



COMMONWEALTH GAMES SELECTION POLICY

Lawn Bowls (including Para Bowls)

XXII COMMONWEALTH GAMES, Birmingham (England)

28th July – 8th August 2022



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1. Introduction

1. Bowls England and Commonwealth Games England (CGE) have agreed this selection policy. The aim of this policy is to provide absolute clarity on the process that will be followed in selecting those athletes to represent Team England at Birmingham 2022.
2. It provides detail on the process by which Bowls England will arrive at athlete nominations, which will be submitted to CGE for consideration, for final selection to Team England for Birmingham 2022.
3. 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 for selection to the 2022 Games rests with CGE.

2. Competition Format

The format in Open and Para events, subject to the number of entries in each discipline, will be Group Stages with the top three teams in each group qualifying for the knockouts – Quarter-Final, Semi-Final and Final. The two losing semi-finalists will play off for the Bronze Medal in each discipline.

Open Events

1. There are four Open events for athletes of both gender:
 - Singles
 - Pairs
 - Triples
 - Fours
2. The competition schedule will enable the Open Singles/Fours to be played at the same time, then the Open Pairs/Triples at the same time for each gender. The England Lawn Bowls Team will feature five men and five women, who will each participate in two of the four events listed above during the Games.

Para Events

1. There are three Para events:
 - Men's Pairs (B6-B8)
 - Women's Pairs (B6-B8)
 - Mixed Pairs (B2-B3)
2. Each athlete entered in the Mixed Pairs is entitled to one Director not included in the maximum possible slot allocation.



3. Performance Targets

1. We expect to medal in 5 of the 8 Open events – 1 x Gold; 2 x Silver and 2 x Bronze – and 1 x bronze medal in the Para events as included within our Medal Preparation Programme.

4. Entry

1. Entry numbers per event and the overall number of athletes in the Lawn Bowls team are in accordance with Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) agreed numbers and the allocations set by CGE.

5. Date Changes

1. Bowls England reserves the right to update the dates and selection event information outlined in this policy based on any changes made to the 2021 competition calendar, and any new information released relating to key dates and timelines set by CGE. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to athletes and coaches in writing by the Performance Director.

6. Eligibility

1. CGE has set the additional following criteria for all Team England athletes:
 - All athletes must sign up to CGE Team Members Agreement
 - All athletes must hold a British Passport
 - All athletes must complete appropriate UKAD education and training
 - All athletes must sign the CGF Entry and Eligibility form

Eligibility requirements are set by the CGF and CGE's decision on any question of eligibility shall be final. The eligibility requirements are set out under Article 24 of the Commonwealth Games Federation's Constitution.

7. The Team

1. The 'Team' means the team that is selected by Bowls England and includes Performance Director, Coaches, Athletes (including the Directors for B2-B3), Nominated Reserves (non-travelling), medical support personnel and the Team Leader.

8. Nomination Panel

1. The Nomination Panel will consist of:
 - Bowls England Performance Director
 - Bowls England Head Coach (Men)
 - Bowls England Head Coach (Women)
 - Bowls England Head Coach (Para)



The Head Coach for each specific area will nominate their selection to the Performance Director for consideration. The Performance Director will have the casting vote on each player.

2. The nominations will be made through discussions with International Selectors and Coaches relating to the eligible athletes and their ability to deliver the best results for Team England. Additional expertise may be invited to the Nomination Panel meeting on the basis of providing specific insight and information that may assist in the nomination process. Independent observers from outside the sport of lawn bowls may also be invited to attend the Nomination Panel meeting.

