



GB Climbing

Boulder | Lead | Speed

**GB Paraclimbing
Selection Policy 2020**

1. GB Paraclimbing Selection Policy

- 1.1 This selection policy outlines the approach GB Climbing will undertake in selecting athletes to the GB Paraclimbing Squad 2020.
- 1.2 The squad is open to British climbers who in 2020 are eligible to compete in para competitions under IFSC rules and is the pathway to elite performance.
- 1.3 From this squad, athletes will be selected to represent Great Britain at International paraclimbing competitions. Not all members of the squad may get to attend international events. The selection process is outlined in the international Selection Policy.

2. Performance Objectives

- 2.1 The intention of the selection policy is to provide clarity and consistency in approach to the selection for all athletes with the following performance aims:
 - 2.1.1 The target is to support an athlete's development both as an individual and as a competition climber on the GB climbing pathway.
 - 2.1.2 Support athletes by being athlete centered and create a positive experience during their talent pathway journey and leave having developed both as an individual and as a climber.
 - 2.1.3 Create an athlete centered pathway of attainment, ensuring that the required levels of physical, technical and tactical skill are achieved to allow progression.
 - 2.1.4 Ensuring that obtaining a GB Climbing vest continues to be an aspiration for GB athletes throughout the BMC talent pathway and that GB athletes are inspired and motivated to continue their athletic journey and development towards future podium success

3. Squad Size

- 3.1 8 athletes per gender will be selected as a minimum.
- 3.2 Once the selection process is completed, there will be no further selection opportunities for the GB Para squad during 2020, except as outlined in section 9.3

4. Eligibility

In addition to BMC eligibility criteria listed below, athletes must comply with IFSC eligibility rules¹, including anti-doping.

- 4.1 Athletes are members of BMC or Mountaineering Scotland
- 4.2 Athletes must be a British citizen and are eligible to represent Great Britain
- 4.3 Athletes have signed the GB Climbing Contract and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so could see their selection being withdrawn.
- 4.4 Athletes comply with IFSC and UK Anti-Doping rules and anti-doping blood/urine testing policies. Notified athletes on the National and/or International testing pools will comply with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard for Testing with regard to ADAMS and whereabouts information.

5. Selection Panel

- 5.1 All selections are made by the BMC selection panel:
 - Chair - Deputy CEO (Nick Colton), casting vote
 - BMC Competitions Program Manager (Zoe Spriggins), voting rights
 - Mountaineering Scotland Sports Development Officer (Kevin Howett), voting rights
 - GB Paraclimbing Coach (Robin O'Leary), voting rights
 - Chair of Competitions Committee (TBC), voting rights
 - Independent Observer (TBC), no voting right

¹ IFSC 2019 Rules, page 4&5

- 5.2 Other expert advisors or observers such as representatives from UK Sport or other such bodies may be invited to attend from time to time, but not have any voting rights.
- 5.3 The purpose of the Independent Observer is to ensure the Selection Policy is not being deviated from.
- 5.4 The selection panel will exercise its discretion fairly and without bias in making its decision against the selection criteria listed in this document.
- 5.5 Decisions will be made by majority vote.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 Athletes and officials must not disclose any information regarding any selection decisions or appeals until such information is publicly announced or disclosed by GB Climbing.

7. Selection Criteria

- 7.1 Athletes will be selected for a place on the GB para squad via one of the selection methods below. Place allocation will be prioritized in the following order and will be conducted after the last para event takes place (30 November 2019)
 - 7.1.1.2 Priority 1- Achieve a podium place at the Paraclimbing Masters or World Paraclimbing Championships in 2019.
 - 7.1.1.3 Priority 2– Athletes will be selected from the top climbers in each recognised IFSC category at the British Para Climbing Championships (top first placed male and top first placed woman)
 - 7.1.1.4 The highest placed athletes in each category at each of the above selection events will be selected via Priority 2, irrespective of the number of athletes who achieve pre-selection via Priority 1.

- 7.1.1.5 In the event that no athletes are preselected in a category via Priority 1, then 4 athletes from the British Para Climbing Championships will be selected across all categories.
- 7.1.1.6 If an athlete has already achieved selection through Priority 1 and competes at either of the selection events, their result will be removed from the rankings and athletes ranked below them will be selected.
- 7.1.1.7 If a single athlete who has not been preselected via Priority 1 is ranked top at both of the selection events listed above, this athlete will take both available places.
- 7.1.1.8 Results of climbers from other nations participating at the above selection events will not be counted as part of the selection via Priority 2, the highest placed athletes who are eligible, will be selected.
- 7.1.1.9 If categories are merged at the National events, the top placed athlete from each individual category will be selected.

