



**XXII Commonwealth Games
Birmingham, England
28 July – 8 August 2022**

**Selection Policy and Standards
RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS**

April 2021 v2

Amendment to Sport Specific Selection Standards 8.22

January 2021

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Team Scotland: Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Athlete - Sport Selection Policy and Standards

The information in this Selection Policy is accurate as at January 2021 but remains subject to change. As a result of the unique and extenuating circumstances caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent impact on international sporting calendars, CGS and Scottish Gymnastics will be closely monitoring this Selection Policy to determine if any changes are necessary.

For the avoidance of doubt, CGS reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy in any manner, and in the sole and absolute discretion of CGS, should CGS consider that qualification process would be fairer having regard to the interests of all Athletes and the prevailing circumstances.

In addition CGS and Scottish Gymnastics reserve the right to not apply any aspect of this Selection Policy when making any decision, if in the sole and absolute discretion of CGS, it would, as judged by CGS, be unfair or unreasonable not to, provided always that CGS has regard to the interests of all Athletes in the prevailing circumstances

Introduction

- 1 This selection policy has been agreed by Scottish Gymnastics and Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS). It provides detail on the process by which Scottish Gymnastics will arrive at athlete nominations, which will be submitted to CGS for consideration, for final selection to Team Scotland for Birmingham 2022.

Achievement, by an athlete, of individual selection standards, detailed in this document, is therefore the first step by which nomination can be considered. The final decision in selection to the 2022 Games lies with CGS

- 2 Scottish Gymnastics will nominate only those athletes that have qualified under both the Rhythmic Gymnastics Specific Selection Standards stated below, and the CGS General Selection Policy (available on the CGS website) that should be read in conjunction with these standards.

- 3 Entry numbers per event and the overall number of athletes within the team are in accordance with Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) allocation. Should more athletes achieve the standards then Scottish Gymnastics will prioritise in accordance with the gymnastics policies.

CGS have confirmed that a minimum of 4 places have been allocated to Gymnastics (across all gymnastics disciplines) subject to meeting the sport specific selection criteria. These are referred to as assured places

Scottish Gymnastics is committed to taking as many gymnasts on the journey as possible and will apply for additional discretionary places for anyone who is nominated for selection above this minimum number.

Team Scotland General Selection Policy Aim

- 4 Scotland selects a team that performs with distinction in 2022:
 - having a higher percentage of athletes meeting the selection standards when in competition at these Games than in 2018
 - meeting the stated performance aims of each sport at the Games
 - with all Team members having a positive experience within Team Scotland at the Games.
- 5 All gymnastics policies are consistent with the Team Scotland General Selection Policy aim.

Athlete Eligibility

- 6 The eligibility criteria of the CGF Constitution and Byelaws, must be met by all nominees, see Appendix 1. Where prospective team members do not automatically comply with the above, they will only be nominated for final selection if they receive prior approval from the CGF under their guidelines.

Games Competition Format

- 7 Each country can enter a maximum of 3 competitors. Separate individual all-around finals and separate individual apparatus final competitions will be held.

Athletes will be selected for individual apparatus finals on the basis of performance in the all-around competition.

To qualify for the team event, 3 athletes must perform routines on each of the four apparatus, making a total of twelve routines. The team classification is made by adding the ten best scores.

To be eligible for selection, a minimum age applies in accordance with the Federation of International Gymnastics (FIG) regulations:

- Rhythmic 16 years in the year of competition (born 2006 or earlier)

Sport Specific Selection Standards and Framework

- 8 Below are the key selection details applicable to Rhythmic Gymnastics:

The gymnastics priority outcomes for Birmingham 2022:

- i. **Medal outcome** (Team or Individual) (MAG/WAG/RHY)
- ii. **Top 6 finish** (i.e. Top 6 in finals of All Around final/individual apparatus finals) (MAG/WAG/RHY)

On nomination of all athletes to CGS therefore, Scottish Gymnastics will prioritise athletes across disciplines based on predicted places which could be achieved by individuals/team using the ranked order above. Greater priority will be applied to those predicted as achieving the highest place (irrespective of gymnastic discipline); please refer to the Women's Artistic and Men's Artistic selection policies for further information on selection standards.

There will be two rounds to the nomination process:

- Round 1: Automatic nomination
- Round 2: Wider consideration nomination

8.1 Round 1: **Automatic nomination**

If an athlete achieves any of the below standard of performance, the gymnast will be automatically nominated:

Medal at any FIG World Cup/FIG World Challenge Cup events (All-Around/Individual apparatus) within Phase 2 of the selection period (1 January–17 April 2022)

8.2 Round 2: **Wider nomination consideration**

A benchmarking system (section 8.2.5) will be used to support nomination decisions for gymnasts who have not achieved the criteria for automatic nomination. Scores achieved at competition most likely to replicate the Games environment will be given greater weighting in decision making.