9. Nomination Process

1. Information will be compiled prior to the Nomination Panel meeting to support the Panel's decision-making during the meeting. This will include, but is not limited to:
 - a) Analytics related to the performance factors (see "Performance Factors" section below)
 - b) Analytics related to performance at the Designated Selection Events
 - c) Analytics related to performance of other nations
 - d) Injury, illness, and training information related to athletes achieving the performance standards since Gold Coast 2018
2. Following the completion of the DSEs listed in this Policy, the Nomination Panel shall take into account any relevant input deemed necessary from the Bowls England nominated Sport Science and Medical staff, coaches, International Selectors and performance team to discuss the nomination of the athletes and coaches. International Selectors are elected in accordance with the Bowls England Rules & Regulations.
3. Athletes meeting the eligibility criteria will be considered against the Performance Factors.
4. The nomination of the athletes and coaches will be based on the premise that Bowls England wishes to have the best chance to achieve its Performance Targets (as above).
5. The Nomination Panel will consider all factors including results at the DSEs but ultimately the nomination is at the discretion of the Nomination Panel acting fairly and without bias.
6. Following this consultation, the Nomination Panel will forward a list of nominated athletes and coaches to the Approval Panel for their scrutiny, by no later than Monday 3rd January 2022.
7. The communication of nominations is strictly confidential and not to be publicised.

8. All members of the Nomination Panel shall declare any conflict of interest prior to selection discussions starting and shall not take part any further part in those discussions or voting process.
9. All members of the Nomination Panel are experts within their selected field.

10. Approval Panel and Communication of Selection

1. The Approval Panel, comprising the Chief Executive, Chair of Bowls England and an Independent Appointed Representative, will consider the nominations for athletes and coaches received from the Nomination Panel and shall consider whether to ratify some or all of them on the basis that it also wishes the Team to have the best chance to achieve its medal target. Each member of the Approval Panel will have one vote each – the Chief Executive shall have the casting vote.
2. The Approval Panel will confirm the selection of the Team before Monday 10th January 2022. All members of the Approval Panel shall declare any conflict of interest prior to selection discussions starting and shall not take part in any discussion or voting thereafter.
3. All team members will receive notification of the nominated team by email at 10am on Monday 10th January 2022. All team members shall keep details of the nominated team confidential until the final ratification by Commonwealth Games England and with the permission of Bowls England.

11. Selection Process for Team Officials

1. The Performance Director will be recruited in an open and transparent manner prior to the main team selection based upon the following criteria:
 - a) Ability to contribute to the Performance Targets
 - b) The Team's best needs
 - c) Ability to lead, organise and control under situations of high responsibility and stress
 - d) International experience and performance
 - e) Coaching Qualifications
2. The number of accreditations approved by CGE will determine the number of coaches.

12. Expectations of Nominated/Selected Athletes and Coaches

1. Athletes will be selected on the basis of having the best chance of achieving the Performance Targets as set out in Section 3. By entering the selection process, athletes agree to be bound by the provisions of this policy.
2. Nominated/Selected athletes (including the reserves) and coaches will undertake all identified pre-games programme activities (Camps and

Competitions) laid out by the Performance Director as part of the preparations for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

3. Athletes (including the reserves) and coaches must also agree to observe and sign up to all obligations outlined within the Team England Team Members Agreement (and any related agreement, rule or regulation), any subsequent Codes of Behaviour adopted by Bowls England as well as comply with UK Anti-Doping education requirements.

13. Nomination Appeals

1. Appeals can only be submitted for a period of 48 hours from the selection being announced as detailed in Section 10.3 by a non-selected athlete because the process outlined within this Selection Policy has not been adhered to.

An athlete may appeal on the following grounds

- correct selection process was not followed
 - decision maker was biased
 - decision was made on an error of fact
2. The Bowls England Commonwealth Games appeals policy can be found on the Bowls England website at: www.bowlsengland.com
 3. Following the completion of the appeals process, the Team shall be nominated to Commonwealth Games England for final ratification.

14. Designated Selection Events (DSE)

1. The Nomination Panel will take into consideration results and performances achieved in the period from 1st May 2018 to 30th September 2021, including but not limited to:
 - Home Nations Test Events 2021*
 - Domestic Test Events 2021*
 - Atlantic Championships 2019
 - British Isles International Series and Championships 2018-2021 inclusive
 - Bowls England National Championships 2018-2021 inclusive

Greater weighting will be given to those international events highlighted with asterisk.

