



GB WORLD CLASS PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

2022-2023 OLYMPIC SELECTION POLICY

The World Class Performance Programme (“WCPP”) is UK Sport’s National Lottery funded initiative to support the delivery of success at the world’s most significant sporting events.

This is the selection policy for the GB World Class Performance Programme (WCPP) effective from April 2022 (selection panel decisions to be taken in January 2022).

It contains a brief description of the programme; the criteria athletes must achieve to be considered for and retained on the WCPP as well as the selection and review process. The policy is based on UK Sport’s (UKS) guidelines for Athlete Performance Awards (APA).

This document contains the selection and the APA matrix criteria for the period 1 April 2021- 31 March 2022 and may be subject to review in subsequent years.

1. GB WCPP

The objective of the GB WCPP is to deliver medal success at Olympic Games and World Championships. The programme consists of three progressive levels each one identified by a set of criteria and provides selected athletes with training and tournament support as well as an APA.

1.1. GB National Training Centre

- 1.1.1. The National Badminton Centre (NBC) in Milton Keynes is the nominated GB National Training Centre for Doubles and will be limited to a group of between 20-30 athletes with the numbers for each event dictated by performance objectives and potential to achieve.
- 1.1.2. The programme is based on a centralised training model, that requires selected athletes to train at the NBC. Development level athletes not identified for NBC training will receive coaching from within the Home Countries performance networks and respective Home Countries will be responsible for the planning, delivery and reporting of annual and daily training programmes.
- 1.1.3. Athletes on an appropriate development path to compete for 2024 Olympic qualification must commit to full time training at the NBC (doubles) to receive full programme support. Athletes who are unable to commit to full time training at the NBC due to education or other commitments, may remain on an APA level of funding support providing a clear pathway and timescale for their relocation to the NBC has been agreed with GB management.

1.2. Management

- 1.2.1. All athletes will be coordinated centrally from the NBC and GB management will liaise closely with the relevant coaches and support staff in the Home Country performance networks to monitor and support the development of athletes based there.

2. Selection & Review Process

The purpose of the selection policy is to identify athletes who are achieving or progressing towards and have the potential to achieve World and Olympic medal performance within the next 8 years.

2.1. Eligibility

In order for athletes to be selected they must meet the following:

- 2.1.1. Be an affiliated member of and with no outstanding disciplinary issues with one of the following governing bodies; Badminton England, Badminton Scotland, Badminton Wales or The Ulster Branch Badminton Union of Ireland
- 2.1.2. Hold a current British passport
- 2.1.3. Be eligible to represent Great Britain under the International Representation rules of the BWF
- 2.1.4. Not currently be under disqualification or suspension under the rules of the BWF.
- 2.1.5. They have not whether by an act or omission, brought GB Badminton or Badminton England into disrepute
- 2.1.6. They are not currently serving a suspension for a doping violation
- 2.1.7. Meet the requirements set out in the UK Sport Funding Eligibility Policy and not be in breach of the Policy

2.2. Consideration of eligible athletes

- 2.2.1 UK Sport has granted GB Badminton 9 programme places for named athletes. These athlete places are not transferrable without the prior agreement of UK Sport.
- 2.2.2 GB Badminton will consider retaining and selecting athletes on the WCPP if they:
 - a. satisfy the applicable Selection Criteria (Section 3) and the Retention Criteria (Section 4); or
 - b. were injured or otherwise affected by a performance limiting factor but meet the Guidelines for Retention of Athletes affected by Performance Limiting Factors (Section 5)
- 2.2.3 For the avoidance of doubt, nothing in this Selection Policy shall operate to fetter any decision to remove an athlete from the programme for performance, welfare or conduct reasons following due process'.

