

# Selection and Selection Appeals Policy

## Team England Open

### Shortboard & Longboard

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## Definitions

“ADRV”	means Anti-Doping Rule Violation
“Appeal”	means an appeal against a Selection decision under the Policy;
“Appeal Panel”	means the panel which addresses Formal Appeals once they go beyond the capacity of the Selection Panel;
“Appeal Process”	means the process for addressing Appeals within the Policy;
“Appellant”	means any athlete or Authorised Representative who makes an Appeal against a Selection decision;
“Authorised Representative”	means any party who is authorised to accompany the Appellant at certain stages of the procedures outlined within the Policy;
“Chairperson”	means the Chairperson of Surfing England’s Board
“Chair of the Appeal Panel”	means the individual whose role is to have leadership responsibilities over the Appeal Panel;
“GBR”	means the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
“Notice of Appeal”	means the notice given by the Appellant to initiate Appeal proceedings;
“Surfing England”	means Surfing England Ltd.;
“Second Appeal Notice”	means the notice received by the Appeal Panel once the Appeal Process has advanced beyond the Selection Panel’s deliberations;
“Selection”	means the process of selecting athletes to represent England to Surfing England Squads
“Selection Panel”	means the Surfing England Selection Panel; a committee responsible for the Selection or nomination of Surfing England Squads or Surfing England Teams and decides upon Informal selection appeals

<b>Acronym / Abbreviation</b>	<b>Means</b>
AASP	Association Adaptive Surfing Professionals
ADRV	Anti Doping Rule Violation
BLU	British Longboard Union
DBS	Disclosure Barring Service
ENG	England
ESF	European Surfing Federation
ISA	International Surfing Association
PSL	Para Surf League
SPE	Sport England
SE	Surfing England
WADA	World Anti Doping Agency
WSL (QS) (CS)	World Surf League (Qualifying Series) (Challenger Series)
UKAD	United Kingdom Anti Doping

## 1. Objectives and Approach

- 1.1. This document outlines the Selection Policy ('Policy') which Surfing England will follow when selecting athletes for Team England to compete at ISA world and ESF Euro championships
  - 1.2. The Policy sets out the overarching Selection process as well as specifically outlining the selection criteria.
  - 1.3. The Policy also describes an Appeal Process. Any Appeal against a decision of the Selection Panel must follow strict procedures laid down in the Appeal Process. Adherence to the process ensures that all Appellants are treated equally. There is a financial charge for making an Appeal to discourage frivolous Appeals.
  - 1.4. Surfing England reserve the right to, without redress amend the Policy and/or the Selection Criteria contained herein. including in particular but not restricted to an event such as COVID-19 which materially impacts any matters related to the Policy, including in respect of qualification events or timelines.
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## 2. The Purpose of the Selection Policy

- 2.1. The purpose of the Selection Policy:
  - 2.1.1. The primary purpose of the selection policy is to select Team England for International competition, including the GB Cup, ESF Eurosurf and ISA World Longboard competitions.
  - 2.1.2. The second purpose is to give the selection panel, balanced with available resources, the option to help developing talent with exposure to world level competition.

- 2.1.3. The selection panel may consider current performance, future potential and an athlete's contribution to team culture in support of the primary and secondary objectives of the policy.
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### **3. The Selection Panel**

- 3.1. The Selection Panel is responsible for the implementation of the policy and shall as a minimum consist of a Chairperson and 2 additional members of Surfing England executive and/or board.
- 3.2. The Selection Panel can be extended to include additional coaching staff and independent advisors and shall be quorate if 3 members are present, provided one is either a Surfing England board member or senior member of the executive team. In the result of any voting that is tied, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- 3.3. Selections will be made without bias or discrimination, and, as such, any conflicts, real or perceived, must be declared and recorded at the start of the meeting. The existence of a disclosed conflict will not preclude a Selection Panel member, or attendee, from participating in deliberations. Depending on the nature of the conflict a Selection Panel member may have to abstain from voting if required. The Chair will make the final decision on if a person must abstain from voting.
- 3.4. The Selection Panel has total discretion to make Selections but in accordance with the purpose of the Policy stated above. It will use, in conjunction with its own assessment, the Selection criteria as a guide to their deliberations and conclusions.
- 3.5. Any Appeal made against a decision of the Selection Panel cannot challenge the exercise of discretion unless the Appeal can demonstrate that the discretion has not been exercised in a reasonable manner and that such discretion was exercised in such a way as to be prejudicial to the Appellant.
- 3.6. The Selection Panel will not give any preference to athletes who work or train, or who are in any other way associated with partners of, or entities associated with, Surfing England, and all Selections will be made in accordance with the rules and procedures laid down in the Policy.

