



British Swimming

2020 Olympic Games

Artistic Swimming Duet Selection Document for Great Britain

Selection Policy

Overview:

This document is intended to provide transparency on those factors which make up the selection process for the Artistic Swimming Duet event at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (“the Games”).

Rationale:

Artistic Swimming is a subjective sport and due to this it makes objective criteria very difficult to define, and thus there will be a significant component of subjective decision making in regard to final selection of the Duet.

Final selection is at the discretion of the British Olympic Association (BOA) and will be based on nominations made against this selection policy by British Swimming. Nominations will be submitted to the BOA and following ratification by the BOA the Duet will be announced by the BOA in consultation with British Swimming.

Objectives

- To select athletes that will achieve the best possible results at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.
- To employ a transparent and fair selection process that provides all athletes a chance to challenge for Duet selection.

Eligibility

Athletes must:

Be a British citizen and eligible to represent Great Britain as per the Olympic Charter Rules. The BOA in consultation with FINA and the International Olympic Committee (“IOC”) will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria including as set by the BOA, British Swimming, FINA and the IOC) and the IOC’s decision shall be final.

Be available to fulfil all team commitments from the time of nomination through to the Games.

Comply with any other BOA and/or IOC eligibility criteria from time to time, including in respect of nationality and/or anti-doping.

All athletes participating in the Olympic Games must be born on or before 31 December 2005.

Consultation

This Policy has been subject to consultation through the Synchronised Swimming Leadership Group. This Policy will be placed on the British Swimming Website.

Selection Events

The Games qualification process for Duets will be through three qualification competitions:-

1. LEN European Cup, St Petersburg – 10-12 May 2019
2. FINA World Championships, Gwangju – 12-18 July 2019
3. Olympic Qualification event, Tokyo – March 2020

Selection Criteria

The Selection Committee, comprising of the National Coach (“NC”) and two other appointed coaches working with the England Programme during 2019 as determined by the Synchronised Swimming Leadership Group shall consider nomination of athletes to the BOA. Input may be gathered from support services staff working with the athletes on the programme and any other person the Selection Committee considers necessary to assist in the NC’s final decision. The final decision on nominations shall be made by the NC at her complete discretion. The Duet will be selected in accordance with this Policy and the NC shall, in her complete discretion, identify up to three reserve athletes. Only the Duet will be nominated to the BOA.

The Selection Committee will draw from information on **Accuracy, Consistency, Improvement**, and the following performance criteria will be considered through competitions, training prior to the selection competitions and the designated selection competition.

Physiological Requirements:

- General Physical Fitness
- Artistic Swimming general and routine specific fitness
- Aesthetically similar (height and shape)
- Flexibility
- Athletic appearance

Technical ability:

- Synchronisation
- Pattern accuracy
- Height
- Extension
- Execution
- Energy
- Artistic Mastery – ability to deliver the choreography
- Highlight consistency

Specific Technical markers that the coaches will be looking for:

- Able to perform at a score of an 8 or higher using the FINA judging scale
- Flexibility – splits (flat), back arch (knight)
- Vertical & thrust height
- Accuracy and on the spot spin
- Synchronisation with partner
- Duet pattern accuracy

Compatibility with coaches and other athletes:

- Individual contribution to enhance team dynamics
- Has the ability to appreciate each team member

Psychological abilities:

- Mental Toughness - ability to maintain and highlight optimum performance under pressure and adversity.
- Focus and Concentration - ability to maintain performance related focus for the duration of all training and competition sessions.
- Demonstration of an internal drive and motivation towards excelling in all areas
- Confidence in own ability to correct and adapt at competition

The Human Factor:

- Work ethic based on intensity of training
- Receiving, acting on and maintaining corrections
- Showing future potential for Great Britain and a keenness to develop and improve

The Selection Committee may consider additional criteria, which is not exhaustive, not in priority order:-

1. Identified uncompromised commitment to all training sessions/camps and competitions during 2019 and up to nomination by British Swimming to the BOA in 2020.
2. Athletes to have a proven international and domestic record of competing in duet events.
3. Be part of the 2019/2020 GB international travelling squad.
4. The duet that has consistently scored the highest marks at national and/or international events from 1 January 2017 to qualification competition 3 set out above.

Athlete Expectations

Selection will be conditional on signing and complying the British Swimming Code of Conduct and the BOA's Team Member's Agreement. Athletes must also comply with:-

- British Swimming Doping Control Rules and Protocols
- Selection Agreement and Code of Conduct
- British Swimming Disciplinary Code
- British Swimming Child Protection Procedures

Athletes will be expected to abide by the Media Protocols of the British Artistic Swimming Programme. During the Games period 16th July 2020 – 15th August 2020, athletes must also comply with the BOA media rules as set out in the Team Members Agreement.

