection Panel will be required to state the reason for its decision, and the process which was conducted to arrive at that decision. The athlete may make personal representation to the Appeals Committee, and may be accompanied by a third party who may observe the appeal proceedings but may not contribute to them.
- 5.5 The Appeals Committee shall have power either to uphold or to reject the appeal. 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.
- 5.6 The decision of the Appeals Committee is final and binding on the athlete(s) being an exercise of discretion in the matter of selection. It is not a disciplinary or “judicial” finding and as such is not subject to appeal.

## **6. Injury and Replacement**

- 6.1 Once the selection has been confirmed by the Selection Panel, all selected athletes must agree not to withhold any information on training fitness, injury status or illness that could affect training or competition at any time until the point of the event.
- 6.2 All selected athletes must declare any medications they are taking, in particular the use of any restricted medications, and submit these to the Team Doctor for medical approval.
- 6.3 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 Team Manager (or their appointed representative) and where possible one other independent person. Written justification must be provided for all removals by the Team Manager. Decisions on these matters are not open to appeal.
- 6.4 At any stage following the selection announcement, should there be a 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 BWA 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 Performance Director and / or Team Manager still has 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 BWA’s designated “Fitness Test”.
- 6.5 The “Fitness Test” is an objective assessment which will require the athlete to prove their fitness to compete. The athlete may be subjected to any medical

examination or physiological test that the BWA deem required to establish the fitness of the athlete to compete.

#### *Aims*

1. To assess the athlete's fitness to compete
2. To make a decision about whether the athlete will be selected or deselected for a specific competition
3. If necessary, decide on a follow-up course of action (i.e., retest at a later date)

#### *Pre-test procedure*

Prior to testing the athlete's fitness to compete, ongoing assessment of rehabilitation progress will normally be conducted by the physiotherapist and athlete (and possibly the 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.

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 with any other individuals (including the National Coach).

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.

#### *"Fitness to compete" test*

##### Personnel:

Core people present may vary depending on fitness/injury but would normally include the athlete, National Coach, Team Manager and physiotherapist. Additional personnel might include the Team Doctor and Strength & Conditioning Coach.

##### 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.

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

*Post-test procedure:*

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) will be agreed.

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

The physiotherapist will keep a written record of this discussion and the conclusions drawn which will be kept with the athlete’s patient notes.

*Decision*

The decision about the athlete’s fitness to compete rests with the National Coach.

*Dissemination of Information*

With the athlete’s permission, the National Coach will then inform other relevant personnel (e.g., the other athletes and staff, media, Home Nations, etc.)

**7. Additional matters**

- 7.1 Any matters arising from the selection process which are not covered within this policy shall be determined by the BWA’s Performance Management Group (or representative thereof) acting at their sole discretion.