



XXII Commonwealth Games

Birmingham, England

28 July – 8 August 2022

Sport Selection Policy and Standards

Rugby 7s

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Amendment: Section 9 Team Qualifications

Scottish Rugby

BT Murrayfield Stadium

Roseburn, Edinburgh

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Team Scotland: Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games

Athlete - Sport Selection Policy and Standards

The information in this Selection Policy is accurate as at 17 November 2020 but remains subject to change. As a result of the unique and extenuating circumstances caused by COVID-19 and the subsequent impact on international sporting calendars, CGS and Scottish Rugby will be closely monitoring this Selection Policy to determine if any changes are necessary.

For the avoidance of doubt, CGS reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy in any manner, and in the sole and absolute discretion of CGS, should CGS consider that qualification process would be fairer having regard to the interests of all Athletes and the prevailing circumstances.

In addition, CGS and Scottish Rugby reserve the right to not apply any aspect of this Selection Policy when making any decision, if in the sole and absolute discretion of CGS, it would, as judged by CGS, be unfair or unreasonable not to, provided always that CGS has regard to the interests of all Athletes in the prevailing circumstances.

Introduction

- 1 This selection policy and standards has been agreed by Scottish Rugby and Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS). It provides detail on the process by which Scottish Rugby will arrive at athlete nominations which will be submitted to CGS for consideration for final selection to Team Scotland for Birmingham 2022.

Achievement, by an athlete, of individual selection standards, detailed in this document, is therefore the first step by which nomination can be considered. The final decision in selection to the 2022 Games lies with CGS.

- 2 Scottish Rugby will nominate only those athletes who have qualified under both the Rugby Sport Specific Selection Standards stated below and the CGS General Selection Policy (available on the CGS website) which should be read in conjunction with these standards.
- 3 Entry numbers per event and the overall number of athletes are in accordance with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) allocation and Scottish Rugby will nominate in accordance with this policy.

Team Scotland General Selection Policy Aim

- 4 The Team Scotland General Selection Policy Aim is as follows:
Scotland selects a team that performs with distinction in 2022:
 - having a higher percentage of athletes meeting the selection standards when in competition at these Games than in 2018
 - meeting the stated performance aims of each sport at the Games
 - with all Team members having a positive experience within Team Scotland at the Games.
- 5 This rugby policy is consistent with this aim.

Athlete Eligibility

- 6 The eligibility criteria of the CGF Constitution and Byelaws, must be met by all nominees, see Appendix 1.
- 7 Where prospective team members do not automatically comply with the above, in terms of birth or parent's birth, they will only be nominated for final selection if they receive prior approval from the CGF under their guidelines.

Games Rugby Competition Format

- 8 Sixteen Team, Men's and Eight Team Women's 7-a-side Tournaments played under the regulations as stipulated by World Rugby.

The maximum number of athletes selected by any country will be determined by World Rugby and currently this is thirteen per team.

Sport Specific Selection Standards and Framework

9 Team Qualification

- i) The General Selection Criteria of Commonwealth Games Scotland must be met by Scottish Rugby and all players.
- ii) Competing in the Games is subject to CGS receiving an invite from the CGF to compete in the Games is based on the Men's World Rugby Sevens Series Standings as at 31 March 2020 or Regional Qualifiers and based on qualification through the World Rugby Women's Qualification Process. The Home Nation is eligible to enter one Men's and one Women's team, therefore in order to receive an invite based on World Rugby's Sevens Series Standings each team will need to be placed in the top 9 Commonwealth Nations for Men or top 3 for Women, excluding the Home Nation. Through the Regional Qualification process 6 Men's and 4 Women's Teams will qualify.
- iii) In order for the teams to gain selection to Team Scotland it is necessary to evidence performances showing the potential to place in the top six in the Games.
- iv) In order to evidence a top six finish each team will have to demonstrate the following criteria:
 - Men – An invitation, based on World Rugby's Sevens Series Standing will merit evidence of the ability of a Top 6 finish.
 - Women – an initial invitation, based on qualification through the World Rugby Women's Qualification Process. to compete from the CGF merits evidence of the ability of a Top 6 finish (Eight Team competition)
- v) Scottish Rugby will identify to CGS the competition, preparation plans and any conflicts by 1 August 2021.

- vi) Team composition will be determined by Scottish Rugby on the basis that the athletes selected are the best players, with the Commonwealth Games taking precedence over club or other international commitments.
- vii) Scottish Rugby nominations will only be selected by CGS where it is clear that performance at the Games has been made a competitive priority during the selection period (1 March 2021 to 15 May 2022) and their preparation programmes are directed at the best possible performance.

All nominated athletes must have completed the required anti-doping education programme.

Internal Selection Criteria

10 Players nominated to represent Scotland 7s at Birmingham 2022 will meet one or more of the following criteria during the selection period.

