

British Ski and Snowboard Selection Policy

Cross Country Selection Policy 2018-19



BRITISH
SKI + SNOWBOARD

1	Introduction
2	Formation of Cross Country Selection Panels
3	Athlete Agreements.....
4	Process and Timings.....
5	Eligibility
6	FIS Licences
7	Prolonged absence from competition.....
8	Appeals Process.....
	Appendix A: Cross Country Selection Criteria

1. Introduction

The aim of the British Cross Country selection process is to support a long-term performance pathway, the development of athletes and the delivery of programmes to produce consistent World Class performances, most notably at the FIS Cross Country World Championships, Junior and U23 Cross Country World Championships, the Olympic Winter Games, European Youth Olympic Festival and the Youth Olympic Games.

This document describes the selection policy and process for selection of athletes to be invited to join the British squads and/or to represent the United Kingdom in Cross Country events. Selection will be made without bias or discrimination. The policy and processes are agreed and overseen by the Nordic Discipline Committee of British Ski and Snowboard (BSS), the National Governing Body for skiing and snowboarding in the United Kingdom. The policy and processes are approved by the Board of BSS. BSS aims to identify a clear performance pathway with defined selection criteria and processes for selection to BSS Squads and Teams in the appropriate age categories.

1.1. Aim

The aim of this document is to identify the selection criteria and process for selection to the British Ski and Snowboard Squads and Teams. Criteria are laid out within the age group categories as defined by the International Ski Federation (FIS) and identified within this document. BSS selection will be adopting a multi factor approach by considering achievement in competition, technical skills and athletic capacity.

1.2. Remit

The Selection Panel(s) will select the Teams for the World Cups, Tour de Ski, World Championships, Junior and U23 World Championships and other FIS competitions. The Panel(s) will recommend athletes to the British Olympic Association for selection to teams for the various competitions run under the Olympic banner.

For Olympic events BSS will agree and publish the Selection Criteria and Procedures in co-operation with the British Olympic Association (BOA) for the Olympic Winter Games, the European Youth Olympic Winter Festival and the Youth Olympic Winter Games.

The Selection Panel(s) will select athletes into the following British Squads:

1. Elite Squad
2. Performance Squad
3. Junior Squad

2. Formation and Members of Nordic Selection Committees

The BSS Nordic Discipline Committee will appoint the Chair of the various events Selection Committees and the pathway representatives. The pathway and home nation representatives may change dependent upon availability and the selection being carried out. The Chairs may invite others with specialist knowledge to contribute for all or part of a meeting. Committee members must be free from all external conflicts of interest in the selection process.

The role of the Chair is to adjudicate the process, to be equitable to all Athletes, and to ensure that the process is applied with respect to meeting the objectives of BSS, as stated at the top of this document. The BSS Nordic Discipline Committee may substitute an individual in place of any of the roles that are not filled at the time of the selection. Such nomination must be agreed by email of meeting with 75% of committee voting members in agreement.

2.1 BSS Selection for World Championships

The quorum for a meeting of this selection committee shall be all five voting members

Chairman of Selectors: legally qualified or experienced in multiple Olympic selections appointed by BSS Board

- BSS Performance Director
- BSS Cross-Country Sprint Coach
- BSS Cross-Country Endurance Coach
- Nordic Discipline Chair or their appointed representative
- For Olympic events – Olympic Team Manager (non-voting)

2.2 BSS Selection for Youth Olympic or World Nordic Under 23 and Junior Ski Championships

The quorum for a meeting of this selection committee shall be all four voting members

Chair of Selectors: BSS Performance Director (non-voting)

- BSS Head of Talent
- Nominated BSS Cross-Country Coach
- Cross-Country Pathway Representative
- Nordic Discipline Chair or their appointed representative
- Olympic Team Manager (non-voting)

2.3 BSS Cross-Country Elite/Performance/Junior Squad Selection Committee

The quorum for a meeting of this selection committee shall be all five voting members.

Chair of Selectors: Nordic Discipline Chair or his appointed representative

- BSS Performance Director or his appointed representative
- BSS Cross-Country Sprint Coach
- BSS Cross-Country Endurance Coach
- Cross Country Pathway Representative
- BSS Programme Manager (non-voting)

2.4 BSS Selection for World University Games

The quorum for a meeting of this selection committee shall be all three voting members.

Chair of Selectors: BSS Head of Talent

- Cross Country Pathway Representative
- Nordic Discipline Chair or their appointed representative
- BSS Programme Manager (non-voting)

2.5 BSS Selection for OPA Games

The quorum for a meeting of this selection committee shall be all three voting members.

