



## The British Table Tennis Federation Selection Policy

### Baku European Games 2015

Version: 2.7

25<sup>th</sup> February 2015

#### Overview

The British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) will nominate players to Team GB to compete in the European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan in June 2015 who are in the sole opinion of the Selection Panel able to:

- a) Deliver a credible performance and;
- b) Achieve the highest possible finishing position and/or;
- c) Benefit from gaining international multisport event experience (only applicable for players who are U21 or younger);

For the avoidance of doubt a credible performance in this event is deemed to be reaching the last 16 or better, or in the case of younger players (U21 or younger) last 32 or better.

Any variation to the selection/de-selection policy or criteria will only be published before the conclusion of the qualification period.

The British Table Tennis Federation (BTTF) may select up to two individual athletes for each singles event, subject to receiving appropriate entries from the European Table Tennis Union (ETTU). The ETTU may offer Team GB a maximum of two places in each singles competition. These places are allocated to specific athletes. However, the allocation of such a place to a specific athlete by the ETTU does not guarantee selection by the BTTF. It is for the selection panel (identified below) to determine, in accordance with this Policy, if the relevant athletes meet the standards and objectives contained in this Policy and then (in its absolute discretion) nominate those it deems have met the selection criteria to Team GB for acceptance of their place at this event.

For the avoidance of doubt BTTF may not nominate athletes who do not receive a named offer place from the ETTU.

#### Selection Panel\*

A selection panel will be established by the BTTF Board inline with the BTTF Articles.

Additional experts may be asked to provide advice to the selection committee at the request of the Chair

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. It is hereby agreed that simply being from the same home country as a player under consideration does not of itself create a potential conflict of interest

#### Eligibility

The British Table Tennis Federation will only nominate athletes to represent Team GB who:

1. Are affiliated to one of **Table Tennis England, Table Tennis Scotland, the Table Tennis Association of Wales or the Irish Table Tennis Association – Ulster Branch**; including IOM, Jersey, Guernsey ), hold a valid Player Licence and in are good standing with their respective organisation.
2. Are eligible to represent Team GB (including Northern Ireland) in IOC and EOC approved competitions and hold a valid British Passport.
3. Are not currently under disqualification or suspension under the rules of any Home Nation, ITTF or ETTU.
4. Are not currently serving any sanction for an anti-doping rule violation under any relevant anti-doping rules.
5. Have provided British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader with a signed Acknowledgement (as set out at the end of the Selection Policy) by 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.



6. Have notified British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader that they wish to be considered for this event by 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015. Athletes are required to notify Melanie Allen ([performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk)) in writing or by email that they wish to be considered for selection by this date;
7. Are able to sign a BOA Team Members' Agreement to accept their place on the team. The Agreement will include a code of conduct and a commitment to adhere to specified travel dates, to observe BOA & British Table Tennis Federation sponsorship guidelines and to wear appropriate Team GB apparel.
8. Have completed all relevant BOA information by the appropriate dates, including long list information requests.
9. Have been named by the ETTU (or their representative) for a place at this event.
10. Comply with any other eligibility requirement of the BTTF, ITTF, ETTU, the BOA, BEGOC and/or the IOC in place from time to time.

## Qualification Period

The qualification period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 to 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015 inclusive.

## Criteria

Following the overriding objectives of this policy, as set out in the Overview above, the selection committee will nominate athletes according to the following criteria:

### Automatic selection

Athletes will gain automatic selection, subject to compliance with the rest of this policy, if they meet one or more of the following criteria;

- Top 50 ITTF Senior World Ranking on the most recent ITTF ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period;
- Top 5 ITTF U21 World Ranking on the most recent ITTF ranking list available at the conclusion of the qualification period;
- 2014 Commonwealth Games singles medallist

### Discretionary Selection

In the event that the athletes in receipt of a named place have not met the automatic selection criteria, it will be for the selection panel to determine whether that athlete shall be selected to the singles competition.