2. Provided that if exceptional circumstances prevent an athlete from participating in, or hinder their performance in a DSE (including an athlete being ill or suffering an injury prior to or during one of the DSEs) the Nomination Panel may take into account such circumstances and select such athlete ahead of the others if it considers in its discretion that the selection of such athlete is in the best interests of the Team meeting the Performance Targets.

3. An athlete who suffers the exceptional circumstances referred to above should provide such explanation and evidence of the relevant circumstances as is requested by the Nomination Panel, including, in the case of injury or illness, written authentication of the injury or illness by a medical professional.

15. Performance Factors

1. In considering any players for selection the following criteria shall be used:
 - i. Availability and commitment to playing in International Events
 - ii. Current and past achievements at National and International level
 - iii. Experience
 - iv. Current form
 - v. Compatibility and playing style, including perceived technical strengths and weaknesses in relation to the Commonwealth Games
 - vi. Physiological and psychological strengths and weaknesses
 - vii. Professionalism and overall attitude to competing at the top level and ability to participate as part of a team

The panel's comments against each of these criteria will be recorded in order that it may be explained to athletes how the decisions on selection were made.

2. The weighting of any of these criteria will remain at the sole discretion of the Performance Director.

16. Injury & Replacement

1. In the event of injury and replacement, a non-travelling reserve who has competed in the DSEs may be called upon by the Approval Panel to join the Commonwealth Games Team.
2. Once Team selections have been confirmed by the Approval Panel, all selected athletes (including the reserves) must agree not to withhold any information on training fitness, injury status or illness that could affect training or competition at any time up to and including during the Commonwealth Games.
3. All selected athletes must declare the use of any restricted medications, and submit these to World Bowls for medical approval in accordance with the current Therapeutic Use Exemption.
4. An athlete or coach may be removed from the Team in the event of a non-compliance in training, a breach of the Team England Team Members Agreement or a violation of the Codes of Behaviour adopted by the Team. Prior to removal, the athlete or coach must be presented with the opportunity to attend a removal interview with the Performance Director (or their appointed representative) and where possible one other independent person. A period of five working days will be given in order for athletes/coaches to prepare. Written justification must be provided for all removals by the

Performance Director. Decisions on these matters following the removal interview (if applicable) are open to appeal.

5. At any stage following the selection announcement and prior to departure to the competition, should any athlete fail to reach performance expectations in training or competition or suffer a loss of form to such an extent that it leads the Performance Director to reasonably believe that such athlete cannot perform to their expected ability at the Games, the Performance Director may recommend de-selection to the Approval Panel. The Approval Panel will consider this recommendation in full, set out the reasons for such decision to the affected athlete and provide an opportunity for the athlete to make a counter argument in writing and then pass judgement. Written justification must be provided for all removals. Decisions on these matters are open to appeal.
6. At any stage following the arrival of the Team at the competition and during the event, should any athlete fail to reach performance expectations in training or competition, a Team Coach may recommend de-selection to the Performance Director. The Performance Director will consider this recommendation, provide an opportunity for the athlete to attend an interview to make a counterargument, and then pass judgement. Five working days notice will be given ahead of the interview. Written justification must be provided for all removals. Decisions on these matters are not open to appeal.
7. At any stage following the selection announcement, in the run up to the Team list being formally entered, should there be a doubt over the ability of an athlete to compete to the best of their ability due to an injury or illness, the following procedure will be adhered to:
 - The athlete will be referred to Bowls England's designated Medical Officer (MO) to undergo a medical examination to determine their fitness to participate. Initially this will be based on an assessment of whether or not the injury and/or illness is such that the athlete is physically unable to compete or is at risk of causing medical harm to themselves, or endangering other competitors, officials or spectators. If the athlete is deemed not fit to compete or refuses to undergo the examination, his/her nomination will be withdrawn, and Bowls England will nominate the relevant reserve athlete.
 - If the athlete passes the initial medical examination carried out by the MO but the Performance Director still has concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to the best of their ability due to the underlying injury or illness, the athlete will be required to undertake a 'Fitness Test'.
 - The Fitness Test is an objective assessment that will require the athlete to perform to a level at least equivalent to that demonstrated in the selection events. The Performance Director, the Team Coaches and CGE will agree the format for the Test. The test(s) will be carried out in the presence of two independently appointed persons who are

nominated by the Performance Director. The athlete will be given five working days' notice ahead of the test.

