



# **GENERAL SELECTION POLICY**

## GLASGOW 2026

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES

UPDATED: 10/12/24

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Competing for Scotland at a Commonwealth Games is a highlight of any athlete's career. The opportunity to compete at a Games is a privilege experienced by few athletes, with a home Games adding an extra opportunity to inspire.

Over the last number of Games cycles, Team Scotland has had increasing success. In part, this has been as a result of a robust, clear, consistent selection policy, a strong Team Scotland ethos culminating in meeting our aims and objectives and having a uniquely successful Team at each Games.

This approach will continue, providing every opportunity to enhance individual performances and building all sports into one team. Each athlete will be assured of the support of their teammates in the knowledge that all have deserved the honour of representing Scotland at the Commonwealth Games.

## 2. SELECTION AIM

To select a team of athletes capable of competing with distinction for Scotland at the 2026 Commonwealth Games, and collectively:

- Having a higher percentage of athletes meeting the general selection standards when in competition at these Games than in 2022.
- Meeting the stated performance aims of each sport at the Games.
- Team members having a positive experience within Team Scotland at the Games.

## 3. BROAD SELECTION PRINCIPLES

The team selected will be considered as comprising athletes, coaches, sport team managers, general team management, athlete support staff, including carers, sport specific sports scientists and general medical team personnel (doctors, physiotherapists and sports scientists). **Support personnel may be accredited or non-accredited, depending on the Games' accreditation allocations.**

The team size will be based on the quality of potential performance as shown by achievement of agreed objective selection standards and conditions.

The overall athlete numbers may be restricted by the CGF Quota system and/or CGF sports entry numbers.

There may also be restrictions on the Games accommodation numbers, therefore Team Scotland members may need to be located both within and outwith the official Games accommodation.

Team Scotland management and support staff will be appointed on the basis of ensuring the best balance of support for all athletes.

Team Scotland represents Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS), not individual Scottish Governing Body (SGB) constituent members. Membership of Team Scotland will be considered as being from the point of selection or appointment by CGS. All Team Scotland members will be responsible to CGS, through the Chef de Mission, for all Games related matters.

General selection principles as detailed in this document are designed to ensure that athlete selection criteria are as consistent as possible across and within sports.

Team Scotland members will at all times adhere to the CGS Team Member Agreement, Team Respect Policy and other relevant policies and be in good standing with both CGS and their sport as a condition of selection or appointment.

The sport has the ability to withdraw nominations and/or CGS retains the authority to deselect any Team Member for breach of the above policies, but will liaise closely with, and consider the advice of, the team member's own SGB in doing so.

CGS will not select or appoint anyone to the Team who:

- is barred from regulated work with children under the PVG (Scotland) Act 2007.
- is under 'consideration for listing' under the PVG (Scotland) Act 2007, until the matter is fully resolved.
- is deemed unsuitable for a specific role with CGS following the CGS Recruitment and Selection procedures.
- if deemed to be carrying out regulated work, does not agree to become a member of the PVG Scheme or agree to a Scheme Record Update in line with CGS procedures.

As a condition of selection, all staff will be required to sign a Team Scotland Team Member Agreement which will include compliance with all appropriate Vulnerable Group Protection policies and procedures and any agreed Code of Conduct.

Once selection standards are signed off, individual SGBs must keep CGS informed of prospective athlete names and performance records, by maintaining an information database on these athletes and facilitating CGS access to this information, as required.

Athletes will only be selected where it is clear that performance at the Games has been made a competitive priority during the selection period and their preparation programmes are directed at the best possible performance. All SGBs will be asked to state how the Games will be prioritised and identify competition or preparation conflicts with other events well in advance.

Subject to complying with all the above principles as hosts:

- All individual sports will be represented by up to four athletes for each sport on the 2026 Programme. Criteria for any athletes nominated on this basis will be developed and published in line with the purpose and priority for that sport, as agreed by CGS.

- For any individual sports or events included in the CGF Athlete Allocation System (see section 5.1) a direct invitation to compete must have been secured before representation can be considered as outlined in above paragraph.
- All team sports who receive an invitation from the CGF as hosts will be accepted to ensure Team Scotland representation in each team sport and events within that team sport in the Games.
- CGS will be subject to entry quota restrictions from the CGF on total team or by sport or event which CGS must comply and therefore, in certain circumstances, entries may have to be restricted or prioritised.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY & CONDITIONS FOR REPRESENTATION**

Athlete eligibility and conditions for representing Scotland will be as outlined in the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Constitution and Byelaws. Please see Appendix 1 for the current eligibility Byelaw. Should these change, the most recent version will be used.

