



BOWLS & PARA BOWLS SELECTION POLICY & STANDARDS

GLASGOW 2026
COMMONWEALTH GAMES

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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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AMENDMENT HISTORY

Version Number:	Effective Date:	Summary of Amendments:	Author
V1.0	10/03/2025	Inception of Policy	Bowls Scotland & CGS

The information in this Selection Policy is accurate as at 1 February 2025 but remains subject to change. As a result of the unique and extenuating circumstances caused by the late confirmation of Glasgow as hosts for the 2026 Games and the consequential outstanding Commonwealth Games Federation requirements, CGS and Bowls Scotland will be closely monitoring this Selection Policy to determine if any changes are necessary.

1. For the avoidance of doubt, CGS reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy in any manner, and in the sole and absolute discretion of CGS, should CGS consider that qualification process would be fairer having regard to the interests of all athletes and the prevailing circumstances.
2. In addition, CGS and Bowls Scotland reserve the right to not apply any aspect of this Selection Policy when making any decision, if in the sole and absolute discretion of CGS, it would, as judged by CGS, be unfair or unreasonable.

INTRODUCTION

3. This selection policy has been agreed by Bowls Scotland and Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS). It provides detail on the process by which Bowls Scotland will arrive at athlete nominations, which will be submitted to CGS for consideration, for final selection to Team Scotland for Glasgow 2026.
4. Achievement, by an athlete, of individual selection standards, detailed in this document, is therefore the 1st step by which nomination can be considered. The final decision in selection to the 2026 Games lies with CGS.
5. Bowls Scotland will nominate only those athletes that have qualified under both the Bowls Specific Selection Standards stated below, and the CGS General Selection Policy (available on the CGS website) that should be read in conjunction with these standards.
6. Entry numbers per event and the overall number of athletes are in accordance with Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) allocation and should more athletes achieve the standards then Bowls Scotland will prioritise in accordance with this policy.

SELECTION AIM

7. 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.
8. This bowls policy is consistent with this aim.

ELIGIBILITY & CONDITIONS FOR REPRESENTATION

9. 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.

10. Where prospective team members do not automatically comply with the above, they will only be nominated for final selection if they receive prior approval from the CGF under their guidelines.

GAMES COMPETITION FORMAT

11. The competition format for Men and Women open events will be Singles and Pairs. A maximum of three male and three female players can be nominated by each country. Each player will be allowed to compete in a maximum of 2 events.

12. The competition format for Para events will be 6 nations competing in Mixed Visually Impaired (VI) Pairs, Men's Physically Disabled (PD) Pairs and Women's PD Pairs. A maximum of 3 male classified athletes, 3 female classified athletes and 2 directors can be nominated by each country.

13. As host CGA, an invitation to compete in the para events will be received from the CGF and to be considered for selection the athlete must meet the standards outlined in this policy.

SPORT SPECIFIC SELECTION STANDARDS

14. The selection period is 1 May 2025 to 13 April 2026.

15. To be considered for nomination, athletes must achieve any one or more of the following performance related results. These are:

15.1 Recording at least two wins against recognised international opposition at any Test Events as may be agreed between Bowls Scotland and CGS.

These include;

- Atlantic International Challenge
- Indoor Test Event(s)
- World Cup
- World Bowls Tour Championship

Further events can be added as determined by CGS in consultation with Bowls Scotland as they are arranged.

15.2 A position in the top 16 of the WBT ranking list at any point during the selection period.

15.3 High Performance benchmarking data gathered by Bowls Scotland using specific analysis software during training and competition events.

15.4 If any additional competition opportunities are available, they may be considered as agreed by CGS and Bowls Scotland.

16. **Para Classification Eligibility:**

- Men's Pairs B6 – B8* B5 – B8
- Women's Pairs B6 – B8* B5 – B8
- Mixed Pairs B2 – B3** B1 – B3

- *For the Men's Pairs B6 – B8 and Women's Pairs B6 – B8 medal events, the maximum cumulative point score for each pair is 14 points.
- ** For the Mixed Pairs B2 – B3 medal event, the maximum cumulative point score for each pair is 5 points.
- **Each athlete entered in the Mixed Pairs B2 – B3 medal event is entitled to one (1) Director.
- Must be internationally classified by the IBD only with a confirmed sport class status or review with a fixed review date of 2027 or later by June 2026.