- In the event that an athlete fails to complete the Fitness Test to the required standard, they will be removed from the Team, a decision which is not open to appeal. This will be made by the Performance Director in consultation with the Team Coaches and CGE.
8. Any replacement(s) required will be made by the Performance Director in consultation with the Team Coaches on the basis of the needs of the Team and will come out of the pool of nominated non-travelling reserves. Decisions on these matters are not open to appeal.

17. Team Organisation

1. The Team will attend pre-games preparation camps and competitions in accordance with the Bowls England High Performance Plan (subject to changes).
2. The Team (other than the non-travelling reserve) will transfer to the Commonwealth Games on a date TBC.
3. All athletes within the Team will be required to sign and comply with the Bowls England International Player Code of Conduct, the Team England Team Member's Agreement and completed the UKAD education requirements.

18. Announcement

1. Selected Team Members agree not to make any announcement to the media or public in any form (including on any personal websites) regarding their selection until after Bowls England and CGE have announced the team selection.

19. Any additional matters not covered by this Policy

1. Any matters arising from the selection process that are not covered within this policy shall be determined by the Approval Panel acting at their sole discretion but taking into account the previously agreed conflicts of interest policy.

20. General

1. Insofar as is permitted by law, Bowls England do not accept liability for any loss or damage occurring as a result of the selection process (including anything arising from non-selection and/or ratification by CGE). This shall not affect any statutory rights that are available, and this shall not limit or exclude any liability that may not be excluded or limited by law. English law shall govern this selection policy.



Appendix A: Commonwealth Games Federation – Eligibility Conditions

To be eligible to compete for Team England, athletes must be able to comply with the eligibility conditions as determined by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) as below:

1. It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 17.
2. Primacy
 - 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:
 - a) Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them; or
 - b) Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them.
 3. Secondary
 - 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:
 - a) the Commonwealth Country of their birth; or
 - b) the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent; or
 - c) 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.England) 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,
 - d) National Federation and/or
 - e) 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.



Appendix B: World Bowls – Eligibility for International Events

- 9.8 Subject to Regulation 9.9, no player shall be qualified to represent a country competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and Events) unless he or she:
- 9.8.1 is not currently under disqualification or suspension by World Bowls or the National Authority of the country they are representing;
 - 9.8.2 satisfies the eligibility criteria of the member National Authority of the country they are representing;
 - 9.8.3 complies with all applicable rules and regulations of World Bowls, their member National Authority and the World Anti-Doping Code as may be applied by World Bowls to ensure that the overriding principles of World Bowls are observed.
- 9.9 A player is qualified to represent a country competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and Events) if:
- 9.9.1 he or she was born in the country; or
 - 9.9.2 he or she is a citizen of the country, or
 - 9.9.3 he or she has been a permanent resident of the country for a period of twenty four months immediately prior to the event.
- 9.10 A player who is eligible to represent two or more countries competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and Events) in terms of Regulation 9.8 and 9.9, may upon notice being given to the World Bowls Board elect to represent either country.
- 9.11 A player who is eligible to represent two or more countries competing in any World Bowls sanctioned international event (including all International Events and Events) in terms of Regulation 9.8 and 9.9, who has previously represented a country in a World Bowls sanctioned event (including all International Events and Events) may not represent another country:
- 9.11.1 for a period of at least twenty four months; and
 - 9.11.2 without the approval of the National Authorities of both countries that the player is eligible to represent; and
 - 9.11.3 without the approval of the Board of World Bowls.
- 9.12 The Board of World Bowls shall have the power to alter or waive the provisions of Regulation 9.10 and 9.11 in any case for good reason or if circumstances warrant.

Athletes selected to represent National Authorities at the Commonwealth Games must comply with Article 24 of the Commonwealth Games Federation Constitution relating to eligibility.