2.3 Selection and review process

- 2.3.1 The selection panel will consist of the following, each with equal voting rights:
 - GB Head of Performance Operations (Chair) (voting)
 - GB Head Coach (voting)
 - GB National Coaches (voting)
 - 2 members from the GB Technical Working Advisory Group who are not already part of the panel (both voting)
 - Independent Observer (non-voting)

2.3.2 The selection panel will meet annually in December/January to review all athletes against the programme criteria and discuss nominations of new players for the GB WCPP effective from April. Extraordinary selection and review meetings may be held at other times of the year as required and agreed by UK Sport and the GB Board. All athletes will receive the decision of the selection panel, the rationale behind the decision and a feedback comment both in writing and via a face-to-face meeting. The panel can make the following nominations and recommendations to UK Sport:

- Inclusion on GB WCPP
- Continued place on the programme and conditions applied where appropriate
- Continued place on programme and change to APA level
- Termination of place on programme

2.4 Appeals

2.4.1 'Appeals procedure against GB World Class Performance Programme Decisions' will be followed (please refer to section 7 of this Policy Document).

3. Selection Criteria

Performance Matrix

3.1 The Purpose of the selection policy is to identify athletes who are achieving or progressing towards and have the potential to achieve World and Olympic medal performance within the next 8 years.

Championships
OG
WC
EIC,EG
CG
WJC

International Events
WT500,750,1000
WT300
WT100
IC
IS
FS

WORLD RANKING / Other International Results

Podium	Academy	Confirmation
Minimum QF		
Minimum QF	Last 16	
	Minimum Bronze	
	Minimum Silver	
		*QF or above
QF	Last 16	
	QF	*Last 16
	Minimum Semi Final	
	Win	*Medal (Singles) *Final (Doubles)
		*Final (Singles) *Win (Doubles)
Top 8		
<i>NOTE: Minimum of two Performance measures must be achieved or achieve where possible one criteria more than once</i>	<i>NOTE: Minimum of two Performance measures must be achieved or achieve where possible one criteria more than once</i>	<i>NOTE: * 1 Measurable Performance Requirement from but achievement does not guarantee inclusion</i>

Additional Considerations

Showing a clear indication in training they are progressing at pace, adapting to playing with more experience players. Good technical and physical capability to meet the increase training demands.

GB Badminton will consider all of the following, as well as any other factors that they deem relevant, when assessing an athlete's ability to medal in Paris, France 2024:

- a. Athlete's performance profile (should be rising at least equal to or at a steeper rate than the event trend);
- b. Athlete's major competition history
- c. Event progression;
- d. Event depth and quality;
- e. Athlete's injury and training history;
- f. Athlete's lifestyle and training environment;
- g. Athlete's psychological robustness and ability to perform under pressure; and
- h. Impact of any changes to technical rules.

3.1.1 The criteria consist of a combination of objective performance targets and more subjective development targets. Performance is weighted higher as the athlete progresses towards Podium level.

3.1.2 From entry onto the programme, the athlete must demonstrate continued development towards World and Olympic medal level performances and there is expectancy from the programme that this can be achieved within 8 years or two Olympic cycles. It is difficult to map out exactly what the journey will look like for each individual athlete and the selection criteria allow an athlete to remain on a specific level for a certain number of years according to the Performance Level they are at within the GB WCPP but it is expected that the progression from Academy to Podium level will be completed in up to 4 years. Late entry onto the programme will require athletes to complete the journey in a shorter period of time.

3.2 Application

3.2.1 The selection criteria define what standards eligible athletes need to achieve to qualify for each APA level, how long that qualification lasts for and what they must do to re-qualify.

3.2.2 Performance criteria must be achieved in one category (e.g., Men's Doubles)

3.2.3 Achieving entry criteria for the GB WCPP as set out in the selection policy only means that the player will be considered for the programme at the relevant level; it does not give the player absolute right to membership.

3.2.4 Irrespective of previous performances, athletes will only be nominated for funding if they are considered to be progressing towards, or continuing to achieve, World or Olympic medal level performances.

3.2.5 If more players achieve the required criteria for (a level of) the GB WCPP than the number of places available, the selection panel will decide between the eligible players and this will include consideration of the rate of improvement and who is considered to have the highest medal potential in both the short and the long term.

3.2.6 The selection panel may decide, at its own discretion, not to utilise the full allocation of places on the GB WCPP.

4. Retention Criteria

- 4.1 The athletes will only be considered for retention if in addition to the Selection Criteria they meet the "Retention Criteria" set out in Section 4, 5 and 6, this includes continuing to satisfy the eligibility criteria set out at paragraph 2.1.