All nominations for selection must fulfil the requirements as outlined above, and in addition, be members of, or affiliated to, the SGB of the sport by which they are nominated either directly, or indirectly, through their club or other such organisation.

SGBs are asked to identify, as early as possible, any athletes with whom there may be any potential issues with the eligibility criteria as stated. This will allow these to be addressed by CGS or the CGF if required, prior to commencement of the selection period. No applications will be considered after 31 December 2025 to allow any case sufficient time for review and any submission to the CGF.

#### **5. ENTRIES**

Entries will be made by CGS after athletes are selected by CGS, based on agreed achievement of selection standards. Once selected, in the event in which they have met the agreed selection standards, athletes may also be entered in other events:

- if permissible within the CGF Athlete Allocation System; and,
- should there be spaces available; and,
- if, after discussion with the athlete's sport, CGS agrees the athlete's focus remains on the primary events they have qualified in, or in other team events such as relays to which they have been committed, and other athletes have been selected for.

All entries will comply with the CGF entries and eligibility criteria. In particular, the requirement that all SGBs confirm that all individual athletes conform to the eligibility regulations of the International Federation of the sport concerned, and that the SGB itself

is properly affiliated either directly or indirectly to the International Federation recognised by the CGF.

### **5.1 CGF Athlete Allocation Process**

CGF Athlete Allocation System (3x3 Basketball, Netball, Weightlifting, and all para-events).

The CGF Athlete Allocation System process and standards for each sport must be included within the Sport Specific Policies and Standards as these standards must initially be met and an invitation to compete secured. Following an invitation to compete the CGS General Selection Policy and Sport Specific Policy and Standards will be applied.

### **5.2 Open Allocation**

(Athletics, Aquatics – Swimming, Boxing, Bowls, Cycling – Track, Gymnastics – Artistic, Judo).

CGS will be allocated a set number of athlete places by the CGF across the Open Allocation sports listed above. This will include additional places as hosts.

Following submission from the sports, CGS will provide an assured number of athlete places per sport by 30 April 2025 based on medal prospects, potential Top 6 finishes and competition format requirements. These assured places are dependent on all Selection Policy and Standards being met for each nominee. The assured number does not limit the number of nominations that can be submitted by the SGB.

Additional discretionary places will be retained for final allocations based on actual nominations received on final selection date. These places will be available at final selection, June 2026, across all sports to ensure that the most competitive team is selected to represent Scotland at the Games.

CGF will run a distribution of contingency athlete places process between now and the Games which CGS will apply for in conjunction with SGBs. These may be open applications or at the CGF's request for certain sports or events/disciplines.

## **6. NOMINATION & SELECTION**

Sport specific selection standards, detailing how athletes in each sport can meet the requirements of the CGS General Selection Policy, will be produced. These will be developed and agreed between the SGB and CGS staff, and must be signed off by the SGB Board, and then finally by the CGS Board. These must be based on relevant objective standards, for example weights, times, distances, scores, rankings, competition results, selection events, or similar, as agreed appropriate.

Any proposed changes to weights, times, distances, scores, rankings, competition results or selection events or similar after selection standards sign off by CGS must be submitted to CGS for approval. Without approval, no such proposed changes will stand.

Unless otherwise agreed, the 2022 Games results and entry numbers or alternatively Commonwealth and/or World rankings will be used as the core benchmarks for discussions. If there are no available Commonwealth rankings, minimum of top 2 rankings in Britain may be considered as the core benchmark for discussion. Once signed off, selection standards will be posted by CGS on its website; [www.teamscotland.scot](http://www.teamscotland.scot).

It is the responsibility of SGBs to inform all potential athletes and their coaches of the agreed standards, nominations to CGS, and selections once confirmed by CGS.

All athlete nominations will be submitted by the SGB to CGS. The nominations must be supported with validated objective evidence of the athlete's and/or team's performance record over the selection period compared to the CGS selection policy and the agreed sport specific selection standards and conditions. These must be submitted on the CGS nomination template which must be signed and endorsed by the SGB (see Appendix 2). If an issue arises, not specifically detailed by the sport specific selection standards, the CGS General Selection policy will take precedence. Nominations are the responsibility of the SGBs. The number of athletes nominated may not exceed the maximum number in any sport or event as detailed by the CGF.

