

Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games England Wrestling Team Selection Policy

Any changes to the policy are highlighted in yellow.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy sets out the process by which the England Wrestling Team will be selected for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- 1.2. Commonwealth Games England (CGE) has the ultimate authority in the selection of athletes to represent England at the Birmingham 2022 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.
- 1.3. The BWA has the authority to nominate the England Wrestling Team to CGE and, for the purposes of Commonwealth Games, it is the National Governing Body for the England Wrestling Team.
- 1.4. The number of athletes to be nominated for selection by the BWA's Selection Panel ("the Selection Panel") will be in accordance with CGE agreed numbers.

2. Aim

- 2.1. To select athletes that, in the view of the Selection Panel, have the best potential to win a medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- 2.2. To select athletes to categories, as determined by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and/or United World Wrestling (UWW), that support the development of the sport nationally and internationally

3. Eligibility

- 3.1. To be eligible for selection by CGE to represent England at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, an athlete must:
 - 3.1.1. Hold a British passport
 - 3.1.2. Comply with the eligibility conditions that the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) may reasonably determine and impose from time to time.

3.1.3. Read, understand, and submit signed copies of the following to BWA and/or CGE no later than a month after receiving a copy.

3.1.3.1. England Wrestling Team Athlete Agreement.

3.1.3.2. CGE Team England Member Agreement (to be made available by CGE in due course)

3.1.3.3. CGF Entry and Eligibility Form

3.1.4. Be a full member of the BWA.

3.1.5. Complete appropriate UK Anti-Doping education and training as required.

4. Selection Panel

4.1. The Selection Panel will consist of:

Position on the Panel	Role
Chair	Chair of the England Committee
Wrestling Expert	England Team Leader England National Coach England Assistant Team Leader
Independent Observer	Legal Observer
Minute Taker	BWA Chief Executive

4.2. The voting members will be - England Team Leader (1 vote); England National Coach (1 vote); England Assistant Team Leader (1 vote).

4.3. Members of the Selection Panel must formally declare any perceived conflict of interest concerning the selection of any athlete at the start of the meeting. In cases where there is conflict of interest, then the Selection Panel member affected will remain in the meeting and will be able to discuss the merits of selecting the athlete in question, but not to vote on the selection of the athlete subject to the declaration to which their conflict of interest extends. In situations where the vote is split due to conflict of interest the casting vote will be assigned in the following order Team Leader, National Coach, Assistant Team Leader.

5. Selection Decisions

5.1. The Selection Panel nominates athletes for selection to CGE. Selection by the Selection Panel does not guarantee a place on the CGE wrestling team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games. The selection of athletes to represent Team England at the 2022 Commonwealth Games is subject to ratification by CGE.

5.2. Athletes will be selected to the team in priority order based on the team size and constitution in accordance with CGE mandate, with the exception of designated categories nominated by CGF/UWW.

5.3. A maximum of 9 athletes may be selected, with a maximum of 2 wrestlers per weight category. The CGF and UWW have nominated 3 athlete places for development of the sport internationally at FS125kg and WW68kg included in the 9 total places. The Selection Panel reserve the right to not select an athlete for a weight category in order to prioritise medal opportunity and select 2 in a weight category. This means that being the top ranked English athlete in a weight category does not guarantee selection.

5.4. The selection of athletes by the Selection Panel for the 2022 Commonwealth Games will be made by reference to the criteria set out below. Where the Panel is required to choose between athletes, this involves the exercise of discretion and judgment. Judgments of this kind are by their very nature matters of expert opinion, often involving consideration of a range of different factors to reach a decision. The Selection Panel will always aim to take selection decisions fairly, reasonably, and rationally, without bias. When reaching its decisions, the Selection Panel will consider, in no particular order, the following factors:

5.4.1. **Technical and Tactical Ability:** Technical and tactical ability of athletes in training and competition

5.4.2. **Fitness and Athletic Ability:** Fitness levels and conditioning of athletes

5.4.3. **Lifestyle Management:** Adherence to training and weight management.

5.4.4. **Behaviour and Discipline:** Commitment to the England Wrestling Programme including the behaviours and values stated in the Athlete Agreement during training sessions, at training camps and competitions.

5.4.5. **Competitive Record and Performance:** Past competitive results, performances, and experience at the nominated competitions in section 6.

5.4.6. **Current Form:** Current competitive form, as apparent from recent performances and results

5.4.7. **Opposition:** If applicable, the nature of the opposition, and the suitability of any given athlete bearing in mind the opposition likely to be faced

5.5. The Selection Panel may, in its absolute discretion, call for a wrestle-off between athletes in the same weight category to assist with or determine one or more selections. Wrestle-offs will be a single bout of 6 minutes with no weight allowance officiated by neutral BWA Officials. Athletes will be provided with two weeks' notice of a wrestle off following the selection meeting. Wrestle-offs will not be held in any other circumstances; athletes have no entitlement to a wrestle-off.