16.1 Directors Selection: A proven ability to maximise the players performance by having a strong technical and tactical understanding of the sport and the ability to communicate this to the visually impaired bowler and their playing partner

OTHER FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

17. To maximise medal potential, Bowls Scotland will nominate athletes based on composition of position, specific specialist and team dynamics which may be at the expense of a qualified athlete in another discipline. When considering which athletes to nominate for inclusion in Team Scotland, Bowls Scotland may have regard to the following non-exhaustive factors:

- 17.1 Proficiency in any specific position, having regard to the composition of the team based on other selections.
- 17.2 The dynamic of the Team in line with the Bowls Scotland What It Takes To Win Model.
- 17.3 Performance record at world and international events up to four years prior to 31 March 2026.
- 17.4 Performance record at Commonwealth Games and/or World Championships and European Championships.
- 17.5 Performance record against recognised international opposition as determined by CGS in consultation with Bowls Scotland on relevant playing surfaces ("relevant playing surfaces" means all indoor surfaces).
- 17.6 Benchmarking data gathered by Bowls Scotland during training and competition events.
- 17.7 Discipline records, including any breaches of Bowls Scotland's athlete agreement prior to or during the selection period.
- 17.8 Form and fitness of any athlete as assessed by Bowls Scotland.
- 17.9 Athlete dedication, including attendance and performance at training and competition events by any athlete called upon to participate.
- 17.10 All nominated athletes must have completed the required Anti-doping education.

SELECTION PROCESS

18. Athletes wishing to be considered for selection must have identified themselves to Bowls Scotland through the Podium Pathway - Expression of Interest process.
19. Participation is required in Podium Pathway and National team events where information gathered will be collated and discussed by the Selection Panel.
20. The Selection Panel will be made up of the Pathway Leads, Performance Coach(es) and nominated Bowls Scotland support coaches.
21. Bowls Scotland reserves the right to appoint additional Selectors to the Selection Panel as required.
22. Bowls Scotland will submit their final nominations to CGS by 1 May 2026. CGS will confirm initial team selections by 15 May 2026 and final selections by 15 June 2026.
23. Final selection to the Games team is dependent on provision of relevant information required by CGS such as completion and signing of the CGF Eligibility form and CGS Team Member Agreement.

DE-SELECTION

24. **Antidoping:** Athletes suspended by their Governing Body as a result of ongoing or concluded anti-doping violation allegations, will not be considered for selection, and if previously selected will be deselected from the Glasgow 2026 team.
25. **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 Bowls Team Management. This will be specific to bowls 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 made by CGS after discussion with the Bowls Team Management and will be final.
26. Athletes in breach of CGS policies, code of conduct or team agreement may be de-selected.

APPEAL PROCESS

27. An appeal against non-nomination to CGS by Bowls Scotland is entirely a matter for the athlete and Bowls Scotland. This should be held in accordance with Bowls Scotland's own appeal procedures but taking into consideration only the CGS selection policy and agreed sport specific selections standards and conditions.
28. An appeal against non-nomination should follow the Bowls Scotland Appeals process detailed below:
 - An Athlete (the Appellant) may appeal to have the decision of Bowls Scotland selection panel reviewed by the Appeals Panel.
 - The Appellant should lodge an appeal in writing within 48 hours after the selection decision has been communicated to them to CEO@Bowlsscotland.com or in writing to; CEO Bowls Scotland, Northfield Hunters Ave, Ayr, KA8 9AL marked Private and Confidential.

- The notice of appeal should set out in full the basis of which the Appellant wishes to appeal and should be accompanied by all relevant and supporting documentation.
- The Appeal panel will meet within 48 hours of the appeal being received, where the Appellant will be invited to attend. If the Appellant is unable to attend a decision will be made based on the previously submitted documentation. Bowls Scotland have 5 working days to communicate a response to the Appellant.
- The decision of the appeals panel is final, and the appellant has no further right to appeal.
- Members of the Appeals Panel will have had no previous involvement in the Selection Policy and 1 member will be from out with Bowls Scotland.

29. An appeal against CGS non-selection on behalf of an athlete may only be submitted by Bowls Scotland and not by any individual athlete. If an appeal is submitted to CGS by Bowls Scotland, a CGS Appeal Panel will consider the case along with any additional information provided. The appeal must be made by email to jon.doig@teamsotland.scot within 3 days of notification of selection outcomes to Bowls Scotland by CGS.

APPOINTMENT OF TEAM STAFF

30. A Team Manager will be appointed by CGS in consultation with Bowls Scotland by July 2025. The final complement of bowls team staff attending the Games will ultimately depend upon team numbers and composition and will be determined by CGS in consultation with Bowls Scotland. This will include different categories of accreditation and access to the Games accommodation and other secure areas.

APPENDIX 1 – CGF BYELAW 17

1. ELIGIBILITY	
1.1.	It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 17.
2. PRIMACY	
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them, or: b) Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them. c) In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 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.
3. SECONDARY	
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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Commonwealth Country of their birth; or 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”* 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”*, 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.

*“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.