Chair of Selectors: Nordic Committee Chair

- Cross Country Pathway Representative
- BSS Head of Talent

3. Athlete Agreements

- 3.1 Every athlete awarded a FIS Licence shall agree to a BSS Licence Holder's Agreement acknowledging their acceptance of BSS discipline and confirming their acceptance of the FIS Athlete Declaration.
- 3.2 Athletes who are selected to a squad must sign a current BSS Squad Member's Agreement, setting out the athlete's obligations to BSS, and provide evidence of valid insurance to cover them throughout the season as a condition of confirmation and retention of their squad status.
- 3.3 All athletes selected to and taking up places in a BSS Cross Country programme must enter in to an athlete programme agreement. This document sets out the costs of the programme and what an athlete can expect in return for their commitment to meet those costs.

4. Process and timing

Squad selections will be made in between April and June of each year. The selectors reserve the right to add athletes to squads during the year as a result of outstanding performances, or remove athletes from squads for lack of performance or progress. Discussions on squad programme participation will take place in March and April.

Selection minutes are not made public but are circulated to the Nordic Discipline Committee. Redacted versions are available to any athlete who wishes to appeal the selection process results (see appeals process).

5. Eligibility

Each Panel will consider only those who hold, or are eligible under FIS rules to hold, a FIS Licence issued by Great Britain for the competition season (1 July to 30 June the following year) to which the selections pertain. Athletes will not be eligible for selection to specific competitions if:

- They are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- The BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

6. FIS Licences

There are three categories of FIS Nordic Licence available.

Licence Type	Description
Nordic A Licence	This licence allows athletes' entry World Cup level Nordic competitions
Nordic B Licence	This licence allows athletes' entry Continental Cup level Nordic competitions
Nordic C Licence	This licence allows athletes' entry to Nordic FIS Level competitions

7. Prolonged absence from competition

7.1 An athlete who, having competed at a given level, fails to compete for a continuous period of twelve months, will not automatically be authorised to compete at the same level, even if the formal criteria to compete at the level are still met. In such circumstances the athlete will be required to demonstrate full fitness and competition readiness, after which the relevant Selection Panel shall consider whether the approval to compete is justified. In making such a judgement, the Selection Panel shall consider all the evidence at its disposal and shall be entitled, in cases of doubt, to continue to withhold entry to the higher level of competition until it is satisfied that the required level of performance has been reached.

7.2 If the previous approval was to compete at FIS C level, the athlete in these circumstances will be required to qualify again according to the criteria prevailing at the time.

7.3 For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of the above are intended to cover absence from competition for any reason, including officially recorded Injury Status.

8. Appeals Process

Please see Appeals Procedure here:

<https://www.teambss.org.uk/sites/default/files/BSS%20Appeals%20Process.pdf>

Appendix A: Cross Country Eligibility Criteria

BSS supports a multi-factor approach for selection to define and select the athletes with the greatest potential. The major factor will be performances on snow.

A.1 Eligibility Criteria for all FIS Licensed athletes to be considered:

The factors are as follows:

- Athletes must hold a British passport
- Athletes must be registered with FIS as British

A.1.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Elite Squad

Athletes who have met the below FIS point criteria in the preceding 12 months in two or more events:

	Distance	Sprint
Men's	80	80
Ladies'	94	94

Only FIS Points scored in World Cup, Tour de Ski, Norwegian and Scandinavian Cups, Scandinavian and Central European National Championships, and OPA races will be considered. The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

A.1.2 Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Performance Squad

Athletes who have met the below FIS point criteria in the preceding 12 months in two or more events:

	Distance	Sprint
Men's	120	120
Ladies'	120	120

Only FIS Points scored in World Cup, Tour de Ski, Norwegian and Scandinavian Cups, Scandinavian and Central European National Championships, and OPA races will be considered. The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

A.1.3 Minimum Eligibility Criteria for Junior Squad

Athletes can be considered if they are born in 1999 or younger and have met the below FIS point criteria in the preceding 12 months in one or more event(s):

	Distance	Sprint
Men's	260	260
Ladies'	270	270

All FIS events in Central Europe and Scandinavia will be considered for Junior squad. The Selection

Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

A.2 World Cups and Tour de Ski

Selection for World Cups and Tour de Ski is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS Chief Medical Officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.2.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Athletes who have achieved two race results scoring below 90 FIS points in the relevant discipline (Distance or Sprint) in the preceding 12 months will be eligible for selection to Cross Country World Cups and Tour de Ski. Athletes must achieve the result in the specific discipline to be eligible to race in that discipline.

Only FIS Points scored in World Cup, Tour de Ski, Norwegian and Scandinavian Cups, Scandinavian and Central European Championships and OPA races will be considered. The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

The Nordic Selection panel will confirm selection to the World Cups and Tour de Ski and such factors that may be considered by but not limited to, (in no priority), will be:

- A.2.1.1 FIS points accumulated during the 2018/19 season
- A.2.1.2 athletes' world ranking in any discipline during the 2018/19 season
- A.2.1.3 results obtained in competitions during the season generally, with greater emphasis on more recent results in order to select on current form

If there are more athletes eligible and qualified for selection than quota places allocated, the selection panel has absolute discretion to select athletes who, on the basis of the evidence available, are most likely to achieve the best result in the event.