This selection process is discretionary and the selection panel, as experts, are required to use their judgement to select the athletes capable of achieving the objectives of this policy. Their reasons must be rationale, reasonable, free of bias and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

The selection panel will consider all relevant criteria including but not limited to the following:

1. Performances in the following events in order:
  - 2014 ETTU European Team Table Tennis Championships;
  - 2014/15 ITTF World Tour Events (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet);
  - 2015 relevant Home Nations Senior Championships;
  - 2014 Senior Home Nations;
  - Other 2014/15 ITTF Sanctioned events when representing their Home Nation (Senior/ U21/Junior & Cadet).
2. ITTF World Senior Ranking within the selection period, any movement in that ranking and the reasons for it.
3. Each athlete's best two matches in the events listed above.
4. Commitment to improve and compete at the highest possible level.
5. Fulfilment of the commitment to training and competition as laid down by British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader or his representative.
6. Proven ability to behave in a manner that supports each British athlete and allows him or her to achieve his or her best performance.
7. Potential to perform at a high level in future events for GB teams.
8. Proven ability to perform in a positive manner and function well as part of a team.



For the avoidance of doubt the selection panel is not required to select any athletes at all if it does not consider that athletes capable of performing at a credible level are available despite those individuals being offered a named place.

## Timing

The selection panel will meet at the conclusion of the qualification period and except in exceptional circumstances, athletes will be notified by 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015.

Athletes will need to be available to travel to the Championships on 8<sup>th</sup> June until 21<sup>st</sup> June 2015. All athletes will be required to stay in the team accommodation during these times. Athletes also need to be available for kitting out on the date(s) to be agreed with Team GB.

## 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.

## Media & Communication

All selected athletes are required to adhere to the Social Media guidance of the British Table Tennis Federation at the following address: [www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/performancecriteria](http://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/performancecriteria)

All athletes, whether selected or not are required to keep the notification of their selection or non-selection confidential until such time as directed by the British Table Tennis Federation Team Leader.

## De-Selection/ Nomination

Prior to the date of the Delegation Registration (DRM) the British Table Tennis Federation retains the right not to nominate, or to denominate / deselect an athlete under any of the following circumstances:

- The athlete is no longer eligible for selection for this event.
- The athlete does not adhere to the code of conduct or team members' agreement.
- The athlete in the opinion of the Selection Panel is no longer physically or mentally able to perform at the level consistent with that which earned their initial selection.
- The athlete fails to comply with any reasonable training or competition programme set out by any British Table Tennis Federation or Team GB performance staff.
- 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 athlete who is de-selected will immediately be notified of the decision and the reason and will have a right of appeal in accordance with the appeals process.

## Appeals

The appeals process is subject to approval of the BTTF Articles changes at a EGM on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Athletes who are eligible for consideration under this policy will be notified of the outcome of this meeting.

1. Eligible athletes are entitled to appeal a decision by the Selection Panel not to nominate them to Team GB 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 on the working day 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, by 4pm on the working day 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 either that this Selection Policy was not followed, or that the decision in question was unreasonable and/or not reached in a manner consistent with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.
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. A athlete seeking to appeal will, accordingly, be required to pay to British Table Tennis Federation a deposit of £250 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 £250 (and the athlete loses the appeal) then he/she may 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 oral hearing in front a single legally qualified arbitrator appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK). The appealing athlete, British Table Tennis Federation and any Affected Athlete are entitled to attend such a hearing, with representatives if they so wish. Alternatively, if the athlete, British Table Tennis Federation and any Affected Athlete agree, the appeal will be determined on the papers by such an arbitrator. 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.

\*The appeals process is subject to approval of the change of articles at the BTTF EGM on 28/02/2015.



## 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 Melanie Allen ([performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk](mailto:performance@tabletennisengland.co.uk)) writing or by email by 13<sup>th</sup>

February 2015 to Norfolk House, 88 Saxon Gate West, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, MK9 2DL. 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.

Acknowledged by:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Athlete)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Guardian)

**February 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**

ENDS