Progression

- 4.2 The WCPP is a progressive programme. Consequently:
- a. If any do not satisfy the minimum Selection Criteria for individual Podium or Academy Programme membership or the retention criteria they may be "exited" from the WCPP. Exceptions to this stipulation may be made at the discretion of the GB Badminton Performance Director and GB Head Coach.
 - b. Athletes to be retained at their existing level will be expected to achieve the programme level within the next 12 months on being on the programme.

5. Guidelines for Retention of Athletes affected by Performance Limiting Factors

General provisions

- 5.1 Athletes should expect to be removed from the WCPP if they fail to comply with the Selection Criteria and the Retention Criteria. However, GB Badminton can choose to retain an athlete with a documented performance limiting factor such as injury or illness. In coming to this decision, the Selection Panel will use the following guidelines.
- 5.2 Each WCPP Athlete Year is a calendar year starting on 1 April and ending 31 March.

Injury, illness

- 5.3 A "Performance Limiting Injury" is:
- a. an injury or illness (or combination of injuries and illnesses) which results in significant interruption or impact upon training for at least 3 months – intermittent or continuous – in any single WCPP Athlete Year; or
 - b. an injury or illness which occurs at such a time that, in the absolute discretion of GB Badminton, it significantly impacts on an athlete's ability to deliver performances that would qualify them for consideration for membership of the WCPP based on the Selection Criteria and/or Retention Criteria (as applicable).
- 5.4 If athletes suffer a Performance Limiting Injury in the 2022/23 season, they will be considered for retention on the WCPP if:
- a. GB Badminton considers that, when fully fit (and in its assessment shall take into consideration the seriousness of and time lost to injury/injuries, including the relevant Performance Limiting Injury), the athlete still merits membership of the WCPP based on their on-going realistic potential to win a medal at the Olympic Games; and
 - b. That the athlete has a positive prognosis to return to performance levels which would indicate that they have a realistic prospect of winning a medal at the Olympic Games; and

- c. The athlete is and has been fully compliant with their rehabilitation programme, as set and amended from time to time by the programme, and in the opinion of the Performance Director and the GB Badminton Head Coach has not, whether by an act or omission, intentionally or otherwise, jeopardised their own recovery to the required performance levels.

5.5 Pregnancy

- a. Athletes in receipt of APA funding will remain eligible to access their full APA (subject to means testing) for the duration of the pregnancy at the APA level they were on at the time of becoming pregnant and for up to nine months post childbirth.
- b. Continued access to the APA post childbirth will be dependent on:
 - i) The athlete's intention to return to the programme, and the programme being discussed and confirmed no later than six months post childbirth
 - ii) At the point where the intention of the athlete is clear, the GB Badminton and the athlete will form a mutually agreed plan/timetable for return to training and competition – this plan will acknowledge the athlete's experience of pregnancy, the impact on them physically and mentally and the nature of the event they are returning to
 - iii) Monitoring, reviewing and confirming that the athlete has made the necessary commitment to this plan and is on track to return.
- c. If the level of commitment and or progress against this plan are not demonstrated, the athlete will be given notice and offered a period of transition before the APA funding stops
- d. At nine months post childbirth the potential of the athlete should be assessed and confirmed to UK Sport in order to continue to access the APA. This assessment will indicate the athlete's future medal potential and not necessarily performance outcomes.
- e. An athlete who announces retirement from their sport during pregnancy or in the initial six months post childbirth, will not be given a further period of notice before the APA terminates.
- f. In the event of complications either during the pregnancy or post childbirth, this policy will be flexed as is reasonable to accommodate these circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

6. General Conditions

Suspension and termination of membership

- 6.1 If an athlete is in breach of the Athlete Agreement, GB Badminton will enact its disciplinary process and effect any appropriate sanctions, which could include a period of suspension from the programme. At the conclusion of the disciplinary process and if a suspension is given, the case will be passed onto UK Sport who will determine whether they mirror the suspension in the form of a suspension of funding
- 6.2 GB Badminton do not have the jurisdiction to suspend an athlete's APA. As the funding body, UK Sport have the power to suspend an athlete's APA under the UK Sport Eligibility Policy.