Athletes will be expected to attend each programmed event, where selected, taking part in all programmed activities. Unless otherwise agreed, no athlete will be allowed to leave a camp or undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the camp programme, this includes any external media or social activities.

Athletes must demonstrate an uncompromised commitment to training preparation for peak performance at the Games as determined by the NC. If for any reason the athlete is unable or unwilling to fulfil this commitment, they may be withdrawn from the duet at the complete discretion of the National Coach.

De-selection Prior to Delegation Registration Meeting

The date of the **Delegation Registration Meeting** (DRM) is 4 July 2020 (which may be amended). This is the date that the British Olympic Team is formally entered with the Tokyo Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG).

Following selection by the BOA, but prior to the date of the DRM, the de-selection of an athlete is the sole responsibility of British Swimming. The BOA will be kept informed of any possible de-selection decision.

Athletes becoming unfit due to illness or injury at any time between selection and nomination to the BOA must notify the National Coach immediately and will be required to undertake a full medical examination (by an independent medical advisor approved by British Swimming Medical Staff), which may result in the athlete being de-selected from the duet at the discretion of the National Coach. The National Coach may also, in her complete discretion, decide to leave the athlete selected if the independent medical advisor approved by British Swimming Medical Staff confirms the athlete may regain fitness in time at any stage before nomination to the BOA.

If in the opinion of the independent medical advisor approved by British Swimming's Medical Staff the de-selected athlete (and / or the athlete that remains selected) regains fitness from any illness or injury before nomination of the duet to the BOA the National Coach reserves the right to re-instate that athlete to the duet and de-select another athlete from the duet including the athlete that replaced the de-selected athlete or any of the other two original athletes.

De-selection after the Delegation Registration Meeting

De-selection of an athlete after the date of the DRM, is the sole responsibility of the BOA (in accordance with the IOC Athlete Late Replacement Policy). Any appeal against a decision by the BOA after DRM will be according to the BOA Rules.

Replacement after the Delegation Registration Meeting

The IOC's Athlete Late Replacement Policy primarily provides for replacement of a selected athlete on the basis that they are unfit to compete due to injury and/or illness. In the event of there being a query over the ability of an athlete to be able to compete to the best of his/her ability due to an injury or illness the following procedure will be adhered to:

(i) the BOA Chief Medical Officer can require an athlete to undergo a medical examination to determine her fitness to participate which at this stage will be determined based on an assessment of whether or not the injury and/or illness is such that the athlete is physically able to compete or risks causing medical harm to herself, or endangering other competitors, officials or spectators.

(ii) if the athlete passes the medical examination carried out but British Swimming and/or the BOA have concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to the best of her ability due to the underlying injury or illness, the Team GB Chef de Mission can require the athlete to undergo a set of pre-determined sports specific performance tests. Those tests will be agreed in advance following consultation with the NC, British Swimming's Chief Medical Officer and the BOA's Deputy Chef de Mission for Performance.

For administrative purposes, the BOA must be kept informed of any possible decision to withdraw an athlete. The nomination of a replacement athlete must also conform to this selection policy and must be an individual who has been named on the BOA long list and has met the criteria for full selection as stated in this selection policy.

Replacements and Reserves

In the event an athlete is de-selected due to becoming unfit due to illness or injury at any time between selection and the nomination of the duet to the BOA, or remains selected at the NC's discretion as point 21, the NC reserves the right to add a reserve or replacement to the duet from the next best athlete ranked on the long list.

Replacement or reserve athletes joining the duet because of illness or injury referred to above will be considered at the complete discretion of the NC.

After the DRM, and in the case of medically certified injury, such nominated reserves would be eligible to replace a selected athlete in accordance with the Replacement after the Delegation Registration Meeting referred to above up to the final confirmation of competitors at the Technical Meeting and draw in Tokyo on a date TBC subject to any IOC regulations in force from time to time.

Grounds for Appeal

All appeals prior to the DRM on the nomination (or non-nomination) to the Olympic Games Artistic Swimming 2020 duet shall be dealt with under the British Swimming Team Selection Appeals Procedure. Details are available from the British Swimming Legal Department.

For the avoidance of any doubt the British Swimming Team Selection Appeals Procedure does not apply to any non- selection (or de-selection) athlete after the DRM. Athletes should be aware of the time limits contained in the procedures, which are designed with the intention of resolving issues expeditiously and fairly.

In respect of any de-selection decision taken by the BOA after the DRM, any appeals must be made to the BOA and dealt with in accordance with the BOA's appeals policy and administered by Sports Resolutions UK.

Announcements

Athletes shall not be permitted to make any announcement of any selection or de-selection decision until such time as the BOA has officially confirmed that selection of the athlete.

The Duet will be selected in accordance with this Policy and by the NC in her complete discretion. The NC shall name up to three reserve athletes who will learn the routines and continue to train within their club environment and in the national team programme but will not be nominated to the BOA.