### **4. Eligibility**

- 4.1. No athlete may be selected under or pursuant to the Policy unless they have satisfied the basic eligibility criteria.
- 4.2. The athlete must:

- 4.2.1. hold a British Passport and/or be eligible under ISA rules to compete for England;
  - 4.2.2. be a member of Surfing England (if you are not a member, please join here: <https://www.surfingengland.org/member/>);
  - 4.2.3. be WADA and UKAD compliant and not be banned or suspended from competition due to an Anti-Doping Rule violation (ADRV) ruling or Investigation;
  - 4.2.4. not be serving a suspension for any other disciplinary offence;
  - 4.2.5. be physically and mentally fit to compete
  - 4.2.6. All athletes should be able to self-fund to attend training and competitions
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## **5. Minimum Selection Standards and Team Size**

- 5.1.1 The selection panel is under no obligation to fill the maximum number of available team positions for any category. Team places will be awarded on merit and the criteria outlined in this Policy.
  - 5.1.2 If, in the opinion of the Selection Panel, fewer athletes meet the required performance standards, the panel may select only those athletes deemed suitable, even if this results in the team being smaller than the maximum permitted size.
  - 5.1.3 Team size may therefore vary from year to year depending on the level of athlete performance.
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## **6. The Selection Process**

- 6.1. The Selection Panel is responsible for Selection of athletes for international competition where Team England is represented
- 6.2. Following Selection Panel meetings, athletes will be notified of their Selection for Team England by Surfing England and Selections will be published on the Surfing England Website.
- 6.3. An appeals window is open for 3 days after the post has been published. Selected athletes must confirm with Surfing England their intention to take up the place prior to the Appeals window closing.

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## 7. Appeals Process

- 7.1. Any Appeal against Selection for Team events e.g. GB Cup/Europeans/ISAs, must follow the Appeal Process laid down in this Selection Policy. Any Appeal against a decision of the Selection Panel must follow strict procedures.

### Grounds of Appeal

- 7.2. An athlete, or their Authorised Representative, (“the Appellant”), may make an Appeal against a Selection decision only on one or more of the following grounds:
- 7.2.1. there has been a failure to apply the Criteria contained within the Selection Policy
- 7.2.2. the Selection Panel has failed to follow its procedures properly; and/or
- 7.2.3. the Selection Panel’s discretion has not been exercised in a reasonable manner and that such discretion was exercised in such a way as to be prejudicial to the Appellant.

### The Processes Informal and Formal

- 7.3. In the first instance an Informal Appeal is made to the Selection Panel, by email, no longer than 3 days after the selection panel’s decision is shared directly or via the website, to: [appeals@surfingengland.org](mailto:appeals@surfingengland.org) a hard copy of the appeal should be retained by both the Appellant and the Selection panel.
- 7.4. The selection panel will consider the Appeal and respond, by email, in no longer than 3 working days either:
- a) agreeing with the Appellant and changing the original decision; or
- b) rejecting the Appellant’s Appeal and explaining its reasons for the decision.
- 7.5. If an Appellant is not satisfied with the outcome of the Informal Appeal, then the Appellant may make a Formal Appeal (“the Formal Appeal Notice”) to a different panel, the Formal Appeal Panel (“the Formal Appeal Panel”), based on the same grounds of Appeal and Appeal Notice.
- 7.6. Outcomes available to the Formal Appeal Panel are:
- 7.6.1. to confirm the Selection decision under the Informal Appeal and reject the Appeal; or
- 7.6.2. to refer the Selection decision under Appeal back to the Selection Panel, identifying errors they have made in their deliberations or process, (as per the grounds outlined in clause 7.3), and requesting a new decision is made, or the original decision is confirmed correcting any errors made by the Selection Panel within a timeframe which allows their conclusions to be implemented.

### How to make a Formal Appeal

- 7.7. A Formal Appeal Process is commenced by the Appellant, addressing an email to [appeals@surfingengland.org](mailto:appeals@surfingengland.org). The email should be sent 3 business days of the notification of the failed Informal Appeal.
- 7.8. The Notice of Appeal must clearly set out the details of the decision which is being appealed and include full details of the Appellant's ground(s) of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal should attach any documents or written evidence relevant to the grounds of Appeal and which are relied upon by the Appellant.
- 7.9. All Formal Appeals must be accompanied by a bank transfer of £250 which will be refunded should the Appeal be upheld under Clause 7.7.2 above. Information regarding the bank transfer of the £250 will be stated in the response email from [appeals@surfingengland.org](mailto:appeals@surfingengland.org).
- 7.10. In the event of any Formal Appeal, the meeting note of the Formal Appeal Panel's decisions will be made available to the Appellant upon request and will be provided within one business day of such request. In some cases, it may be necessary to redact elements of the relevant minutes or meeting note.