8 Deselection- Substitutions and Injuries

8.1 Selection to the GB Para squad is in accordance with the prevailing selection policy.

8.2 Injured Athletes –

8.2.1 Non-2019 GB para squad members - If an athlete has not achieved pre-selection and cannot perform at the selection events then they will not be eligible for selection to the GB para squad for the year 2020.

8.3 2019 GB para squad members - At this time, the membership of athletes affected by injury or illness will be afforded a certain amount of protection:

8.4 A significant injury/illness is defined as follows:

- One that impacts on an athlete's ability to fully train/compete for a single or cumulative 3 month period;
OR
 - One that, happens at a crucial time in the calendar that significantly impacts on the athlete's ability to deliver performances that would otherwise have qualified them for retention on the squad (i.e. such as at the World Championships).
- 8.5 Athletes who are unable to compete at the specified selection events or International events due significant injury/illness may be retained by the Squad for the following year.
- 8.6 Please note, where an athlete has been affected by a performance limiting injury/illness, there may be return-to fitness performance conditions to that athlete's membership that they will be expected to meet in order to remain on the GB para squad 2020.

9 Appeals

- 9.1 Any appeals must be made in writing via email to the BMC (zoe@thebmc.co.uk) in accordance with the GB Climbing appeals document located on the BMC website.
- 9.2 The sole grounds of appeal against the decision of any selection panel will be that:
- a) there has been a failure to follow the GB para squad Selection Policy;
or
 - b) that the selection panel reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.
- 9.3 The right to appeal a selection decision is provided on these limited grounds only and must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the selection panel where they have followed the proper procedure and selection criteria stated in the GB para squad selection policy.
- 9.4 In reaching their decision the selection panel are acting as experts and athletes agree that in so doing the panel exercises judgment and discretion which are not in themselves capable of challenge.

- 9.5 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published GB para squad Selection Policy and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria published.
- 9.6 Any appeal relating to the process will be conducted in accordance with the GB Climbing appeals policy.

10 Disclaimer

In the event that any unforeseen circumstance makes any provision of this Policy unworkable or ineffective to promote the aims of the Policy, the BMC will be entitled to amend this Policy so that the aims can be secured. Any amended version of this document will be made publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.thebmc.co.uk

Appendix 1 – Interpretations

“IFSC” The International Federation of Sport Climbing is an international non-governmental non-profit organisation whose main objectives are the direction, regulation, promotion, development and furtherance of climbing competitions around the world.

“BMC” The British Mountaineering Council is a membership organisation that works on behalf of hillwalkers, climbers and mountaineers in England and Wales. The BMC is recognised as the National Governing Body for Sport Climbing in the UK.

“MS” Mountaineering Scotland is a representative organisation for hillwalker, climbers and mountaineers in Scotland.

“Para Team” The Para Team or Team or GB Paraclimbing Team refers to the group of athletes who have been selected to represent Great Britain.

“Para Squad” The Para Squad is the pool of athletes from which selections are made for athletes to represent Great Britain at International Competitions. Details of selection are in the document ‘GB Senior Team International Selection Policy’.

“GB Climbing” This is the title given to the BMC Competitions Programme.

Appendix 2 - Regulatory Framework

The BMC acts as the National Governing Body for Climbing in the UK. As such it is registered with the IFSC and any athletes wishing to compete at IFSC international competitions must meet and adhere to the conditions set out herein.

The BMC is responsible for selecting athletes to represent Great Britain at IFSC International Climbing events. All selections will be made in accordance with the guidance set out in this document. Athletes will be invited to join the Para Squad via e-mail, once accepted; selections will be published on the BMC Website.

Membership of the Para Squad is subject to:

- (a) the BMC being in receipt of a signed copy of the GB Climbing Athlete Contract, and
- (b) the athlete having current BMC membership.

Selection Policy for all squads and teams representing GB Climbing are developed by the BMC Competitions Programme.

They comply with International Rules and Regulations (quotas etc.). In the case of discrepancy, the international rules will take precedence.