2026 U20 European Championships Selection Policy

6– 12 July 2026 |

Introduction

The U20 European Championships is a Performance Pathway Championships that is for athletes who have the potential to perform and medal at this level of competition and in the future and is an important event in our strategy of developing wrestlers through the pathway to achieving continental success at U20 level and a key event preparation event for LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032.

The selection of athletes to represent Great Britain at the 2026 U20 European Championships will be made according to this selection policy.

To Note - It is conditional of being selected for the 2026 U20 European Championships, that all selected athletes follow the GBR Preparation Programme.

Selection Process

1. The GBR Team for the 2026 U20 European Championships will be selected as follows:
   1.1. w/c Monday June 1st 2026

Eligibility

2. To be available for selection athletes must meet the following eligibility requirements at the time of selection:
   2.1. Be eligible to represent GBR in accordance with the rules of United World Wrestling (UWW)
   2.2. Hold a British passport
   2.3. Have not represented another nation without having completed a change of nationality in compliance with UWW rules
   2.4. Hold a Full competitive membership of British Wrestling
   2.5. Be a member of a GBR Performance Pathway Squad
   2.6. Have competed within the relevant discipline, age & weight category at the most recent British Championships
      2.6.1. If an athlete is unable to fulfil 2.6 due to injury or illness, British Wrestling reserves the right to request proof from a certified medical professional stating the nature of the injury/illness and its resultant impact on participation
      2.6.2. An exception to 2.6 may be provided for athletes who are based abroad. Exceptions must be sort by the individual and approved by the British Wrestling Performance Manager
   2.7. Meet the appropriate age class requirements at the date of competition
   2.8. Not be serving a sanction or ban as a result of an anti-doping violation
   2.9. Have signed and aligned themselves to the British Wrestling Athletes Agreement
   2.10. Be in financial good standing with British Wrestling

Criteria

3. An athlete will normally be selected to the GBR Team delegation where he / she achieves two or more of the following levels of performance:
   3.1. 1st place at the most recent English Juniors Championships

   3.2. 1 win at a singular UWW Tier 1 U20 competition (tier list provided as an appendices) against non-British wrestlers
   3.3. 2 wins at a singular UWW Tier 2 U20 competition against non-British wrestlers
   3.4. 2 wins at 2 separate at UWW Tier 3 U20 competition against non-British wrestlers
   3.5. 1 win at a UWW at U23 or Seniors Tier 2 or above Competition against a non-British wrestler
4. An athlete must have competed internationally at a GBR pathway approved international competition twice in the age category they intend to compete in unless competing up an age category.
5. Overseas athletes who are unable to compete at a selection competition due to logistical or geographical reasons must notify the Performance Manager and provide a suitable alternative competition from the nation they reside in to be agreed by the Performance Manager.
6. All training and International Competition will continue through the GBR Performance Pathway Squads, therefore only athletes on the GBR Performance Pathway Squads will be considered for selection to the 2026 U20 European Championships.
7. In the instance of more than two athletes achieving the same levels of performance set out in section 3 in any one weight category, the Selection Panel shall decide which athlete(s) to select taking into account the factors listed in section 8 or retain the right to hold a wrestle off for said athletes.
8. When considering selections, in addition to the level of performance achieved by an athlete, the Selection Panel shall take into account, and give such weight as it considers appropriate, to the following factors:
   8.1. Any athlete who may have been injured and had a European U20 or U17 Championship top 5 placing in 2025;
   8.2. An athlete's potential to win a medal;
   8.3. An athlete's past results (Note: when considering 'results', factors other than the final placing may be taken into account – these factors may include such things as the standard of the event, the draw, the opposition, officiating, injury and any other factors that may have influenced the final results);
   8.4. An athlete's stage of development and their ability to win a medal in the future;
   8.5. The athlete's commitment to the British Wrestling Talent and Performance Pathway
   8.6. Current level of physical fitness;
   8.7. Current and previous medical / injury history;
   8.8. An athlete's suitability as a team member and/or as an ambassador for the British Wrestling (Note: when considering 'suitability', factors such as behaviour and previous disciplinary record will also be taken into account