Such factors that may be considered but not limited to, (in no priority), will be:

- A.2.1.4 World Cup points accumulated during the 2018/19 season;
- A.2.1.5 athletes' world ranking in the eligible discipline during the 2018/19 season;
- A.2.1.6 results obtained in competitions during the season generally, with greater emphasis on more recent results in order to select on current form

A.2.2 Team Event

Only athletes who have achieved a result of less than 120 FIS points will be eligible for selection to the Team Event. The Nordic Selection Panel has absolute discretion to select the athletes who will achieve the best result in the event. Such factors that may be considered by but not limited to, (in no priority), will be:

- A.2.2.1 FIS points accumulated during the 2018/19 season

A.2.2.2 athletes' world ranking in any discipline during the 2018/19 season

A.2.3.3 results obtained in competitions during the season generally, with greater emphasis on more recent results in order to select on current form

A.3 Major Championships

Selection to represent Great Britain at major championships will be made without bias or discrimination and is open to any British Athlete who meets relevant criteria.

A.3.1 FIS World Nordic Ski Championships

Selection for 2019 FIS World Nordic Ski Championships (WSC), in Seefeld, Austria (19th February to 3rd March) is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS Chief Medical Officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.3.1.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

BSS will consider athletes for selection to the WSC based upon the following minimum criteria for Men's and Ladies in the preceding 12 months before the selection date (25th January 2019):

A Criteria

- Three race results scoring below 90 FIS points in the relevant discipline, (athletes who meet the criteria in the specific discipline are only eligible for that discipline). Only FIS Points scored in World Cup, Tour de Ski, Norwegian and Scandinavian Cups, Scandinavian and Central European National Championships, OPA races and Beitostolen FIS races will be considered. The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

OR

- One Top 30 result in Sprint or Distance in a World Cup during 2018-19 season, qualification only relevant in specific discipline in which top 30 is achieved

B Criteria (1996 or younger)

If the maximum quota has not been filled using A criteria, athletes who are born in 1996 or younger and have met 120 FIS points in two or more events in the preceding 12 months before the selection date (25th January) may be considered for selection. Only FIS Points scored in World Cup, Tour de Ski, Norwegian and Scandinavian Cups, Scandinavian and Central European National Championships, OPA races and Beitostolen FIS races will be considered.

Athletes must achieve the result in the specific discipline to be eligible to race in that discipline

(Distance or Sprint). The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

Athletes who achieve three race results scoring below 90 FIS points, as per criteria above, before 5th February will be invited to the pre World Championships Training Camp, 11th – 18th February 2019.

Significant results following the World U23 and Junior Championships may also be considered by the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel will also need to confirm all eligible athletes are adequately supported by current form.

If there are more athletes eligible and qualified for selection than quota places allocated, the selection panel has absolute discretion to select athletes who, in their reasonable opinion, are most likely to achieve the best result at the Championships.

Such factors that may be considered but not limited to, (in no priority), will be:

- A.3.1.1.1 World Cup points accumulated during the 2018/19 season;
- A.3.1.1.2 athletes' world ranking in the eligible discipline during the 2018/19 season;
- A.3.1.1.3 results obtained in competitions during the season generally, with greater emphasis on more recent results in order to select on current form

A.3.1.2 Team Event

Only athletes who have below 120 FIS points will be eligible for selection to the Team Event. The Nordic Selection Panel who has absolute discretion to select the athletes who will achieve the best result in the event. Such factors that may be considered by but not limited to, (in no priority), will be:

- A.3.1.2.1 FIS points accumulated during the 2018/19 season
- A.3.1.2.1 athletes' world ranking in any discipline during the 2018/19 season
- A.3.1.3.1 results obtained in competitions during the season generally, with greater emphasis on more recent results in order to select on current form

A.3.2 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival

Nomination for the 2019 European Youth Olympic Winter Festival (EYOWF), 9 - 16 February is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below in one or more of the Cross Country disciplines

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.3.2.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Athletes can be considered if they are born in 2001 or 2002 and have met the below FIS point criteria in a European or Scandinavian FIS race of any category in the preceding 12 months before the selection date (7th January):

	Distance	Sprint
Men's	172	300
Ladies'	190	265

In the event that there are more than 4 Male or 4 Ladies who meet the criteria, the athletes with the lowest individual FIS point result will be given priority for selection. The EYOF team leader will also provide a report on their recommendation of athletes to be selected. The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete. For athletes who meet only the Sprint qualification, participation in the Distance races will be considered on a case by case basis and the final decision will be at the discretion of the Performance Director or EYOF team leader.