- a. All players must have previously proven their ability to perform at International level and be the best 7s players available.
- b. All players must have previous International 7s experience and have played in at least 2 International 7s Tournaments prior to Birmingham 2022.

Over and above this, all players nominated must meet the following criteria:

- c. All players will be subject to fitness monitoring throughout the selection period and must meet the minimum standards as set by the 7s Head Coach.
- d. All players must comply fully with the specific fitness programmes as laid down by the 7s Head Coach.
- e. All players must be able to contribute fully to the goals of the team and be of a proven playing standard to support the team's chances of a top Six finish the Games.
- f. All players must participate fully in the agreed 7s training programme as set by the 7s Head Coach.
- g. All players must adhere to the WADA Code and UK Anti-Doping Rules.

De-selection from 7s Training Squad

- 11 A player may be deselected at any time during the programme due to the following reasons:
- a. Loss of form
 - b. Loss of fitness
 - c. Non-compliance to any aspect of the agreed programme

Any de-selected player may have the opportunity to meet with the 7s Head Coach and request the attendance of the Technical Director.

Injury, Illness and Other Exceptional Circumstances prior to Nomination

- 12 Failure to meet any of the criteria, detailed in section 10, for reasons of injury, illness, or any other exceptional circumstances by an athlete who still wishes to seek selection, must be backed by medical evidence, or any such additional evidence as may be reasonably requested, by the Head Coach.
- a. Any player ill or injured prior to competing in any tournament leading up to the Games, will undergo assessments to determine their ability to compete.
 - b. The assessments will be carried out by either a doctor or physiotherapist and will include physical tests.
 - c. The tests will be agreed with the player and will include but not be limited to: sprints; acceleration and deceleration; turning; contact and if required an aerobic component.
 - d. The final decision to compete will rest with the Head Coach and Technical Director in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer.
- 13 Any unavailability for competition or training, for any of the reasons above, must be advised and agreed with the Head Coach in advance.

Selection process

- 14 Should a Team invitation be accepted by CGS to compete, nomination of individual players is the responsibility of Scottish Rugby on the following basis:
- a. The competition programme, testing dates and fitness standards will be made available to all players in advance.
 - b. The 7s Head Coach is responsible for the selection of the final team with this then signed off by the Technical Director. This will comprise 13 players and up to a maximum of 2 travelling reserves who, if selected, will attend all training sessions and camps prior to entry into the Games Village. The final team size is subject to the regulations as laid out by World Rugby for the Commonwealth Games 2022 competition format.

- c. The 7s Head Coach will be available to discuss selections with any affected player.
 - d. All potential nominees will be notified in writing of the team to be nominated to CGS by 22nd April 2022. Up to 15 players, per qualified team, will be nominated and this will include the two travelling reserves if this option is chosen by Scottish Rugby.
- 15 Scottish Rugby will send their final nominations to CGS on 15 May 2022. CGS will confirm the final team selections by 30 May 2022.
- 16 Final selection to the Games team is dependent on receipt of relevant information required by CGS such as the CGF Eligibility form and Team Member Agreement.

De-Selection

- 17 **Form and Fitness: Injury Management:** Where form and fitness issues are identified at or after selection, a fitness test may be used to determine that the athlete is capable of performing to the level required for the Games. The format will be determined by CGS after discussion with the Scotland 7s Team Management. This will be specific to rugby and the athlete's condition and may include input from CGS medical staff. Any selection or de-selection decision, following such a test, will be made by CGS after discussion with the Rugby 7s Team Management and will be final.
- 18 **Antidoping:** athletes suspended by their Governing Body as a result of ongoing or concluded anti-doping violation allegations will not be considered for selection, and if previously selected, will be deselected from the Birmingham 2022 team.
- 19 **CGS Policies:** Athletes in breach of CGS policies, code of conduct and team agreement may be de-selected.

Appeal Process

- 20 An appeal against non-nomination to CGS by Scottish Rugby is entirely a matter for the athlete and Scottish Rugby. This should be held in accordance with Scottish Rugby's own appeal procedures but taking into consideration only the CGS selection policy and agreed sport specific selections standards and conditions.
- 21 Any player not nominated to the team has the right to meet with the Head Coach and the Technical Director in order to seek further clarification on their non-nomination to the team of players. The player must request this meeting by 24th April 2022. After this meeting a player may appeal in writing to Scottish Rugby, an email will be acceptable, detailing their grounds for appeal, and that appeal must arrive at the Scottish Rugby offices by 4th May 2022. The Scottish Rugby Director of Performance Rugby will convene a meeting in line with Scottish Rugby policy and procedures, and within seven days of receipt of the appeal. The player will be notified of the decision of the appeals panel and the decision of the panel is final.