5.6. The Selection Panel reserves the right to seek additional expert guidance from specific coaches, technical experts, or programme medical advisors if the panel thinks it is appropriate. Any person involved in providing advice or guidance during the selection process must declare any conflict of interest.

6. Selection Competitions

6.1. All athletes seeking nomination for selection to represent England in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games must demonstrate form and results from a minimum of two of the following competitions. ~~which must include at least one UWW international competition.~~

Competition	Date	Categories	Status
European Olympic Qualifier, Hungary	18-21 March 2021	FS, WW	
European Championships, Poland	19 th - 25 th Apr 2021	FS, WW	
World Olympic Qualifier, Bulgaria	29 th Apr – 2 nd May 2021	FS, WW	
Sassari City, Sassari, Italy	18 th - 19 th Jun 2021	FS, WW	
Ion Cornianu & Ladislau Simon, Romania	3 rd – 5 th Sep 2021	FS, WW	
Medved, Minsk , Belarus	10 th - 12 th Sep 2021	FS, WW	Cancelled
UK Senior Championships	23 rd Oct 2021	FS, WW	
Commonwealth Championships,	3 rd - 5 th Dec 2021	FS, WW	Cancelled

South Africa			
Klippan Lady Open, Sweden	Jan 2022	WW	Cancelled
Henri Deglane, Nice, France	Jan 2022	FS	Cancelled
Flatz Open, Austria	Jan 2022	FS, WW	Cancelled
English Seniors	19 th Feb 2022	FS, WW	

- 6.2. Only results from the nominated selection competitions will be considered by the Selection Panel.
- 6.3. The nominated selection competitions may be subject to change due to factors out of BWA control. Where competitions are changed this Policy will be amended in line with section 11 of this Policy.
- 6.4. Athletes should compete in the selection competitions in the gender, age, and weight category they intend to seek selection for unless provided dispensation in advance by the England Team Leader.
- 6.5. Athletes will be provided with the opportunity to enter and compete at the above tournaments based on their current level and subject to GBR selection procedures, as part of the England Training Programme.

7. Timeline

- 7.1. The timeline for selection is as follows:

Event	Date
Selection Meeting	28 th February 2022
Selection Announced	28 th February 2022
Appeals	4 th March 2022

8. Deselection

- 8.1. Any athlete who is selected as a member of Birmingham 2022 CGE Team England (and whose selection has been ratified by CGE) will be required to adhere to an agreed preparation and training programme. The preparation and training programme will be produced by the England Team Leader and England Team Coach in consultation with the selected athlete. Material and/or repeated failures to adhere to the programme will result in nomination to CGE Team England being withdrawn (or removal from the England Wrestling Team if already nominated).

- 8.2. An athlete may be removed from the England Wrestling Team in the event of non-compliance in training, a breach of responsibility to the team or a violation of the England Wrestling Team Athlete Agreement, the CGE Team Member Agreement, the CGF Constitution or any of the BWA Codes of Conduct and Policies.
- 8.3. Any athlete serving a period of ineligibility pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules of any Anti-Doping Organisation shall not be considered for selection. An athlete who is selected to represent the England Wrestling Team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games shall be immediately deselected if a period of ineligibility is imposed upon them pursuant to the Anti-Doping Rules of any Anti-Doping Organisation.
- 8.4. Prior to the removal of the athlete for any reason, the athlete must be presented with the opportunity to attend a removal interview with a minimum of two members of the Selection Panel. The athlete will be provided with a minimum of 72 hours' notice of any such meeting. The athlete may be accompanied at this meeting by a supporter, e.g., friend, family, trainer, legal advisor, medical adviser, for athletes under 18 they have the right to be accompanied by an adult family member or friend in addition to a supporter. Written justification, documented by e-mail and followed up by letter, must be provided for all removals. Any appeal against such a decision would follow the Appeals procedure set out in section 10.
- 8.5. At any stage following the selection announcement, should the England 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 athlete may be required to undergo such medical examinations as the England Team Leader may reasonably require and/or undertake the BWA Testing Protocol, for the purposes of a report being prepared regarding the athlete's fitness and ability to prepare for and compete at the 2022 Commonwealth Games to the required standards.
- 8.6. An athlete may be removed from the England Wrestling Team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games following the process described in 8.4, if in the reasonable opinion of the Selection Panel, the athlete is deemed to be medically unfit to represent the England Wrestling Team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

9. Communications

- 9.1. The England Team Leader will communicate nomination for selection decisions with justification in writing by email, (with copy by post,) to all eligible athletes within 72hrs of the Selection Panel meeting taking place.

