Surfing England Junior Training Squad

Wildcard Policy

1. **What is a wildcard?**
   a. A wildcard is a place on the English Junior squad awarded to an eligible athlete who has not been selected for the squad through the standard qualification process.

2. **Who is eligible for a wildcard?**
   a. All applicants must fulfil the standard eligibility criteria to be able to surf for the English Team
      i. Be aged 18 or under on 31st December of the relevant year (ISA qualification rules)
      ii. Be eligible to surf for England (by birth, parentage or residency)
      iii. Not have represented another nation at an International competition OR have committed to surf for England in the future.

3. **Applying for a Wildcard**
   a. Wildcard applications will run on an annual basis
   b. Information requested for wildcard applications is listed in appendix I
   c. Applications will be made by email to the Junior Team email account
   d. All applications will be screened for eligibility, recorded, and acknowledged
   e. Applications will be collated and submitted to the selection panel
   f. A selection panel will be held within two weeks of applications closing to review and decide whether there will be any wildcards awarded
   g. Applicants will be informed of the status of their application within 4 weeks of the closing date.

4. **Selection Panel**
   a. The panel will consist of a Chair and a minimum of 2 additional members of the junior management team or Surfing England operations team.
   b. In the case of a split decision the Chair will have the casting vote.
   c. Selection for the squad will be based on the criteria listed in appendix II

5. **Notification of results**
   a. Applicants will be informed of the success or failure of their application by return email.

6. **Appeals process**
   a. The decision of the panel is final, however any athletes that feel the process has not been followed correctly, have the right to appeal
   b. Any appeal must be made in line with the Surfing England appeals policy
Appendix I

Wildcard Applications

All applications should include the following information:

- Name
- Age / DOB
- Location
- Eligibility to surf for England
- Competition results
- Current/ Previous Coaches
- References/ testimonials
- Sponsors
- Evidence of surfing ability
  - Clips/videos
  - Social media links
- Why they wish to surf for England
Appendix II

Selection criteria

The panel will consider a range of criteria in the wildcard application process. This will include, but is not limited to:

- **Competition results**
  - Is the surfer active in competition at a school, local, regional, national or international level
  - What results have they achieved, is there evidence of progression

- **Surfing ability**
  - More general observation of surfing ability
    - Wave selection
    - Speed, power and flow
    - Type and variety of manoeuvres
    - Ability to combine manoeuvres
    - Level of progression

- **Technique**
  - The degree of difficulty of manoeuvres being executed
  - The completeness and execution of the moves

- **Comparison with current squad members/peers.**
  - Is the individual at the level expected for a Team England squad member of that age?

- **Potential for improvement.**
  - Can the panel see the level of raw talent and commitment that is needed to become internationally competitive?

- **Dedication.**
  - Why do they want to join the squad? What action are they taking to improve and develop as a surfer. How much time is going into training in and out the water.

- **Professionalism.**
  - Will this individual be an ambassador for our sport and a positive influence within the team?