The selection period is split into two parts for Rhythmic Gymnastics as outlined below:

- Phase 1 (British Championships 30 July to 1 August 2021)
- Phase 2 (1 January 2022 to 17 April 2022)

8.2.1 Only athletes who have achieved the criteria in Phase 1 will be eligible for consideration for nomination during Phase 2.

Gymnasts with exceptional circumstances during Phase 1, who have qualified for British Championships but are unable to compete may still have performances considered during Phase 2 as agreed in advance with the Head of Performance (see section 8.4 for what constitutes exceptional circumstances).

8.2.2 **Phase 1**

In Phase 1, gymnasts must achieve the standards below in 2021 to progress to Phase 2.

- GBR selection for European Championships
- **or** All Around top 3 ranking at final designated GBR selection event for World Championships (TBC August 2021)
- **or** top ranking on two or more apparatus at final designated GBR selection event for World Championships (TBC August 2021)
- Any athlete in transition from Junior to Senior in the year 2021 to 2022 can be considered for Phase 2 if selected for a GBR representative event or GBR Squad.

8.2.3 **Phase 2**

Scores for Phase 2 will only be considered at the following events:

- Tournoi International “Corbeil-Essonnes” CORBEIL-ESSONNES (FRA)
- Irina Deleanu Cup, BUCHAREST (ROU)
- Miss Valentine Grand Prix, TARTU (EST)
- International Tournament Sofia Cup, SOFIA (BUL)
- Aphrodite Cup, PALAIO FALIRO (GRE)

8.2.4 The below points are the key considerations used in the decision-making process to determine consideration for nomination (in no particular order).

For gymnasts being considered as apparatus specialists:

- Gymnasts must be able to demonstrate medal potential performances by demonstrating the standard during two or more competitions within the selection period (at the qualifying competitions)

For gymnasts being considered for all-around:

- Gymnast must achieve the all-around benchmark score at least once at any of the events listed in 8.2.3

To support team nomination decisions:

- Where a team can demonstrate medal potential, the selection panel will consider Best Team Fit to maximise the potential team score. Scottish Gymnastics reserves the right to nominate the best team and will use results from the identified selection events to determine best team composition to attend the Games; Scottish Gymnastics will use technical guidance and input from an independent technical advisor to support gymnast nomination decisions from those who have met the minimum standards

8.2.5 Top 6 Benchmarking System

The 'benchmark scoring system' will collate the results of competitors from Commonwealth Nations from the FIG World Cup, FIG World Challenge Cup and other relevant standard of competitions (January 2022 to April 2022) that feature Commonwealth Nation competitors as a reference point to demonstrate top 6 potential at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

These results will be made public and communicated. For clarification it will be the final benchmark scoring system as at 17 April 2022 that will be used for the nomination process, regardless of when a prospective gymnast's result was achieved to allow fair comparison.

8.3 In the event that a prospective gymnast is unable to attend one of the identified selection events, an additional pre-approved FIG/international event (i.e. NCAA) may be considered (these will be judged on FIG code of points). This must be approved (minimum 4 weeks in advance) in writing by the Head of Performance and CGS with an independent panel of Brevet judges identified to judge. The score(s) given under these circumstances is not open to appeal

8.4 In the event of an injury, illness or exceptional circumstance preventing the individual participating in the named selection events between January 2022–April 2022, Scottish Gymnastics will provide control testing opportunities to be judged on the new code of points in a controlled environment to allow gymnasts opportunities to test new routines / elements under the scoring system of the new code of points between September–December 2021.

In the case of injury or illness this must be authenticated by a medical note either from a medical doctor or from a chartered physiotherapist and submitted to the

Head of Performance, which will be in consultation with the Team Scotland Chief Medical Officer.

In the case of exceptional circumstances this must be submitted and discussed with the Head of Performance and can be defined as such circumstances that are comparable to a bereavement of a close family member, exceptional travel delays out with control which causes an athlete to miss the event.

Gymnasts who have missed an FIG World Cup or an FIG World Challenge Cup event after being selected due to injury, illness or exceptional circumstances outlined in 8.4 or in 8.3 may still be prioritised in the nomination process providing their results at other designated selection events demonstrate a medal outcome at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games .

Other Factors for Consideration

- 9 All nominated athletes must have completed the required Anti-doping education.
- 10 All athletes must have signed, returned and adhere to the Scottish Gymnastics Gymnast Agreement and Code of Conduct.

