

# Senior Team Selection

## Guiding Principles for 2022 Senior Team Selection Framework

### Context

GB Climbing will implement a new Selection Framework for athletes looking to qualify for the Senior National Team for the 2022 season. This new Selection Framework will drive a high performance standard at both IFSC World and European competition through the identification of athletes who are ready to “**step in and step up**” to international level.

In summary:

1. GB Climbing will invite identified athletes to attend a National Team Trials in the Spring of 2022.
2. Athletes who currently hold a Senior Team position (2021) and/or Junior Team position (Youth A and Junior, 2021) will receive automatic invitations to the Team Trials.
3. Athletes who are not currently listed as GB Climbing Junior or Senior Team athletes, may receive invitations to the Team Trials based on exceptional performances\* at 2021 Senior National events (British Bouldering Championships and British Lead Climbing Championships\*).
4. No minimum quota will be applied with regards to the number of athletes GB Climbing will look to select. Instead GBC will utilise performance standards (as outlined in the annual performance strategy) to determine invitation to the National Trials.
5. GB Climbing’s 2022 Annual Performance Strategy will state a priority on Combined performance and development as a precursor to the Paris Olympic Games for the 2022 IFSC European Championships.
6. Multiple data points (including international, national and team trials) will be used to select the Senior Team for 2022.

### Guiding Principles

The following outlines the guiding principles for the *Senior Team Selection Framework*. These principles guide the shape of the pathway and the selection process in pursuit of the attainment of our performance objectives.

#### 1.) Effective Performance Evaluation

The purpose of Performance Evaluation (PE) is to provide valid, accurate and reliable information to augment knowledge when identifying athletes who have the potential to deliver at international level. While traditionally, PE from a selection perspective has been focused on results and ranking data, GB Climbing acknowledges the greater need for insights in technical, tactical, physical and psychological performance.



For the purposes of this document, we define these performance domains as follows:

- **Technical Performance** - The trained motor skills required for competition at a high level

- **Tactical Performance** - The decisionmaking strategies employed to maximise performance
- **Physiological Performance** - The trained attributes matched against the demands of the sport
- **Psychological Performance** - Proficiency in trait and/or state management with competition setting



## 2.) Clear Framework

The creation and publication of a clear selection framework to the GB Climbing Senior team ensures clarity with regards the route to representation for athletes aspiring to compete internationally. Identified evidence criteria, entry point competitions and overarching form, not only maintains performance standards but also ensures that seasonal planning can be done effectively to factor in key dates. The clarity provided in the framework also ensures the transparency and integrity by which athletes and coaches can build confidence in this process.

## 3.) Functional Performance Standards

Performance standards exist to provide clarity with regards to the level that is expected of an athlete who is capable of stepping up to international level. For athletes and coaches, performance standards provide an expression that quantifies performance thresholds. It also outlines the performance expectations for any athletes looking to join the Senior National Team for 2022. For GBC, these standards ensure a clear trajectory to the achievement of key objectives and overarching long term goals.

Furthermore, these standards provide a clear and measurable way in which athlete performance can be evaluated, motivation can be increased and areas for improvement identified.

## 4.) Pathway Integration

The GB Climbing Performance Pathway aims to clearly define a progressive framework through which talented athletes can thrive, leading to future world beating success. The integration of our Selection Framework with pathway is a crucial one, as it enables the athletes in Youth A and Junior categories of the GB National Development Squad 2022 who are aged 16 to achieve selection and gain exposure at senior level competition both at home and abroad. This succinct linkage aims to “bridge the performance gap”, support athlete transitions and drive the future standards of home nation talent.



**\*Exceptional performances** are defined where an athlete not currently on a GB Climbing Program matches or exceeds the specified Performance Standards and/or demonstrates exceptional capability in technical, tactical, physical or psychological performance domains. This will be observed during the semi final and final rounds of the British Bouldering Championships and British Lead Climbing Championships.

**\*National Championships** - The British Bouldering Championships and British Lead Climbing Championships will key competitions for athletes not currently on the GB Climbing pathway. Performances at these events will be considered by GB Senior Team Coaches as well as results.