Reserves may be nominated with prior approval by CGS but shall be clearly identified as such, with replacements conditions agreed with CGS. The final decision on whether reserves will be selected is entirely the responsibility of CGS in line with entry and CGF replacement regulations. Selected reserves can be travelling or non-travelling and this must be detailed by each sport in the sport specific policy, including details regarding cost and access to accreditation. There will be no accredited access to the Games accommodation and access to Games competition training facilities could be limited.

As Team size or event restrictions are in place, all athlete nominations are required to be listed in priority order by the SGB.

Any appeals against non-nomination to CGS by a SGB are entirely a matter for the athlete and the SGB concerned. These should be held in accordance with the SGB's own appeal procedures but taking into consideration only the CGS selection policy and agreed sport specific selections standards and conditions.

Once nominations are received by CGS they will be assessed by a CGS Selection Panel against both the CGS selection policy and the agreed sport specific selection standards and conditions. If an issue arises that is not specifically detailed by or in conflict with the sport specific standards, the CGS General Selection policy will take precedence. The decisions of the CGS Selection Panel will be advised to the SGBs along with any specific conditions.

Any appeals against CGS non-selection on behalf of an athlete may only be submitted by their SGB and not by any individual athlete. If an appeal is submitted to CGS by a SGB,

an Appeal Panel comprising of different members from those involved in the Selection Panel will consider each case along with any additional information provided. Unless previously agreed, all appeals, including the grounds for appeal must be submitted by email within 3 working days of notification of selection recommendations to the sport concerned by CGS. Determination of whether the appeal has grounds to be heard will be based on the Practise Directions, which will be made available at the opening of the selection period. Selection meeting notes will be made available if requested. The decisions of the CGS Appeals Panel will be advised to the SGB along with any specific conditions.

Any further consideration of these appeal recommendations will, on written request containing an outline of the reasons for the request, be referred to an independent arbiter selected by CGS from a list identified from Sports Resolutions UK. Such arbitration will only consider issues of CGS compliance with the selection procedures.

## **7. TIMEFRAMES & COMMUNICATION**

SGBs are required to sign off sport specific selection standards by no later than 30 April 2025. If this date is not met, CGS reserves the right to produce the sport specific standards. If standards significantly change or selection events are cancelled or postponed, alterations may subsequently be made to the agreed policy but only by CGS, following a review with the SGB.

The Games selection period will start from 1 May 2025, although in recognising the competition scheduling of some sports/events may change, some flexibility may be approved following discussions with CGS and the SGB.

Nominations may be in two phases between the agreed selection period and the final nomination date. Initial nomination period will be 1 October 2025 to 30 November 2025 and the final nomination period will be 15 May 2026 and close 1 June 2026. If it is agreed, between the SGB and CGS, that athletes can be selected and announced prior to the final nomination date, that place in the events for which they are selected will no longer be available to other Scottish athletes. The final nomination date will be 1 June 2026 for all sports, unless otherwise agreed and detailed within the sport specific selection standards.

All selections and final entries will be dependent on:

- a) evidence of maintenance of form and fitness from point of selection; and,
- b) completion of the necessary CGS, CGF and Glasgow 2026 agreements, policies and adherence to these conditions outlined within, along with submission of the necessary information as requested.
- c) entry places being available in the sports or events selected for, in accordance with entry procedures or any CGF quotas.

In the first instance, a designated SGB official will be the point of contact on matters of team selection. Once appointed, the Sport Team Manager, if different, will be a secondary point of contact.

All announcements regarding nominations and selections to Team Scotland will be made by CGS, in consultation with the SGBs. SGBs will not make public announcements regarding nominations and selections. When advising athletes of the outcomes of nomination they will confirm to the athlete that the selection process is not complete until formally notified and announced by CGS.

## **8. SELECTION GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES**

### **Individual Sports**

For all sports included in the CGF Athlete Allocation System these standards must initially be met and an invitation to compete secured. The following selection guidelines will then apply:

#### **Category 1 – Individual (including knockout) Events**

Validated objective evidence of ability to achieve a top six finish at the Games or of being in the top half placing in the anticipated field, whichever is the tighter standard. This standard may be tightened where smaller, high-quality fields are anticipated by CGS.

#### **Category 2 – Team & Relay Events in Individual Sports (Athletics, Gymnastics, Swimming)**

Minimum and maximum numbers of athletes in each Team event and Relay are as outlined by the CGF for each sport.

Team events and Relays may be entered based on validated objective evidence of ability of the nominated team or relay to achieve a top 6 finish. This will guarantee the minimum required number of athletes, if prioritised within the sports assured numbers. \*

The maximum numbers of athletes can be entered if all athletes have individually qualified as per category 1 or 3 and number of assured places allow.

