

**AEROBIC GYMNASTICS  
NATIONAL SQUAD SELECTION POLICY 2009**

**GENERAL**

Selection for National Squads will take place following the final selection event of the 2008 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 (January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009), 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)**

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

**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. In the event that there is a qualification and final round at any of the selection events the score from the qualification round will be used to produce the 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 age group.



In addition to these, any gymnast winning a gold medal 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 0.5 of the Benchmark Score.

In the event of a tie gymnasts will be ranked firstly according to the average of the execution, then the artistic then the difficulty scores from the selection events used to provide the benchmark score.

The National Coaching Team, on the basis of a gymnast's past experience and potential contribution may make 'Wild Card' nominations. National Coaches may only nominate for the age group that they coach and may only nominate one wild card for that age group. Examples of this may include a gymnast with no Benchmark Score i.e. a gymnast who only competed in one selection event. In addition, the National Squad Manager may make a total of one further wild card nomination that may be used for any one of the four age groups and any one of the categories.

All wild card nominations must be received by the Programme Co-ordinator no later than 30 days after the British Championships (October 3-5, 2008). 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. Meet the minimum criteria for the benchmark score of 15.500; and
- c. Achieve a top 10 benchmark score or receive a nomination from the National Squad Manager; or
- d. Be awarded a wild card entry by the National Technical Committee; or
- e. Achieve a gold medal place at the British Championships with a score no less than 0.5 lower than the Pre-entry score.

### **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 gold medal place at the British Championships with a score no less than 0.5 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 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 gold medal place at the British Championships with a score not less than 0.5 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 18.000; 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 gold medal place at the British Championships with a score no less than 0.5 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 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2008.

### **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, gymnasts who are ill / injured and are unable to attend two or more of the selection events can only be selected via a wild card nomination.

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 2009 APPROVED BY:**

Signed  \_\_\_\_\_

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**MEDICAL PERSONNEL APPROVED BY BRITISH GYMNASTICS**

Mr John Aldridge FRCS

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**NATIONAL SQUAD MANAGER**

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**15-17**

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**12-14**

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