

## **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 31<sup>st</sup> 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?