If athletes have not qualified as per category 1 or 3, numbers above the minimum may only be selected if there are identified competition schedule conflicts for those athletes who are individual event medal prospects or have qualified individually and it can be shown via validated objective evidence that the final result in the team event is likely to be improved by the individuals proposed being added.

Once an entry is agreed, the team or relay composition for each preliminary or medal round and the competing order is at the discretion of each Sport Team Management, but individual team or relay commitments for each athlete will be stated when nominations are made. Agreement to compete in team or relay events as required will be a condition



of the selection of each athlete, unless the athlete is injured, or a replacement is made with the agreement of the Sport Team Management.

Selection in these events will only be considered where, if opportunities are available, the sport enters equivalent events outwith the Games showing validated evidence of a likely performance outcome.

\*It should be noted that the Team competition in Gymnastics serves as both an individual event qualifier and standalone Team Event and as such it can be competed in by between 1 and 5 athletes.

### **Category 3 – Pairs & Other Multiple Member Events in Individual Sports (Bowls & Cycling)**

All combinations will show validated objective evidence of ability to achieve a top 6 finish at the Games or of being in the top half placing in the anticipated field, whichever is the tighter standard, as the combination selected.

In circumstances where nominated combinations have not competed together regularly or at all, each individual athlete must show that they can perform at the necessary standard, through objective assessments which are relevant to the sport, and that the combination is not only compatible but could perform together at the required standards.

## **Team Sports**

### **Category 4 – Team Sports (3x3 Basketball & Netball)**

Numbers of teams and number of athletes in each team are as outlined by the CGF for each sport.

As hosts, all invitations will be accepted with the proviso that the broad principles are adhered to as outlined in Section 3.

A top six performance is the target for all team sports.

Team composition will be determined by the SGB on the basis that the athletes selected are from the best suitable players available, with the Commonwealth Games taking precedence over club or other international commitments, for these players, under control of the SGB at this time.

Once selected, athletes may not be replaced, unless it is with the agreement of CGS and CGF under agreed replacements policies.

### **Category 5 – Developmental Prospect for 2030**

Consideration will be given by CGS to selecting athletes who, although they may not have met the sport's standard, are identified and agreed to be entered for the reason of development prospects for 2030. The athlete or athletes must meet sport specific agreed criteria showing validated objective evidence of current ability and provide the trajectory of potential for 2030.

Specific criteria on which developmental prospect for 2030 may be considered must be detailed in the sport specific standards.

For Open Allocation sports, the athletes nominated in this category must be included in the assured number of athlete places for each sport and be prioritised by the SGB on nomination.

## **9. VALIDATED OBJECTIVE EVIDENCE**

This will be based on results achieved in competitions under international rules and as highlighted in section 6. CGS will agree with each SGB, via the sport specific selection standards, what will constitute validated evidence of performances consistent with these guidelines. These may be tighter than CGS principles.

A one-off performance may not guarantee final selection, and performances will be weighted in favour of those consistently achieved in environments, or against athletes, similar to those in which the Games events will be held.

It is recognised that over the selection period there may be athletes in transition from junior to senior events, between sports or in events using different rules, equipment or scoring systems, which limit opportunities to achieve the selection standards. Validated results or scores at these events or sports may be used as background information to assist consideration. Such athletes will be identified, along with expected results or scores, prior to the start of the selection period to support nomination.

Subjective and anecdotal testimony will not be accepted as validated objective evidence, other than in areas such as illness or injury where opinion of experts such as medical advisors may be separately requested by CGS. In such cases, results or scores at events outwith the selection period or designated events may be used as background information to assist consideration.

## **10. INJURY MANAGEMENT**

Where injury issues are identified at or after selection, a fitness test may be used to determine that the athlete is capable of performing to the level that they were selected for the Games. The format will be determined by CGS after discussion with the Sport Team Management. This will be specific to each sport and the athlete's condition and may include input from CGS medical staff. Any selection or de-selection decision, following such a test, will be final.

**11. DISCRETION**

CGS reserves the right to vary these general selection principles based on changes to the competition format at the Games, the projected standard of each event, any essential changes to selection timeframes, issues of medal potential or any other associated items. CGS reserves the right to raise or lower the standard in relation to individual events should circumstances change within any sport. Such alteration would be discussed in advance with each SGB concerned and the decision of CGS will be final.

