



**BRITISH TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION**

## **British Table Tennis Federation Selection Policy**

V1.1

European Games, Minsk Belarus, 20-30 June 2019

### **1. Event Purpose**

British Table Tennis Federation will nominate players to Team GB in order to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Quarter Finals in team, singles or mixed doubles competitions\*
- b. Support the development of younger players who are ready to benefit from the experience that competing in this event will provide\*.

\*Subject to qualification of quota places

The British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) may nominate to Team GB

- Up to three players to make up a team\* of which two will be entered in the singles competition; or
- Up to two ITTF named individual athletes for each Singles Competition\*; and/or
- Up to one ITTF named pair for the Mixed Doubles Competition\*. The Mixed Doubles pair may also be entered into the Singles Competition provided that a place remains. If both places have been taken through either the Team or the named Singles places then no further Singles entry is possible in that competition.

\*subject to receiving appropriate named entries from the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

For the avoidance of doubt in the Singles and Mixed Doubles only (i.e. no team invitation is received), BTTF may not nominate athletes who do not receive a named offer place from the ITTF in place of athletes who have qualified named places, but subject to receiving a Team entry, BTTF may nominate additional athlete(s) at its discretion to fulfil the team slot.

### **2. Eligibility**

British Table Tennis Federation will only consider athletes for selection who:

1. Are affiliated to a Home Nation Table Tennis Association , holding a valid Home Nation Table Tennis Association Player Licence and are in good standing;
2. Are eligible to represent GB in ITTF and ETTU approved competitions and have a valid British Passport;
3. Have an actual and active (i.e. have competed within the relevant time period as determined by the ITTF, which as at the date of this policy is 4 months but may be subject to change) senior world ranking on the most recent list at the time of selection unless the British Table Tennis Federation Selection Panel have accepted mitigating circumstances in writing prior to selection (athletes should apply in writing to the Chair as soon as possible, providing full explanation why their world ranking is no longer active and evidence of injury or other relevant information to [performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk);
4. Have not retired from representing their Home Nation in international competition unless fully re-engaged with their Home Nation's performance staff;
5. Have satisfied the selection panel of their physical readiness to perform by the date of selection. It is the players' responsibility to provide evidence of this to the panel when requested by the Table Tennis England Director of Sport or his delegate. This includes fitness and training history data;
6. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of any Home Nation Table Tennis Association or ITTF or ETTU;
7. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules;
8. Have provided British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader with a signed Acknowledgement, notifying an intention to be considered for selection, by 31/1/19, as set out at the end of the Selection Policy;
9. Have signed a BOA Team Members' Agreement to accept their place on the team. The Agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to (for example) adhere to specified travel dates, to observe certain sponsorship guidelines and to wear appropriate Team GB apparel.

Athletes will be required to sign a Team GB Team Members' Agreement to accept their place on each team. The Agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to adhere to specified travel dates, to observe Team GB sponsorship guidelines and to wear appropriate Team GB apparel.

### **3. Scope of the Team**

British Table Tennis Federation may nominate to Team GB up to the number of players authorised by the ITTF players through the following selection process

Following the overriding objectives of this policy, as set out in the purpose above, the selection panel will select athletes according to the criteria in the following order:

1. European Games Team Competition;
2. European Games Singles Competition; and finally
3. European Games Mixed Doubles Competition.

#### **a) European Games Team Competition**

The selection panel may select up to three players for each team (male and female) to represent Team GB at this event\*.

Eligible athletes will be considered first under the automatic criteria (point 4a);

If places remain after automatic criteria have been applied, then any remaining places may be offered to eligible players under the Wild Card (point 4b).

\*Subject to receiving a quota entry.

#### **b) European Games Singles Competition**

The selection panel may select up to the number of players authorised by the ITTF to represent Team GB in each singles event\* (max two per gender).

If Team GB has received a Team quota place, players must first have been selected to the Team (3a) to be eligible for selection to the singles events. In the event that a Team quota place is not earned, players will be selected directly to this competition.

Eligible athletes will be considered first under the automatic criteria (point 4a), if a Team quota place is earned and there are spaces after automatic selections (point 4a), then additional players may be considered under Wild Card Selection (point 4b). However if a team place is not earned then places can only be offered under point 4a.

\*Subject to receiving quota entries.

#### **C) European Games Mixed Doubles Competition**

The selection panel may select up to two (one male and one female) players authorised by the ITTF to represent Team GB in the mixed doubles event\*.

