

AEROBIC GYMNASTICS
NATIONAL SQUAD SELECTION POLICY 2008

GENERAL

Selection for National Squads will take place following the final selection event of the competition season. Benchmark Scores will determine those who are eligible for the National Squads. The selection of the National Squads will be for one year, subject to the performer satisfying the conditions of membership detailed in the 'Gymnast Agreement'. Upon nomination, failure to meet the requirements of the programme or maintain the standards during squad sessions may result in de-selection.

Benchmark Scores may also be subject to amendments to reflect changes in the code of points and standards of performance.

SQUADS AND AGES (Year of Competition)

National Squads	
Senior (Over 17 years)	Group 1 or Juniors (12-14 years)
Group 2 or Youth (15-17 years)	Development (10-11 years)

ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL SQUAD SELECTION

There will be three selection events per calendar year, namely the Alex Strachan Cup, The Welsh Open and the British Championships. A gymnast's highest two scores from these events will be averaged to produce a Benchmark Score.

If fewer than 10 individual gymnasts, mixed pairs, trios or groups meet the minimum criteria, invitations can be extended by the National Squad Manager to the next highest scoring individual gymnasts, mixed pairs, trios and groups until a total of 10 invitations have been issued for each category.

In addition to these, any gymnasts who achieved a podium position in a FIG category at the British Championships will automatically be eligible for selection to the National Squad providing the score achieved at the British Championships was within 1.0 mark of the Benchmark Score.

The National Coaching Team, on the basis of a gymnast's past experience and potential contribution may make 'Wild Card' nominations to the National Squad Manager. Examples of this may include a gymnast with no Benchmark Score i.e. a gymnast who only competed in one selection event. If appropriate, the National Squad Manager may then consider International competition results/scores when making the evaluation.

All applications must be received by the Programme Co-ordinator no later than 30 days after the British Championships (October 6-7, 2007). The National Squad Manager and the National Technical Committee will consider the application and, depending upon the outcome, an invitation may be issued.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Development

- a. Be 10-11 years old in the year of competition
- b. Receive a nomination from the National Squad Manager. The nomination must be received no later than 30 days after the last selection event in the competition season.
- c. Due to the fluctuation of scores within this age group, the Benchmark Score for nomination will be decided upon by the National Technical Committee, following the last selection event in the competition season.

Group 1 or Youth

- a. Be 12-14 years old in the year of competition
- b. Meet the minimum criteria for the benchmark score of 16.500; and
- c. Achieve a top 10 benchmark score or receive an invitation from the National Squad Manager; or

- d. Be awarded a wild card entry by the National Technical Committee; or
- e. Achieve a podium place at the British Championships with a score no less than 1.0 lower than the Pre-entry score.

Group 2 or Junior

- a. Be 15-17 years old in the year of competition.
- b. Meet the minimum criteria for the benchmark score of 16.500; and
- c. Achieve a top 10 benchmark score or receive an invitation from the National Squad Manager; or
- d. Be awarded a wild card entry by the National Technical Committee; or
- e. Achieve a podium place at the British Championships with a score not less than 1.0 point lower than the Pre-entry score.

Senior

- a. Be over 17 years old in the year of competition
- b. Meet the minimum criteria for the benchmark score of 17.000; and
- c. Achieve a top 10 benchmark score or receive an invitation from the National Squad Manager; or
- d. Be awarded a wild card entry by the National Technical Committee; or
- e. Achieve a podium place at the British Championships with a score no less than 1.0 point lower than the Pre-entry score.

All National Squad members are required to sign up to the 'Gymnast Agreement'. This document gives a comprehensive guide to the responsibilities of both the gymnast and the National Governing Body.

Selection of the National Squads will be announced on or before Friday the 19th of October, 2007.

HOLIDAYS/MISCELLANEOUS

Gymnasts who have pre-arranged engagements such as operations, long-term family commitments or long-standing holiday arrangements that conflict with squad training or national selection events should notify the Programme Co-ordinator, in writing, no later than one month prior to conflict.

Squad gymnasts involved in other disciplines may only be exempt from Aerobic Gymnastic National Squad training sessions if they are competing at national qualifications or national and international championships in the other discipline. The procedures below must then be strictly adhered to:

- *Competing at National Qualifications or National Championships in another discipline: A written explanation will be required from the personal coach of the discipline required.*
- *Competing at International Championships in another discipline: A written explanation will be required from the Technical Chair, National Coach or National Squad Manager of the discipline concerned.*

ILLNESS AND INJURY

Gymnasts wishing to be considered / reconsidered for selection for National Squads must provide medical evidence should they be unable to attend or take part in competitions which form the selection procedure. Performers must gain medical certification from a registered GP or British Gymnastics approved medical personnel.

Consideration of injuries and illness will be made, however there is just one wildcard per squad. Therefore there can be no guarantee of selection of any gymnast. Where a gymnast is injured for an extended period of time, within the bounds of confidentiality, the National Coaches shall discuss the performers long term prognosis with British Gymnastics approved medical personnel and a decision will be made on continued inclusion in the National Squads. The National Squad Manager, subject to the approval of the National Technical Committee, will decide the final outcome for continued support.

REMOVAL

A gymnast may be removed from the National Squad or from any stage of the selection process in the event that injury or illness would inhibit performance. Verification of injury or illness will be made by British Gymnastics approved medical personnel. All procedures in the respect of confidentiality will be in accordance with British Gymnastics policy.

A gymnast may be removed from the National Squad Selection Procedure in the event of non-compliance in training, a breach of responsibility to the team or a violation of the codes of behaviour or 'Gymnast Agreement'.

The removal of a gymnast will be in compliance with British Gymnastics procedures and any decision will be subject to review through the British Gymnastics Appeals Process.

NATIONAL SQUAD SELECTION POLICY 2008 APPROVED BY:

Signed  _____

Matthew Greenwood MPhil, BA (Hons)
Director (Technical and Performance)

MEDICAL PERSONNEL APPROVED BY BRITISH GYMNASTICS

Mr John Aldridge FRCS
Dr Mark Batt

NATIONAL SQUAD MANAGER

Martine Griffiths

NATIONAL SQUAD COACHES

Seniors

Gary Jarvis

Natalia Ilienکو-Jarvis

15-17

Gemma Kirkham

Kerry Scotts

12-14

Martine Griffiths

Roxanne Stephens

Development

Debbie Saunders

Katie Richards

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR

Amy Walmsley