Any unavailability for competition or training, for any of the reasons outlined in section 8, must be advised and agreed with the Head of Performance in advance.

There will be no named reserves recognised by CGS as part of the nomination process for the Commonwealth Games.

Selection Process

- 11 Final Nominations will be made by the Scottish Gymnastics selection panel, on 18 April 2022, comprising of:
 - Scottish Gymnastics Board Technical Director for Olympic Disciplines
 - Scottish Gymnastics Head of Performance & Education
 - Scottish Gymnastics Performance Manager (Olympic Disciplines)
 - CGS staff member (non-voting) - independent observer
- 12 The selection panel will seek advice and technical input via reports/statistics from the following (non-voting):
 - Commonwealth Games named Team Coaches (Discipline specific)
 - Performance / support staff invited by Head of Performance
 - Technical Judge (Brevet) in each discipline

Scottish Gymnastics will approach nomination decisions through adopting a strategy which will maximise medal impact at the Games, and takes into account section 7

In reaching their decision the selection panel are acting as experts and the athletes agree that in so doing the panel exercises judgment and discretion.

- 13 Scottish Gymnastics will contact all nominated athletes after the Scottish Gymnastics selection panel meeting on 19 April 2022. Scottish Gymnastics will also contact, in confidence, those athletes who were not successful in the nomination meeting on the same date.

- 14 Scottish Gymnastics will send their nominations to CGS by 2 May 2022. CGS will confirm the initial team selections by 15 May 2022 and final team selection by 30 May 2022.
- 15 Final selection to the Games team is dependent on receipt of relevant information required by CGS, such as completion and signing of the CGF Eligibility form and CGS Team Member Agreement.

All gymnasts must be able to demonstrate form and fitness in the lead up to nomination. In addition, following successful selection and up towards the Games, ongoing form and fitness will be monitored of the selected gymnasts by Scottish Gymnastics' technical coaches in partnership with Scottish Gymnastics Head of Performance, in line with Section 27 of the CGS General Selection Policy.

De-Selection

16 Antidoping

Athletes suspended by their Governing Body as a result of ongoing or concluded anti-doping violation allegations, will not be considered for selection, and if previously selected will be deselected from the Birmingham 2022 team.

Injury Management

Where injury issues are identified at or after selection, a fitness test may be used to determine that the athlete is capable of performing to the level that they were selected for the Games. The format will be determined by CGS after discussion with the Gymnastics Team Management. This will be specific to Rhythmic Gymnastics and the athlete's condition and may include input from CGS medical staff. Any selection or de-selection decision, following such a test, will be made by CGS after discussion with the Gymnastics Team Management and will be final.

Athletes in breach of CGS policies, code of conduct and team agreement may be de-selected.

Appeal Process

- 17 An appeal against non-nomination to CGS by Scottish Gymnastics is entirely a matter for the athlete and Scottish Gymnastics. This will be held in accordance with Scottish Gymnastics' own appeal procedures, but taking into consideration only the CGS selection policy and agreed sport specific selections standards and conditions
- 18 Following the communication to athletes by Scottish Gymnastics on 19 April 2022, in line with Section 11, appeals can be submitted to Scottish Gymnastics by 24 April 2022, 5pm:
 - a) All appeals must be received in writing (letter or email), including the grounds upon which the appeal is made to Chief Executive Officer (doc.mckelvey@scottishgymnastics.org)
 - b) The sole grounds of appeal against the decision of the selection panel will be that:
 - i. there has been a failure to follow the content of this specific Selection Policy;

or

 - ii. that the selection panel reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact

The appeals panel will meet on 26 April 2022 to discuss any appeals received which are deemed to meet either of the above criteria.

The appeals panel will be made up of three representatives who were not involved in the original selection process and will be chaired by the Scottish Gymnastics Chief Executive Officer. Additional members will include a strategic board member and a CEO / Performance Director from another Commonwealth sport; all members with no conflict of interest. Technical input may be required from independent experts, not previously involved in selections, should the appeals panel consider it necessary.

In all instances, Scottish Gymnastics will respond in writing by email to the athlete/coach within three working days notifying them of the outcome of the appeal process (deadline 29 April 2022).

Should the appeals panel uphold any athlete appeal(s), the original selection panel must reconvene to reassess their selection decision based on the grounds of the appeal. The decision reached will be final, the appellant will be informed of the outcome and nomination list will be forwarded to CGS by 2 May 2022.

- 19 An appeal against CGS non-selection on behalf of an athlete may only be submitted by Scottish Gymnastics and not by any individual athlete. If an appeal is submitted to CGS by Scottish Gymnastics, a CGS Appeal Panel will consider the case along with any additional information provided. The appeal must be made by email to jon.doig@teamsotland.scot within 3 days of notification of selection outcomes to Scottish Gymnastics by CGS.