Regardless of Team selection players will be selected directly to this competition under automatic criteria only (point 4a).

\*Subject to receiving quota entries.

## **4. Criteria**

Selection can be achieved either automatically or as a wild card by the Selection Panel, as follows:

### **a) Automatic Selection**

If a team quota place is earned:

Eligible athletes will gain automatic selection, subject to compliance with the rest of this policy, if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

- i. hold a top-100 ITTF senior ranking for two or more months within the qualification period;

In the event there are more automatic selections than places, places will be offered to eligible players in ranking order on the most recent ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period (not the selection panel meeting date).

If a team quota place is not earned, eligible athletes will gain automatic selection, subject to compliance with the rest of this policy, if they meet the following criteria:

- ii. Athletes who have received named places by virtue of meeting the necessary EOC-ITTF qualification standards in either singles or mixed doubles to the maximum allowed by the EOC (2 per gender in singles and 1 pair in mixed doubles);

In the event that two singles places are offered in a gender, the mixed doubles player from that gender will only play in the singles event if they also met the necessary qualification standards. If they did not then they will only play in the mixed doubles event.

### **b) Wild Card Selection**

If there are still places available after Automatic Selections have been accommodated the selection panel may choose to select up to the number of spaces available. The panel may choose any eligible players and are not required to consider any particular set of factors or information they may select any player(s) who they believe may contribute to the overall objectives of the competition or the objectives of British Table Tennis Federation. The panel are not required to provide reasons or rationale for their selections and no appeals for non selection under this part of the criteria will be accepted.

For the avoidance of doubt the selection panel is not required to select any Wild Cards but may choose to do so if space is available.

## **5. Medical**

At the time of their selection, any selected athlete may have their medical and/or musculoskeletal status confirmed by a nominated British Table Tennis Federation Medical adviser. Any selected athlete may, at any other time, be required by the British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader (and/or his delegate) to undergo fitness or medical assessments to ensure that they have maintained an adequate level of fitness to perform to the best of their ability. The British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader (and/or his delegate) will

specify the process by which a selected athlete is to confirm his or her continued health and fitness, which might include participating in certain events or undergoing fitness tests.

## 6. Event-Specific Qualification Period & Selection Timeline

Event	From	To
Competition	20/6/19	30/6/19
Preparation Camp	TBC	
Nomination Announcement	15/5/19	
Nominations notified	15/4/19	
Entry Deadline (Team GB)	13/5/19	
Qualification Period	1/3/18	31/3/19

## 7. Wild Card Selection Panel

A selection panel will be established comprising:

- a) Table Tennis England Director of Sport (Chair) & British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader
- b) Table Tennis England Technical Director
- c) Table Tennis England Performance Manager
- d) Table Tennis Wales Director of Coaching
- e) Table Tennis Scotland Director of Performance
- f) Table Tennis Ireland National Coach

In the event of a split-decision, the Chair will have the casting vote. Additional experts may be asked to provide evidence and/or advice to the selection committee, at the request of the Chair

In the event of any conflict of interest for any member, the British Table Tennis Federation conflict of interest policy should be adhered to. Any member with a conflict of interest shall not be entitled to vote on that issue.

## 8. Media & Communication

All selected athletes are required to adhere to the Social Media guidance which can be found on the British Table Tennis Federation website at the following address:

<https://tabletennisengland.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/Social-Media-guidelines.pdf>

All athletes, whether selected or not are required to keep the notification of their selection or non-selection confidential until directed by the British Table Tennis Federation .

## 9. De-Selection

British Table Tennis Federation retains the right to deselect any selected athlete under any of the following circumstances (whether automatic or wild card selection):

- i. The player is no longer eligible for selection for this event;
- ii. The player does not adhere to the code of conduct or team members agreement;
- iii. The player in the sole opinion of the British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader, is no longer physically or mentally able to perform at the level consistent with that which earned their initial selection;
- iv. The player fails to comply with any reasonable training or competition programme set out by British Table Tennis Federation Selection Panel or its delegates;
- v. Any exceptional circumstances exist which in the reasonable opinion of the Selection Panel justify the non-selection or de-selection of the athlete concerned.

Any player who is de-selected will immediately be notified of the decision and the reason. They will have a right of appeal in accordance with the appeals process.

## 10. Appeals

Eligible players only have the right to appeal in the following cases:

- i. The automatic selection criteria were not applied correctly;
- ii. A player was de-selected under Point 9 above
- iii. An ineligible player was selected under any point.