## APPENDIX 1 – CGF BYELAW 17

<b>1. ELIGIBILITY</b>	
1.1.	It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 17.
<b>2. PRIMACY</b>	
2.1.	<p>Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), a competitor shall be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them where they satisfy at least one of the following requirements:</p> <p>a) Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them, or:</p> <p>b) Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them.</p> <p>c) In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: -</p> <p>i. Guernsey, Jersey, and Isle of Man. The governments of these three Crown Dependencies do not define citizenship. For these Affiliated CGAs, citizenship shall be defined as three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"* date of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee ("Continuous Residency") and the competitor must be in possession of a current valid UK passport.</p> <p>ii. Northern Ireland. Byelaw 17 will defer to the Belfast Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland athletes who meet birth right criteria are to be treated equally regardless of their possession of either a current valid UK or Irish passport (but must hold one of these). This right is enshrined within the Constitution Issues (iv) of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.</p> <p>iii. Norfolk Island. Any individual who was in possession of a current valid New Zealand passport and was also deemed eligible to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games for Norfolk Islands may continue to compete for Norfolk Islands at future iterations of the Games.</p>
<b>3. SECONDARY</b>	
3.1.	<p>Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country which has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the competitor may represent either:</p> <p>a) the Commonwealth Country of their birth; or</p>

- b) the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent; or
- c) where the relevant IF recognises grandparents as part of its eligibility criteria, the competitor may represent the Commonwealth Country of birth of their grandparent; or
- d) the Commonwealth Country where they have completed a minimum period of three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the “final entries deadline”\* of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee.

3.2. Subject to the other provisions of this Byelaw 17, where a competitor is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated CGA due to common passport privileges they may choose which Affiliated CGA to represent. For the avoidance of doubt, if an individual has competed at a Commonwealth Youth Games this will not be deemed to be a choice of country, and the competitor may choose to represent a different Affiliated CGA at a Commonwealth Games.

3.3. For the avoidance of doubt subject to Byelaw 17(4) and 17(5) any competitor of a common passport area who competes for their common passport country (i.e. Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia) at either the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and/or any World Championships or any other major sporting event shall be entitled to choose to represent their home Affiliated CGA (e.g. Turks and Caicos) at the Commonwealth Games.

#### 4. DISQUALIFICATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

- 4.1. A competitor shall not be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:
- a) are currently under disqualification, expulsion, or suspension by the Federation; and/or
  - b) are currently under disqualification, expulsion, or suspension by their respective Affiliated CGA; and/or
  - c) are currently under disqualification, expulsion, or suspension by their respective IF, National Federation, and/or
  - d) are currently under disqualification or suspension under the World Anti-Doping Code.

#### 5. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 5.1. A competitor shall only be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:
- a) Satisfy and comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation; and

- b) Satisfy and comply their respective IF rules and regulations (including but not limited to, complying with respective IF eligibility rules as applied within each respective edition of the Commonwealth Games Athlete Allocation Systems); and
- c) Satisfy and comply with the World Anti-Doping Code as applied within the Federation Anti-Doping Standard to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.

5.2. For the avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between respective IF Nationality rules and regulations and those of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Federation Bye Law 17 shall prevail.

## 6. TRANSFER OF ALLEGIANCE

6.1. After having established eligibility status under this Byelaw 17 a competitor who has previously represented one Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Games may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless they also receive the prior approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Byelaw shall not apply if an individual has represented a Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Youth Games. Applications under this Byelaw 17(6) must be submitted to the Executive Board two calendar months before the “final entries deadline”<sup>\*</sup> for the respective Commonwealth Games. Applications must include formal confirmation of the prior approval of the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA.

6.2. All applications for transfer of allegiance under Byelaw 17(6) and/or discretionary eligibility dispensation under Byelaw 17(7) including all relevant paperwork and documentation must be submitted no later than two calendar months prior to the published “final entries deadline”<sup>\*</sup>, as outlined by the respective Organising Committee.

## 7. DISPENSATIONS

7.1. The Executive Board shall delegate authority to the Governance and Integrity Committee (GIC) who have the power to grant dispensations to Byelaw 17 in exceptional circumstances and to consider any matters relating generally to Byelaw 17. Each application for dispensation under Byelaw 17 shall be considered on its own merits and will not create a precedent for any future applications. Decisions made by GIC are subject to the right of appeal directly to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

<sup>\*</sup>“final entries deadline” means the final date that an individual athlete may be entered in a particular event(s) for the relevant Commonwealth Games, usually completed via an online entry system. Such date to be communicated for each relevant Commonwealth Games in the Sport Handbook.