



**BRITISH TABLE TENNIS FEDERATION**

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

V1.21

Tokyo Olympic Games Qualification, European Singles Olympic Qualification, Russia 5-12  
April 2020

### **1. Event Purpose**

British Table Tennis Federation will select players in order to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Qualification to Tokyo Olympic Games

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

- Up to the number of entries allowed by the ITTF for the qualification event;

\*Subject to confirmation of entry from ITTF.

### **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should apply in writing to the Chair as soon as possible, providing full explanation why their world ranking is no longer active and evidence of injury or other relevant information to [performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk));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 corruption or anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti corruption or 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 31/12/19, as set out at the end of the Selection Policy;
9. Have completed and returned all BTTF requirements satisfactorily by the necessary deadlines.
10. Have signed a BTTF 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 apparel.

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

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

#### **a) European Singles Olympic Qualification Event**

The selection panel may select up to the maximum number of players authorised by the ITTF for each event (male and female) to represent BTTF at this competition\*.

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 quota entries. If BTTF have previously qualified a Team place at the then no entry to this competition is possible in that gender.

### **4. Criteria**

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

#### **a) Automatic Selection**

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 first ranking list published after the conclusion of the qualification period (not the selection panel meeting date).

### **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, noting the selection panel may only select additional wild card places provided at least one eligible player has been selected under the automatic selection (point 4a).

The panel may choose any eligible players and, in considering which (if any) players to select, will consider the following (non-exhaustive) factors and criteria, giving such weight to such factors as it sees fit in its discretion:

- (i) performance in major championships
- (ii) Two best wins as defined by the opponents ranking at the time of competition (these wins will only be accepted in ITTF ranking point events).
- (iii) Performances in ITTF ranking events
- (iv) ITTF ranking profile
- (v) Players development potential and ability to represent BTTF at future Olympic Games
- (vi) Team engagement and commitment to team competitions as experienced by the selection panel
- (vii) Any other information that the selection panel may deem relevant

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 specific timelines are currently unavailable and the policy will be updated when further details about each competition are available.

Event	From	To
Competition	05/4/20	12/4/20
Preparation Camp	TBC	
Nomination Announcement	TBC	
Nominations notified	TBC	
Entry Deadline	TBC	
Qualification Period	01/01/18	31/12/19

## 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 Programme Manager
- d) Table Tennis Wales Director of Coaching
- e) Table Tennis Scotland Director of Performance
- f) Table Tennis Ireland National Coach (or similar as agreed by Table Tennis Ulster)

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. An independent observer (non voting) shall be present in order to ensure due process.

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**

The appeals process 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 two working days 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, within two working days 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 adhere to the procedure set out in the 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 will 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 hearing by a single legally qualified arbitrator appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK). 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 31/12/19 to Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK8 9LA. 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 Singles Olympic Qualification

Version: 1.21

Acknowledged by:

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

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

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

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



