



# GB Climbing

Boulder | Lead | Speed

## GB Senior Squad Selection Policy 2020

## 1. GB Senior Team Selection Policy

- 1.1 This selection policy outlines the approach GB Climbing will undertake in selecting athletes to the GB Senior Squad 2020.
- 1.2 The Squad is open to British climbers who in 2020 are eligible to compete in senior 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 competitions. The selection process is outlined in the international Selection Policy.
- 1.4 There are set performance criteria which will allow the best athletes capable of producing results both nationally and internationally to be selected. Representing our national team both in the UK and abroad is the apex of our pathway and as such we aspire to reward excellence with opportunities to compete and further challenge ourselves.

## 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 To identify athletes capable of producing outstanding national results and international high performance in the 2020 IFSC World Cup season.
  - 2.1.2 Affirm GB Climbing as a top 6 competitive international team across the disciplines of lead, bouldering and combined events by the end of 2020.
  - 2.1.3 The aim is to field a highly competitive GB Climbing outfit during the 2020 IFSC competitive season in the disciplines/formats of Lead, Boulder and Olympic Combined. This is achieved through the identification of athletes capable of producing outstanding high performance both domestically and internationally via a number of key performance markers.
  - 2.1.4 Optimise achievement through a high-performance team culture, providing the necessary support, competitive opportunity and accountability that enable's GB Climbing athletes to thrive and deliver on an international stage.
  - 2.1.5 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, regardless of discipline.
- 3.2 Once the selection process is completed, there will be no further selection opportunities for the GB Senior Team 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 rules<sup>1</sup>, 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 Senior squad 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 Climbing Head Coach (Tom Greenall), voting rights
  - Chair of Competitions Committee (TBC), voting rights
  - Independent Observer (TBC), no voting right
- 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.

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<sup>1</sup> IFSC 2019 Rules, page 4&5

- 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 senior squad via one of the selection methods below. Place allocation will be prioritized in the following order and will be conducted after the last senior world cup takes place (Inzai 26/27 October 2019)
  - 7.1.1.1 Priority 1- Achieve a finishing position of 30<sup>th</sup> or higher at any IFSC Senior World Championships (lead, Boulder, Combined) or IFSC Senior World Cups (Lead and Boulder) in 2019.
  - 7.1.1.2 Priority 2- Athletes will be selected if they achieved a top 10 finish at the European Championships 2019 (lead and boulder).
  - 7.1.1.3 Priority 3– Athletes will be selected from the top climbers at the British Bouldering Championships (top 3 men and top 3 women) and the top climbers at the British Lead Climbing Championships (top 3 men and top 3 women).
  - 7.1.1.4 Priority 4- If a Development Squad member in their final year of the junior age category, achieves a final at the IFSC Youth World Climbing Championships, they will receive a place on the senior squad for 2020. Senior competitions will be allocated as per the senior international selection policy. Any junior athlete who qualifies for the senior squad via priority 3 will be in addition to those selected via Priority 1 and 2.

- 7.1.1.5 The 3 highest placed athletes in each category at each of the above selection events (BBCs and BLCCs) will be selected via Selection Priority 3, irrespective of the number of athletes who achieve pre-selection via Priority 1 or 2.
- 7.1.1.6 In the event that no athletes are preselected in a category via Priority 1 or 2, then 4 athletes from the British Lead Climbing Championships and 4 athletes from the British Bouldering Championships will be selected from each category (i.e. male and female).
- 7.1.1.7 If an athlete has already achieved selection through Priority 1 or 2 and competes at either of the selection events, their result will be removed from the rankings and athletes ranked below them will be selected.
- 7.1.1.8 If a single athlete who has not been preselected via Priority 1 or 2 is ranked in the top 3 at both of the selection events listed above, this athlete will take both available places.
- 7.1.1.9 Results of climbers from other nations participating at the above selection events will not be counted as part of the selection via Priority 3, the 3 highest placed athletes who are eligible, will be selected.
- 7.1.1.10 If an athlete in the final year of the junior age category achieves a final in the IFSC Youth World Climbing Championships and achieves a top 3 finish at either the BBCs or the BLCCs, then they will be removed from the rankings at these two competitions and the place would roll down to the next highest placed athlete.

## **8 Deselection- Substitutions, Injuries, Fitness to compete**

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

### **8.2 Fitness to Compete—**

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

- 8.3 2019 GB senior 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 Where an athlete has been affected by a performance limiting injury/illness, there will be return-to fitness performance conditions, based on a case-by-case approach. There will be an agreed action plan between the athlete, their personal coach, GB Climbing Head Coach, which will have individual targets to be reviewed throughout the season. The athlete will be expected to meet these targets in order to remain on the GB senior squad 2020.

## 9 Appeals

- 9.1 Any appeals must be made in writing via email to the BMC ([zoe@thebmc.co.uk](mailto: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 senior 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 senior 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 senior 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](http://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.

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

**“Senior Squad”** The Senior 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 Senior Squad via e-mail, once accepted; selections will be published on the BMC Website.

Membership of the Senior Squad is subject to:

- (a) the BMC being in receipt of a signed copy of the GB Climbing Senior 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.