N.B. These communications will remain confidential until such time as the appeals process is concluded and through to CGE making a media announcement.

10. Appeals Procedure

10.1. 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:

10.1.1. this selection policy was not properly followed and/or implemented (for example, the selectors failed to apply the selection criteria, or did not give proper consideration to the factors identified);

10.1.2. the selection panel failed to take into account relevant considerations, or took into account irrelevant considerations;

10.1.3. the selection process was tainted by bias; and/or

10.1.4. the selection decision was made in bad faith, dishonestly or perversely.

10.2. An appeal must be made, in writing, by e-mail to the Chair of the Selection Panel (via admin@britishwrestling.org) by **5pm UK time on the third working day** after receipt of the communication of the Selection Panel's decision (i.e. the date of sending of the selection decision e-mail at clause 9.1 or communication of deselection in 8.4). Any notice of appeal must state the grounds, from clause 10.1 of this policy, on which the appeal is being lodged together with any evidence that the athlete relies on.

10.3. The Chair of the Selection Panel will confirm receipt of the notice of appeal by email within 48 hours of receipt.

10.4. As soon as possible, and in any event no later than within 72 hours of receiving the appeal, the Chair of the Selection Panel will lodge the Appeal with Sport Resolutions (UK) (a trading name of The Sports Dispute Resolution Panel Ltd - Company No. 3351039). The Appeal shall be governed by the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sport Resolutions (UK)'s Appeal Arbitration Rules, which Rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this clause. Where there is contradiction between Sport Resolutions (UK)'s Appeal Arbitration Rules and this Policy, this Policy will take precedence. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on all concerned. The arbitrator may not select or de-select an athlete and may only refer the matter back to the Selection Panel if an appeal is upheld.

10.5. If, in the reasonable view of the Chair of the Selection Panel, the appeal may affect an athlete other than the appellant (a Third Party), e.g., where it may involve the deselection of an athlete if the appealing athlete is selected in their place, then the Chair must provide the Grounds of Appeal to any such persons as soon as possible. The Third Party will be invited to make a written submission on the merits of the appeal, and (if the Third Party accepts that invitation), the arbitrator will provide the Third Party with copies of all relevant documentation as soon as reasonably practicable and set a deadline for the Third Party's written submissions (if any are to be filed). The Third Party will have the same right to be heard as the appellant before the arbitrator, save that the deadlines imposed may be shorter if necessary, in the circumstances. As the decision of the arbitrator will determine the rights of any Third Party (not just the appellant), the Third Party is prohibited from raising again (by way of a separate or further appeal) matters that have already been decided on by the arbitrator.

10.6. Timeline: The Appellant, British Wrestling and any Third Party will submit any evidence for the appeal to the arbitrator by **5pm UK time on the fourth working day** after notification of appeal to Sports Resolutions (UK) by the Chair of the Selection Panel save that all parties have had a minimum of two working days to submit any evidence. The arbitrator will communicate their decision by **5pm UK time on the third working day** after receiving evidence from all parties.

10.7. Appeals will ordinarily be conducted based on the written submissions of the appellant and the relevant first instance selection panel, and any Third Party (if any), without an oral hearing, the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence. If the arbitrator determines that the circumstances warrant the holding of an oral hearing, the parties will be invited by the arbitrator to be heard by video or telephone conference (i.e., not in person) at a specified date and time.

10.8. An athlete seeking to appeal will, accordingly, be required to pay to the BWA, a deposit of £100 towards the cost of using Sport Resolutions' services, which should be paid at the same time as the Grounds of Appeal are provided. This sum will be reimbursed to the athlete in the event that the appeal succeeds but will otherwise be forfeited.

11. Amendments

11.1. This Policy is owned by the BWA. However, due to the ultimate authority of CGE in the selection and ratification of the CGE England Wrestling 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 and agreed with CGE, and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the complete amended policy on the BWA website. Athletes who have signed the England Wrestling Team Athlete Agreement will be informed by e-mail of the amended Policy.

12. Confidentiality

12.1. All those involved in the nomination and ratification process must keep confidential and not disclose any information regarding any aspect of the process, the nominated athlete and the team selected unless authorised by the England Team Leader. CGE and BWA will work together to agree a media release and announcement of the team in accordance with the timeline detailed above.

13. General

13.1. Insofar as is permitted by law, BWA and its authorised agents do not accept liability for any loss or damage occurring as a result of the selection process (including anything arising from non-selection and/or ratification by CGE). This shall not affect any statutory rights that are available, and this shall not limit or exclude any liability that may not be excluded or limited by law.

13.2. If there is any reason to believe that there has been a breach of this Selection Policy or any related terms and conditions, then the Selection Panel, at their sole discretion, may exclude any athlete from participating in the selection process.