



2021 GB National Development Squad Selection Policy

The BMC and Mountaineering Scotland reserve the right to amend this document should there be significant changes to either the wider NGB strategy, the funding status or any significant changes made by the IFSC and/or the IOC.

03/08/2020 Due to COVID-19 Amendments have been made to this policy.

V10 03.8.2020

1. GB National Development Squad Selection Purpose

- 1.1 This selection policy outlines the process the BMC in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland will undertake in selecting athletes to the GB National Development Squad 2021.
- 1.2 The squad will consist of British competition climbers who in 2021 will compete in Youth A, B, C or Junior categories. These athletes are born in the years 2002 to 2009 inclusive.

2021 age category	Youth C		Youth B		Youth A		Junior		
Year of birth	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001

- 1.3 The BMC in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland will deliver four GB National Development Squad Training events in 2021 all of which the athletes who are members of the squad are expected to attend.
- 1.4 GB National Development Squad members may be selected to compete in IFSC International Competitions subject to the GB Youth and Junior Climbing Team International Competition selection policy.

2. Objectives

The intention of this selection policy is to provide clarity and consistency in approach to the selection for all athletes with the following performance aims:

- 2.1 to support an athlete's development both as an individual and as a competition climber on a pathway to join the GB Climbing Team;
- 2.2 to enable appropriate competition and development opportunities to give athletes the best opportunity to accrue the necessary experience to allow them to progress on the GB Climbing pathway;
- 2.3 to support athletes by being athlete centered and creating a positive experience during their journey and have developed both as an individual and as a climber;
- 2.4 to create an athlete centered pathway of attainment, ensuring that the required levels of physical, technical and tactical skill are achieved to allow progression to the next stage of development;

- 2.5 to create a cohesive squad, where resources, including time and expertise, are pooled to ensure each athlete gets the input required to optimise their development and long-term performance; and
- 2.6 to develop a system that produces higher quality athletes throughout the entire pathway, including performance foundations, while delivering a positive experience that retains those athletes in the sport system.

3. Size

- 3.1 Category size will be variable.
- 3.2 Once the selection process is completed as per this policy in 2020 there will be no further selection opportunities for the GB National Development Squad during 2021.

4.

In addition to eligibility below, athletes must comply with IFSC eligibility rules¹, including anti-doping:

- 4.1 Athletes are members of the BMC or Mountaineering Scotland;
- 4.2 Athletes must be a British citizen and eligible to represent Great Britain;
- 4.3 Athletes hold a valid international license issued by the BMC, where an athlete meets age category criteria;
- 4.4 Athletes have signed the GB National Development Squad Agreement and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so could see their selection being withdrawn;
- 4.5 Athletes have completed a Selection Acceptance Form to confirm they will be available to participate by the deadline set by the BMC, in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland. Failure to do so will be interpreted as non-availability. Selection Acceptance Forms will be provided by the BMC, in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland; and
- 4.6 Athletes comply to 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

¹ IFSC 2019 Rules, pages 4 and 5

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 – BMC Deputy CEO (Nick Colton), casting vote
- BMC Competitions Program Manager (Zoe Spriggins), voting rights
- Mountaineering Scotland Sports Development Officer (Kevin Howett), voting rights
- Talent Development Co-Coordinator (Lucinda Whittaker), voting rights
- Talent Development Co-Coordinator (Tim Cunnington), voting rights
- GB Climbing Department CCPG representative, voting rights
- Independent Observer (TBC), no voting right

5.2 Other expert advisors or observers such as representatives from funding bodies may be invited to attend from time to time, but without voting rights.

5.3 The selection panel will exercise its discretion fairly and without bias in making its decision against the selection criteria listed in this document.

5.4 Decisions will be made by majority vote.

6. Confidentiality

Athletes and officials must not disclose any information regarding any selection decisions or appeals until such information is publicly announced or disclosed by the BMC, in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland.

7. Selection Criteria

7.1 Athletes on the 2020 GB National Development Squad will be selected for the 2021 GB National Development Squad.

7.2 2020 GB National Development Squad Juniors born in 2001 will remain on the squad for 1 year until 31st December 2021.

- 7.3 As no new athletes in Youth C and Youth D will be selected to the squad, a GB Climbing Regional Development Squad provision will be introduced in England, Wales & Scotland (further details will be published in due course).

8. Deselection – Injuries, Fitness to Compete

- 8.1 At this time, the membership of athletes affected by injury or illness will be afforded a certain amount of protection.
- 8.2 A significant injury/illness is defined as follows:
- 8.2.1 One that impacts on an athlete's ability to fully train/compete for a single or cumulative 3-month period; or
 - 8.2.2 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.
- 8.3 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.
- 8.4 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.
- 8.5 There will be an agreed action plan between the athlete, their personal coach & the BMC, which will have individual targets to be reviewed throughout the season.

9. Appeals

- 9.1 The sole grounds of appeal against the decision of any selection panel will be that:
- 9.1.1 there has been a failure to follow the GB National Development Squad Selection Policy; or
 - 9.1.2 that the selection panel reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact.
- 9.2 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 National Development Squad Selection Policy.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published GB National Development Selection Policy and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria published.
- 9.5 Any appeal relating to the process will be conducted in accordance with the BMC in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland appeals policy.

10. Disclaimer

Due to the uncertainty of the international competition season this document may, during the year, require minor amendment. These amendments will be limited to circumstances arising from rule changes and or changes to the BMC and Mountaineering Scotland and / or the IFSC International Events calendar. 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

