



**Commonwealth Youth Games
Trinbago 2023**

4-11th August 2023

Version February 2023

**Scottish Rugby
BT Murrayfield
Edinburgh
EH12 5PJ**

Commonwealth Youth Games Trinbago 2023

Athlete Selection Policy

Introduction

1. This selection policy has been agreed by Scottish Rugby and Commonwealth Games Scotland (CGS). It provides detail on the process by which Scottish Rugby will arrive at its nominations for selection of athletes within the Scottish Team in Trinbago 2023 which will be submitted to CGS for consideration.
2. In all cases, selection by Scottish Rugby represents a nomination to CGS for ratification. The final decision in selection to the 2023 Youth Games lies with CGS. Achievement of the selection criteria therefore represents eligibility for nomination, not selection or even nomination.
3. Scottish Rugby will nominate only those athletes that have qualified under the selection criteria stated in this policy.

Selection Policy Aim

4. To select a team of athletes capable of competing with distinction for Scotland at the 2023 Youth Commonwealth Games and who have the potential to win medals for Scotland at future Commonwealth Games.

Scottish Commonwealth Youth Games Athlete Eligibility

5. To be eligible to compete for Scotland in the Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinidad and Tobago, the eligibility criteria of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), Byelaw 17, must be met by all nominees, see Appendix 1.
6. Where prospective team members do not comply with the above, they will only be nominated for final selection if they receive prior dispensation from the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) through CGS
7. The eligible age category for Rugby 7s for the Trinbago Youth Games is 17-18 years of age (athletes born in 2005 & 2006)

Games Competition Format

8. The Commonwealth Youth Games 2023 will include rugby events in the following disciplines:
Eight 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 presently this is thirteen per team.

Sport Specific Selection Criteria

9. CGS has allocated to Scottish Rugby 13 places on Youth Team Scotland for the Men's Tournament.
10. Selection period: 1 January 2023 to 15 May 2023

Players selected to represent Scotland 7s at the Trinbago Youth Games 2023 will meet the following criteria:

- a. All players must have played representative age-grade rugby during the agreed selection period of 1st January 2023 – 15th May 2023.
- b. All players must demonstrate the necessary attributes (on-field and off-field) to have the potential to play for Scotland 7s in future Commonwealth Games.

- c. All players must be able to contribute fully to the agreed performance goals of the team for the Youth Games. These specific performance goals will be agreed by all members of the team prior to the Games.

Other Factors for Consideration

11. As well as the specific criteria outlined above. All players selected must also meet the following criteria:
 - a. 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.
 - b. All players must comply fully with the specific fitness programmes as laid down by the 7s Head Coach.
 - c. 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.
 - d. All players must participate fully in the agreed 7s training programme as set by the 7s Head Coach.
 - e. All players must adhere to the WADA Code and UK Anti-Doping Rules.

Injury, illness and other exceptional circumstances

12. Failure to meet any of the selection criteria for reasons of injury, illness, or any other exceptional circumstances by an athlete under consideration, must be backed by medical evidence, or any such additional evidence as may be reasonably requested by the Scottish Rugby Technical & Operations Director
13. Any unavailability for competition or training, for any of the reasons above, must be advised and agreed with the Scottish Rugby Technical & Operations Director in advance.

Selection process

14. All nominated athletes must have completed relevant Anti-doping education
15. At the close of the selection period, the Head Coach in consultation with the Technical & Operations Director and other appropriate *coaches*, will consider all relevant information for eligible players against the selection criteria.
16. Scottish Rugby will communicate the nominations to eligible players and send their final nominations, in priority order, to CGS by no later than 22 May 2023.
17. CGS will confirm the final team selections by 30 May 2023
18. Final selection to the Games team is dependent on receipt of relevant information required by CGS such as the Team Member Agreement.

Appeals Process

19. An appeal against CGS non-selection on behalf 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 in writing within 3 days after selection outcomes to Scottish Rugby by CGS.

Any appeal against non-nomination to CGS by Scottish Rugby is entirely a matter for the athlete and Scottish Rugby. Following the Scottish Rugby announcement of nominated players by 15th May 2023, appeals will be heard in accordance with Scottish Rugby's internal appeals process:

Any player not nominated to the team has the right to meet with the Head Coach and the Technical & Operations Director in order to seek further clarification on their non-nomination to the team of players. The player must request this meeting by 16th May 2023. 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 18th May 2023. 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.

De-selection

20. Players may be deemed ineligible for selection or deselected for the following reasons:

- Anti-doping: Athletes suspended by Scottish Rugby as a result of ongoing or concluded anti-doping violation allegations will not be considered for selection, and if previously selected, will be de-selected from Youth Team Scotland.
- 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 that they were selected for the Youth Games. The format will be determined by CGS after discussion with the Rugby 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 final.
- CGS Policies: Athletes in breach of CGS policies, code of conduct and Youth Team Agreement may be de-selected.

Appointment of Team Staff

21. One initial sport specific member of staff will be appointed by CGS in consultation with Scottish Rugby by the end March 2023. The final complement of the Scottish Rugby Team staff attending the Games will ultimately depend upon team composition and will be determined by CGS in consultation with Scottish Rugby.

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.