- 22 An appeal against non-selection, by CGS, of an athlete may only be submitted by Scottish Rugby and not by any individual athlete. If an appeal is submitted to CGS by Scottish Rugby, a CGS Appeal Panel will consider the case along with any additional information provided. The appeal must be made by email to jon.doig@teamscotland.scot within 48 hours of notification of selection outcomes to Scottish Rugby by CGS.

Appointment of Team Staff

- 23 A Team Manager for each qualified team has been appointed by CGS in consultation with Scottish Rugby in October 2020. The final complement of rugby team staff attending the Games will ultimately depend upon team numbers and composition and will be determined by CGS in consultation with SRU. This will include different categories of accreditation and access to the Games Village and other secure areas.

Appendix 1

CGF Byelaw 17 Eligibility

1. It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 17.

2. Primacy

2.1 Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), a competitor shall be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them where they satisfy at least one of the following requirements:

a) Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them;

or

b) Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them

c) In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: -

i. Guernsey, Jersey, and Isle of Man. The governments of these three Crown Dependencies do not define citizenship. For these Affiliated CGAs, citizenship shall be defined as three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"* date of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee ("Continuous Residency") and the competitor must be in possession of a current valid UK passport.

ii. Northern Ireland. Byelaw 17 will defer to the Belfast Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland athletes who meet birth right criteria are to be treated equally regardless of their possession of either a current valid UK or Irish passport (but must hold one of these). This right is enshrined within the Constitution Issues (iv) of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.

iii. Norfolk Island. Any individual who was in possession of a current valid New Zealand passport and was also deemed eligible to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games for Norfolk Islands may continue to compete for Norfolk Islands at future iterations of the Games.

3. Secondary

3.1 Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country which has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the competitor may represent either:

a) the Commonwealth Country of their birth;

or

b) the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent;

or

c) where the relevant IF recognises grandparents as part of its eligibility criteria, the competitor may represent the Commonwealth Country of birth of their grandparent;

or

d) the Commonwealth Country where they have completed a minimum period of three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the “final entries deadline”* of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee.

3.2 Subject to the other provisions of this Byelaw 17, where a competitor is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated CGA due to common passport privileges they may choose which Affiliated CGA to represent. For the avoidance of doubt, if an individual has competed at a Commonwealth Youth Games this will not be deemed to be a choice of country, and the competitor may choose to represent a different Affiliated CGA at a Commonwealth Games.

3.3 For the avoidance of doubt subject to Byelaw 17(4) and 17(5) any competitor of a common passport area who competes for their common passport country (i.e. Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia) at either the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and/or any World Championships or any other major sporting event shall be entitled to choose to represent their home Affiliated CGA (e.g. Turks and Caicos) at the Commonwealth Games.

4. Disqualifications and Suspensions

4.1 A competitor shall not be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:

a) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by the Federation;

and/or

b) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective Affiliated CGA;

and/or

c) are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective IF, National Federation

and/or

d) are currently under disqualification or suspension under the World Anti-Doping Code.

5. Compliance with applicable rules and regulations

5.1 A competitor shall only be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:

a) Satisfy and comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation;

and

b) Satisfy and comply their respective IF rules and regulations (including but not limited to, complying with respective IF eligibility rules as applied within each respective edition of the Commonwealth Games Athlete Allocation Systems);

and

c) Satisfy and comply with the World Anti-Doping Code as applied within the Federation Anti-Doping Standard to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.

5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between respective IF Nationality rules and regulations and those of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Federation Bye Law 17 shall prevail.

6. Transfer of Allegiance

6.1 After having established eligibility status under this Byelaw 17 a competitor who has previously represented one Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Games may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless they also receive the prior approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Byelaw shall not apply if an individual has represented a Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Youth Games. Applications under this Byelaw 17(6) must be submitted to the Executive Board two calendar months before the “final entries deadline”* for the respective Commonwealth Games. Applications must include formal confirmation of the prior approval of the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA.

6.2 All applications for transfer of allegiance under Byelaw 17(6) and/or discretionary eligibility dispensation under Byelaw 17(7) including all relevant paperwork and documentation must be submitted no later than two calendar months prior to the published “final entries deadline”*, as outlined by the respective Organising Committee.

7. Dispensations

7.1 The Executive Board shall delegate authority to the Governance and Integrity Committee (GIC) who have the power to grant dispensations to Byelaw 17 in exceptional circumstances and to consider any matters relating generally to Byelaw 17. Each application for dispensation under Byelaw 17 shall be considered on its own merits and will not create a precedent for any future applications. Decisions made by GIC are subject to the right of appeal directly to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

*“final entries deadline” means the final date that an individual athlete may be entered in a particular event(s) for the relevant Commonwealth Games, usually completed via an online entry system. Such date to be communicated for each relevant Commonwealth Games in the Sport Handbook.