A.3.3 FIS U23 World Ski Championships

Selection for 2019 FIS U23 World Ski Championships in Lahti, Finland (19th to 27th January 2019) is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below in one or more of the Cross Country disciplines

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.3.3.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

World U23 team has a maximum quota of 4 Men and 4 Ladies. Athletes can be considered if they are born in 1996, 1997 or 1998, and have met the below FIS point criteria in any category (Distance or Sprint) in the preceding 12 months before the selection date (7th January 2019):

	Distance	Sprint
Men's	170	195
Ladies'	180	200

The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

A.3.3.2 Other Requirements

To demonstrate current form, athletes' (Men and Ladies), who have met the selection criteria in the previous Northern Hemisphere winter season, must score 200 Distance or Sprint FIS points or better in one event between 1 October 2018 and the final date of application for selection. Final selection for an individual race will be at the Head Coach's discretion.

A.3.4 World Junior Championships (WJC) 2019

Selection for 2019 FIS World Junior Ski Championships in Lahti, Finland (19th to 27th January

2019), is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below in one or more of the Cross Country disciplines

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.3.4.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

The WJC will be held together with the WU23 Championships, with maximum junior team of 6 Men and 6 Ladies.

Athletes can be considered if they are born in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 or 2003 and have met the below FIS point criteria in any category (Distance or Sprint) in the preceding 12 months before the selection date (7th January 2019):

	Distance	Sprint
Men	200	200
Ladies'	220	220

The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

Final selection for an individual and team event, however, will be at the Head Coach's discretion during the event.

A.3.5 OPA Games

The 2019 OPA Youth and Junior games will take place on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2019 in Les Brassus, Switzerland.

Selection for 2019 FIS OPA Youth and Junior games is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below in one or more of the Cross Country disciplines

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.3.5.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Athletes can be considered if they have met the below FIS point criteria or relevant % result in any category (Distance or Sprint) in the preceding 12 months before the selection date of 11th February 2019.

DOB of athlete	Female	Male
2003	One result better than 32 % behind age DOB winner	One result better than 28 % behind DOB winner
2002	One result better than 28 % behind DOB winner	One result better than 25 % behind DOB winner
2001	One result better than 25 % behind DOB winner	One result better less than 23 % behind DOB winner
2000 – 1999	One result better than 240 FIS points	One result better than 220 FIS points

The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.

A.3.6 World University Games

Selection to the 2019 World University Winter Games in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, (2nd to 12th March) is open to any British athlete who meets the following eligibility criteria:

- must hold a British passport
- must be registered with FIS as British
- must meet or exceed the BSS minimum eligibility criteria set out below in one or more of the Cross Country disciplines

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

- they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or
- the BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

FISU & BUCS Eligibility Criteria

FISU Regulations 1

Only the following may participate as competitors in a FISU Sporting Event:

- Students who are currently officially registered as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at the university or similar institute whose status is recognised by the appropriate national academic authority of their country (e.g. the Department of Education in the UK).
- Former students of the institutions mentioned in (i) who have obtained their academic degree/diploma in the year preceding the event, i.e. students graduating in the academic year

2017/18 are eligible to compete.

FISU Regulations 2

All competitors must satisfy the following conditions.

- i) Be a national of the country they represent (therefore hold a full 10 year UK passport)
- ii) Be at least 17 and less than 25 years of age on January 1st in the year of the event (i.e. born between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 2001)

Students studying abroad are eligible for selection provided they satisfy FISU regulations above.

Students attending courses franchised out from an institution [complying with FISU Regulations 1 (i)] are eligible for selection providing they also satisfy FISU Regulation 2.

BUCS Criteria (Academic)

The minimum level of study has been set at Level 4 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, or equivalent. Level 4 is equivalent to Higher National Certificates (HNC) and Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE).

Exemptions to permit the selection of student athletes studying below Level 4 can be considered where:

1. The student still meets the FISU regulation 1.i) above
2. There is no direct financial implication to BUCS
3. It can be demonstrated that this inclusion encourages additional benefit to Level 4 students

The inclusion of students studying below Level 4 should not be at the expense of a student studying at Level 4 or above.

Athletes will not be eligible for nomination if:

they are currently serving a suspension for a doping or other disciplinary offence, or the BSS medical officer considers after a medical examination, or report from the official medical support team, that an athlete is not fit to compete.

A.3.5.1 Minimum Eligibility Criteria

Athletes can be considered if they have met the below FIS point criteria in any category (Distance or Sprint) in the preceding 12 months before the selection date of 21st January.

	Distance	Sprint
Men	180	205
Ladies'	190	210

The Selection Panel has absolute discretion to consider the performance level and field size of the event where the FIS points are scored before selecting an athlete.