### The Formal Appeal Panel

- 7.11. Surfing England will nominate an Formal Appeal Panel of at least 3 members, none of whom sat on the Selection Panel, and none of whom are conflicted. The members will select a Chair of the Appeal Panel.
- 7.12. The Formal Appeal Panel must receive the Formal Appeal Notice within the time frames stated in Clause 7.8. The only fee required is when the Appellant first makes a Formal Appeal to the Formal Appeal Panel.
- 7.13. The Chair of the Appeal Panel will convene a meeting to take place as soon as reasonably practical following the Formal Appeal Notice, or, if urgent for reasons of a specific event, then to take place within a time frame which allows their conclusions to be implemented.
- 7.14. The Formal Appeal Panel will investigate the grounds of the Formal Appeal set out in the Appeal Notice and establish, to their reasonable satisfaction, which of the outcomes set out in Clause 7.7 is appropriate. The Chair of the Formal Appeal Panel will notify the Selection Panel and the Appellant of their decision immediately after the meeting.
- 7.15. The decision of the Formal Appeal Panel, is final. No further Appeal of the same initial grounds of appeal will be considered.

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## 8. Team England selection for European Surfing Championships

- 8.1. To be proposed for Team England selection any athlete must meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 4 of this Selection Policy.

### **EuroSurf - Shortboard**

- 8.2. The Selection Panel will select 3 female and 3 male athletes in accordance with the event criteria, using the following criteria.
- 8.3. The first Athletes to be selected will be the first placed male and female finishers from the 2026 English National Surfing Championships.
- 8.4. The second and third placed Athletes will be selected by the panel based on consideration of performance at a range of competitions and may, pursuant with 2.1.2, also consider future medal winning potential. The selection panel will consider performance (not just finishing position) from events such as those stated below, with a weighting on results achieved over the last 12 months.
- 8.4.1. Performance at international competition, including but not limited to, WSL QS and CS competition and ISA World Games
  - 8.4.2. Performance at domestic competition, including but not limited to English National Championships and GB Cup
- 8.5. In the event that the English National Championships does not run, or is delayed and runs less than 2 months before the date of the European Surfing Championships, the selection panel are able to determine alternate selection based on the criteria in 8.4.

### **EuroSurf - Longboard**

- 8.6. The Selection Panel will select 1 female and 1 male athlete in accordance with the event criteria, using the following criteria.
- 8.7. The highest ranked male and female athlete on the WSL International Longboard Tour will be automatically selected to compete
- 8.8. If the Athletes selected in 8.7 do not take their place, or there are no athletes competing in the WSL tour, then selection will be based on consideration of a range of events and / or pursuant with 2.1.2, to look at athletes who have shown future medal winning potential. In this instance the panel will look at results from the events stated below, with a weighting on results achieved within the last 12 months:
- WSL World Longboard Tour
  - European Tour of Longboard
  - BLU British Longboard Tour
  - English National Longboard Championships
  - Any other national open longboard events and internationally sanctioned longboard events
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## 9. GB Cup Selection Criteria

- 9.1. To be proposed for the GB Cup any athlete must meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 4 of this Selection Policy.
  - 9.2. The selection criteria for each of the home nations is determined by the event format set out by GB surfing. The selection criteria below assume no change in the GB criteria from the previous year, should this change we will update the Team England selection criteria inline with the GB Cup requirements.
  - 9.3. The Selection Panel will select 6 female and 6 male athletes. The four finalists of the English Nationals Championships in the open division in 2026 will automatically be selected. In addition two wildcard places will be selected utilising the selection criteria below
  - 9.4. The highest ranked male athlete and highest ranked female athlete on the WSL Challenger and/or European Regional Qualifying Series
  - 9.5. Athletes selected by the panel based on consideration of performance at a range of competitions and / or pursuant with 2.1.2, to look at athletes with future medal winning potential. The selection panel will consider performance (not just finishing position) from events such as those stated below, with a weighting on results achieved over the last 12 months.
    - 9.5.1. Performance at international competition, including but not limited to, WSL QS and CS competition and ISA World Games
    - 9.5.2. Performance at domestic competition, including but not limited to English National Championships and GB Cup
  - 9.6. In the event that selected athletes do not take up their quota or the same athlete is both highest ranked WSL and a National finalist, the selection panel are able to determine alternate selection based on the criteria
  - 9.7. In the event that the English National Championships does not run, or is delayed and runs less than 1 month before the date of the GB Cup 2026, the selection panel are able to determine alternate selection based on the criteria listed in 9.5 and 9.6.
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## 10. ISA World Longboard Championships Selection Criteria

To be proposed for the ISA World Longboard Championships any athlete must meet the eligibility criteria set out in Section 4 of this Selection Policy.

- 10.1 The Selection Panel will select 2 female and 2 male athletes in accordance with the event criteria, utilising the selection criteria below.
  - 7.2.1 The highest ranked male and female athlete on the WSL International Longboard Tour will be automatically selected to compete at the ISA Longboarding World Games.
  - 7.2.2 Selection based on consideration of a range of events and / or pursuant with 2.1.2, to look at athletes who have shown future medal winning potential. In



this instance the panel will look at results from the events stated below, with a weighting on results achieved within the last 12 months:

- WSL World Longboard Tour
- European Tour of Longboard
- BLU British Longboard Tour
- English National Longboard Championships
- Any other national open longboard events and internationally sanctioned longboard events