Appointment of Team Staff

- 20 A Team Manager was appointed by CGS in consultation with Scottish Gymnastics to support all three disciplines.

The final complement of Gymnastics team staff attending the Games will ultimately depend upon team numbers and composition and will be determined by CGS in consultation with Scottish Gymnastics. This will include different categories of accreditation and access to the Games Village and other secure areas.

Appendix 1

CGF Byelaw 17 Eligibility
<p>1. It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 17.</p>
2. Primacy
<p>2.1 Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), a competitor shall be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them where they satisfy at least one of the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them;orb) Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters themc) In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: -<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Guernsey, Jersey, and Isle of Man. The governments of these three Crown Dependencies do not define citizenship. For these Affiliated CGAs, citizenship shall be defined as three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"* date of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee ("Continuous Residency") and the competitor must be in possession of a current valid UK passport.ii. Northern Ireland. Byelaw 17 will defer to the Belfast Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland athletes who meet birth right criteria are to be treated equally regardless of their possession of either a current valid UK or Irish passport (but must hold one of these). This right is enshrined within the Constitution Issues (iv) of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.iii. Norfolk Island. Any individual who was in possession of a current valid New Zealand passport and was also deemed eligible to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games for Norfolk Islands may continue to compete for Norfolk Islands at future iterations of the Games.
3. Secondary
<p>3.1 Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country which has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the competitor may represent either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) the Commonwealth Country of their birth;orb) the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent;orc) where the relevant IF recognises grandparents as part of its eligibility criteria, the competitor may represent the Commonwealth Country of birth of their grandparent;or

- d) the Commonwealth Country where they have completed a minimum period of three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the “final entries deadline”* of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee.

3.2 Subject to the other provisions of this Byelaw 17, where a competitor is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated CGA due to common passport privileges they may choose which Affiliated CGA to represent. For the avoidance of doubt, if an individual has competed at a Commonwealth Youth Games this will not be deemed to be a choice of country, and the competitor may choose to represent a different Affiliated CGA at a Commonwealth Games.

3.3 For the avoidance of doubt subject to Byelaw 17(4) and 17(5) any competitor of a common passport area who competes for their common passport country (i.e. Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia) at either the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and/or any World Championships or any other major sporting event shall be entitled to choose to represent their home Affiliated CGA (e.g. Turks and Caicos) at the Commonwealth Games.

4 Disqualifications and Suspensions

4.1 A competitor shall not be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:

- a) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by the Federation;

and/or

- b) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective Affiliated CGA;

and/or

- c) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective IF, National Federation

and/or

- d) are currently under disqualification or suspension under the World Anti-Doping Code.

5 Compliance with applicable rules and regulations

5.1 A competitor shall only be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:

- a) Satisfy and comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation;

and

- b) Satisfy and comply their respective IF rules and regulations (including but not limited to, complying with respective IF eligibility rules as applied within each respective edition of the Commonwealth Games Athlete Allocation Systems);

and

- c) Satisfy and comply with the World Anti-Doping Code as applied within the Federation Anti-Doping Standard to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.

5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between respective IF Nationality rules and regulations and those of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Federation Bye Law 17 shall prevail.

6 Transfer of Allegiance

6.1 After having established eligibility status under this Byelaw 17 a competitor who has previously represented one Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Games may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless they also receive the prior approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Byelaw shall not apply if an individual has represented a Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Youth Games. Applications under this Byelaw 17(6) must be submitted to the Executive Board two calendar months before the “final entries deadline”* for the respective Commonwealth Games. Applications must include formal confirmation of the prior approval of the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA.

6.2 All applications for transfer of allegiance under Byelaw 17(6) and/or discretionary eligibility dispensation under Byelaw 17(7) including all relevant paperwork and documentation must be submitted no later than two calendar months prior to the published “final entries deadline”*, as outlined by the respective Organising Committee.

7 Dispensations

7.1 The Executive Board shall delegate authority to the Governance and Integrity Committee (GIC) who have the power to grant dispensations to Byelaw 17 in exceptional circumstances and to consider any matters relating generally to Byelaw 17. Each application for dispensation under Byelaw 17 shall be considered on its own merits and will not create a precedent for any future applications. Decisions made by GIC are subject to the right of appeal directly to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

*“final entries deadline” means the final date that an individual athlete may be entered in a particular event(s) for the relevant Commonwealth Games, usually completed via an online entry system. Such date to be communicated for each relevant Commonwealth Games in the Sport Handbook.