Selection Panel

9. The selection Panel shall comprise of:

9.1. The Performance Manager,
9.2. A minimum of three GBR National Coaches,
9.3. An Independent Observer
9.4. The minute taker

10. If the Performance Manager or other personnel are unavailable for any reason, the Performance Manager will nominate appropriate replacements.
11. The Chairperson shall be the Performance Manager and shall be responsible for ensuring that due process is followed and decisions are made in accordance with this selection policy and the Independent Observer will act as an observer to ensure that due process against the selection policy is followed.
12. Any selection decisions shall be made by way of a majority decision. Each individual has one vote. In the case of any ties the Performance Manager has the casting vote.
13. The minute taker of the Selection Panel will document selection decisions as appropriate. The minute taker will not be involved in the discussions other than to provide advice on non-technical matters and will not be entitled to vote.
14. The Independent Observer will observe to ensure that due process has been followed and will not be entitled to vote.
15. The British Wrestling Performance staff and the minute taker will be responsible for compiling results and other relevant details on athletes for consideration by the Selection Panel at selection meetings.
16. Any individual involved in the selection process must declare any association / conflict of interest concerning any athlete being considered for selection

Communication Of Selections

17. The Chairperson of the Selection Panel will communicate selection decisions to relevant athletes by e-mail and published on the British Wrestling website.
18. All communications remain confidential until such time as selection is published on the British Wrestling website.

Fitness

19. Athletes may be required to undergo fitness tests and/or 'fit to compete' tests at any time.
20. British Wrestling reserves the right to require a medical examination by a British Wrestling nominated medical officer

De-Selection

21. The Selection Panel shall have the power to de-select an athlete at any time if that athlete:
    21.1. does not fully participate in the event GBR Preparation Programme;
    21.2. fails to follow safe weight making practice guidance and support;
    21.3. fails to comply with any applicable anti-doping regulations;
    21.4. in the opinion of the British Wrestling National coaches and support staff, becomes medically unfit to compete as a result of injury or illness;
    21.5. receives a suspension which prevents him/her from competing;
    21.6. in the opinion of the British Wrestling National Coaches, fails to demonstrate the level of fitness expected;

21.7. is guilty of misconduct or bad behaviour which the Selection Panel considers is sufficiently serious;

21.8. acts in any way which is deemed to be detrimental to the British Wrestling and/or its sponsors / partners.

22. Any athlete being considered for de-selection shall be notified by the Chairperson of the Selection Panel before any decision is made in this regard. Such notification must be in writing and must set out brief details of the reason(s) why the athlete is being considered for de-selection ('De-selection Notice'). That athlete shall then have the opportunity to provide his / her response to the points / issues raised in the De-selection Notice. Such response must be in writing and must be received by the Chairperson of the Selection Panel within 48 hours of the athlete's receipt of the De-selection Notice. The Selection Panel shall take into consideration any response received by an athlete.
23. In the event that the Selection Panel decides to exercise its power under section 20, it shall submit any proposed selection change(s), together with any material that the Selection Panel considers appropriate to justify its decision, to the Performance Advisory Group (PAG) for ratification. The PAG shall ratify the selection change(s) if the correct procedures were followed by the Selection Panel in the decision-making process.
24. Once selection change(s) have been ratified by the PAG, these will be immediately communicated to the relevant athlete(s) by email and published on the British Wrestling website.
25. The Selection Panel shall have the ability to replace any de-selected athlete(s).

Selection Panel Decisions

26. Subject to section 288, and without prejudice to the Selection Panel's ability to de-select athletes in accordance with the provisions set out in sections 21 to 23, the decisions of the Selection Panel shall be final once ratified by the PAG.
27. In the event that the PAG does not ratify a selection or de-selection decision, the PAG shall refer that decision back to the Selection Panel for reconsideration. The Selection Panel may re-submit that selection decision to the PAG.
28. An athlete may only appeal a selection or de-selection decision on the grounds that the Selection Panel failed to follow the applicable criteria. The British Wrestling Appeals process is the only method of appeal should an athlete wish to appeal a selection or de-selection decision. Any appeal must be made within 24 hours of the selection or de-selection decision being communicated to the athlete. The British Wrestling Appeals Process can be found on the British Wrestling website - British Wrestling-Appeals-Policy-Selections.pdf