



Selection Policy:

Junior Training Squad and Junior Team England

Junior Training Squad

The Team England Junior Squad will number approximately 30 surfers, selected as the top juniors eligible to compete for England (as per the [ISA rule book](#)) between the ages of 12 and 18. There is no specific requirement on the number of surfers within each age category.

The Squad will consist of both domestic and internationally based surfers who fulfil the eligibility criteria. Selection will be based on ability and not location.

To qualify for the training squad, surfers must be aged 18 or under on 31st December of the selection year, and:

- ii. Be eligible to surf for England (by birth, parentage or residency)
- iii. Not represented another nation at an International competition OR have committed to surf for England in the future

There will be an expectation for internationally based squad members to compete at a minimum of one domestic or Team England event per year, this could include a training session.

Squad selection will be based on, but not limited to:

- Event performance, in the following order of weighting:
 - QS or Pro Junior, ISA Worlds, Eurosurf, National Championships, Gromsearch, Junior Series / domestic junior events
- Existing squad members training performance, attitude and commitment
- Wildcard application

Selection will be made by a panel consisting of at least 2 Team England coaches and the Junior Team Manager. The panel will use the above criteria and have the discretion to consider wider factors, for example talented surfers that may face additional challenges due to protected characteristics, family or personal circumstances. The panel's ultimate aim is to select the surfers with the highest potential to grow and succeed as athletes, regardless of background.

Wildcard applications to the training squad

A wildcard is a place on the English Junior squad available to those who may not have the requisite level of event performance or track record on the squad.

All applicants must fulfil the standard eligibility criteria to be able to surf for the English Team.

Surfers who have been selected for the previous year's squad, but not been able to requalify due to injury or illness may request an injury wildcard.

Wildcard applications will open pre-season on an annual basis in December/January each year and remain open for a minimum of 4 weeks.

Applications will be made by email direct to juniorteam@surfingengland.org . A selection panel will be held once the application window has closed to determine whether any wildcards will be awarded.

Wild card applications should include:

- Name
- Age / DOB
- Location
- Confirmation of eligibility to surf for England
- Competition results
- Current/ Previous Coaches and coach reference or testimonial
- Any sponsor details
- Evidence of surfing ability:
 - Clips/videos
 - Photos
 - Social media links
- An introduction to the surfer, their aims and ambitions and what they feel they can bring to the squad.
- Details of any other factors the applicant / parents would like to be considered, this can include any challenges or other mitigating factors the athlete has faced over the last 12 months

Team England Junior Selection

Team England selection will be made from the Team England junior training squad, unless there is an exceptional circumstance where a surfer has not been included in the squad (could be due to illness, not applying, recent eligibility etc) but their competition performance warrants selection.

Team selection (size, categories etc) will be event dependant, but the same process will be used:

Selection will be made through a selection panel format. The panel will consist of a minimum 2 coaches, the team manager and a Surfing England team or board member or appropriate delegation. Voting rights will be held by the coaches and manager, only in event of a split decision will the surfing England exec or board member exercise their vote.

Selection will be primarily based on contest results from the previous 12 months, with weighting going toward more recent performances (within last 6 months) and the standard of competition. In order of weighting:

1. WSL event performance

2. ISA World Games
3. Regional qualifying series events (from 5000 down to 1000 including boardmasters)
4. WSL pro junior events and Euro Surf European Junior Championships
5. Domestic competition – in order of weighting: National Championships, GromSearch, Junior Series

The selection panel may also consider wider factors, such as performance within the above competitions (including single wave scores and heat totals), attendance at training, attitude and behaviour, commitment, team dynamics and any other specific circumstances that may be impacting a surfer's performance or the performance of the team.

Right to appeal

All surfers and surfer's parents have a right to challenge team selection. There are two routes to appeal:

1. Informal appeal. If a surfer wishes to appeal a selection decision, they can make an informal appeal within 2 weeks of the team announcement via the team manager or Surfing England office. Informal appeals will only consider the reasons why a surfer did not get selected (they will not be used to interrogate other surfers selection) and will take the form of a video, phone or in person discussion with at least one of the selection panel to explain why the appellant didn't make the squad. The idea is to provide useful feedback to athlete and parents that may help the surfer better understand the process and where they might want to focus on for future selection opportunities.
2. Formal appeal. This will be via the official Surfing England appeal procedures which scrutinise whether the selection panel followed the selection process, but will not challenge the professional judgement of the panel ([LINK TO PROCEDURE](#)). Formal appeal that requires independent judgement will incur a fee to the appellant.