No appeals will be considered in the following cases:

- iv. Wild Card Selections save for ineligibility;

The appeals process for cases (10.i to 10.iii) is set out here:

1. Eligible athletes are entitled to appeal a decision by the Selection Panel not to select them for this event, in accordance with the procedure set out here. The appeal process is intended to be quick, fair and independent.
2. If an athlete wishes to appeal, he or she must notify the British Table Tennis Federation Accountable Officer ([appeals@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:appeals@tabletennisengland.co.uk)) that they wish to appeal as soon as possible, and in any event no later than by 4pm on the working day after they have been notified of their non-selection. Such a notification must be given in writing (e- mail is acceptable).
3. The athlete must, by 4pm on the working day following such notification, provide to the British Table Tennis Federation Accountable Officer a written document setting out the grounds for the appeal (the "Grounds of Appeal").

The Grounds of Appeal must include the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for the athlete's appeal, together with any evidence (such as performance data or results) that they rely on. Athletes should note that the only available grounds of appeal are: there has been a failure to apply the applicable selection criteria; and/or there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the applicable selection policy. An athlete does not have a right of appeal against any judgment or discretion exercised in the course of making nomination decisions, or against the content of the applicable selection criteria.

4. If, in the reasonable view of the British Table Tennis Federation Accountable Officer, the appeal may affect other athletes ("Affected Athletes"), then they must provide the Grounds of Appeal to any such persons as soon as possible.
5. The selection appeal will then as soon as possible be referred to Sport Resolutions (UK) for determination by way of binding, confidential, arbitration. An athlete seeking to appeal will, accordingly, be required to pay to British Table Tennis Federation a deposit of £500 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 is upheld (i.e. succeeds) but will otherwise be forfeited and should the costs of the appeal exceed £500 (and the athlete loses the appeal) then he/she may be required in addition to pay such excess cost.
6. British Table Tennis Federation must, as soon as possible and by no later than by 4pm two working days after receipt of the Grounds of Appeal, serve on the appealing athlete and on any Affected Athlete a written response to the appeal, including the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for that response together with any evidence that British Table Tennis Federation wishes to rely on.
7. Any Affected Athlete may also, as soon as possible and by no later than by 4pm two working days after receipt of the Grounds of Appeal, serve on British Table Tennis Federation a written response to the appeal, including the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for that response together with an evidence that they wish to rely on. British Table Tennis Federation must provide this written response to the appealing athlete as soon as possible.
8. The appeal will then proceed, on the earliest possible date, by way of oral hearing in front a single legally qualified arbitrator appointed by Sport

Resolutions (UK). The appealing athlete, British Table Tennis Federation and any Affected Athlete are entitled to attend such a hearing, with representatives if they so wish. Alternatively, if the athlete, British Table Tennis Federation and any Affected Athlete agree, the appeal will be determined on the papers by such an arbitrator. The arbitrator may set any directions in connection with such a hearing or written determination as they consider fair and appropriate, and may likewise determine how any such hearing is to be conducted in order for that hearing to be fair, always bearing in mind the need for the matter to be concluded quickly.

9. The arbitrator will endeavour to render a decision in respect of the appeal as soon as possible. In the interests of expediency, the arbitrator may initially render a brief summary of the decision with full reasons to follow. Sport Resolutions (UK) will be responsible for notifying all participants of the decision.
10. The arbitrator may either dismiss the appeal, or uphold the appeal in which case he must remit the selection decision back to the British Table Tennis Federation Selection Panel, with any guidance which the arbitrator may consider appropriate. The arbitrator will not have jurisdiction to select or deselect any athlete.
11. The arbitrator's decision will be final: if an athlete's appeal is dismissed, he or she will have no further right of appeal. If the appeal is upheld, then this appeal process may be invoked in respect of the fresh selection decision, time allowing.
12. Save as may otherwise be agreed between them, all participants to the appeal process are required to keep the fact and contents of the appeal process confidential.



## 11. Acknowledgement

Each athlete shall acknowledge that they have read, understood and accepted these Selection Criteria and Guidelines by signing the enclosed copy and returning it to the Performance Department by email ([performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk)) or in writing by 31/1/19 to Norfolk House, 88 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 2DL. For any Under 18 athletes, a parent or guardian will also be required to sign the returned copy. Athletes should retain the second copy for their own records.

British Table Tennis Federation

European Games 2019

Version: 1.1

Acknowledged by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Athlete)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent)