Transitional funding policy

- 6.3 A minimum of a one-month notice period will be provided to athletes who will no longer be nominated for a place on the WCPP.
- 6.4 One-month transitional funding will be offered to all athletes who are leaving the sport by choice, retirement or are no longer nominated for a place on the WCPP.
- 6.5 Further funding can be offered at the current grant level for a period of time dependent on the total continuous period of membership of the WCP. This additional transitional funding is made as follows:
 - 1 year = 1 month transitional
 - 2 years = 2 months transitional

- 3 years or more = 3 months transitional

Amendment

- 6.6 GB Badminton reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy and APA matrix at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available. An athlete's continuing membership of the WCPP shall be deemed as continued acceptance of this Selection Policy as amended from time to time.

7. Procedures for Appeals Relating to WCPP Decisions

Introduction – Application of these Procedures (“the Appeals Procedures”)

- 7.1 Badminton England receives grant funding on behalf of GB Badminton from UK Sport in order to deliver an elite sport performance programme known as the World Class Performance Programme (WCPP). In the administration of the WCPP, Badminton England is responsible for the management and operation of the WCPP and the allocation and distribution of certain funds pursuant to the WCPP.
- 7.2 Athletes are entitled to appeal to GB Badminton prior to the WCPP Decision being implemented. These Appeals Procedures shall be read in conjunction with the applicable selection procedures, which govern the WCPP (referred to here as the “Selection Procedures”). These Appeals Procedures and the Selection Procedures are referred to collectively as “the Supporting Documents”.
- 7.3 This is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between the Parties as to how WCPP Decisions are to be challenged. The Parties agree to submit any dispute concerning any matter connected with or arising out of a WCPP Decision to Sports Resolution in accordance with the provisions of these Appeals Procedures. The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of these Appeals Procedures, or any decision made under these Appeals Procedures, before any court of law or other dispute resolution body. The Parties will treat all decisions under these Appeals Procedures as final and binding upon each of them.
- 7.4 The Parties agree that these Appeals Procedures are to be treated as an arbitration procedure under Part 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (“the Act”) and the provisions of Paragraph 7.6 below amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act. The seat of the Arbitration shall be England.

Grounds for Appeal

- 7.5 These Appeals Procedures shall only apply to WCPP Decisions and not to any grievances in relation to the WCPP generally.
- 7.6 The grounds upon which a WCPP Decision may be appealed are limited to the following:
- a. there has been a failure by GB Badminton to follow the relevant Selection Procedure (i.e., there has been a procedural defect); or
 - b. A bias or conflict of interest by one of the Panel members
 - c. the WCPP Decision has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

How to Appeal

- 7.7
- a. An appeal under these Appeals Procedures is commenced when an athlete affected by a WCPP Decision makes a formal written appeal (“the Notice of Appeal”) to the appointed independent member of the Appeals Panel (Sport Resolutions) via the Executive Assistant

ea@badmintonengland.co.uk . If the athlete fails to submit the Notice of Appeal within the time limit set out in 7.7b below, or they will automatically lose their right of appeal under these Appeals Procedures, unless in the opinion of the appointed independent member (acting reasonably) it was not practical or if there was some other good reason for the submission not being made within the time limit.

- b. Any athlete who wishes to appeal a WCPP Decision should submit their case in writing (by email) to the appointed independent member in the first instance. This must be received by the appointed independent member within five working days of the WCPP Decision being communicated to the athlete (referred to in these Appeals Procedures as “the Notification”). In these Appeals Procedures, references to “working days” exclude weekends and Bank Holidays and the date on which the WCPP Decision was communicated shall be the date the Notification was sent by email (provided no error message was received).
- c. The Notification from the appointed independent member shall contain the following information:
 - i. the reasons for and the effect of the WCPP Decision.
 - ii. the date the WCPP Decision was made;
 - iii. the date the WCPP Decision takes effect; and
 - iv. copies of the Supporting Documents and the Notice of Appeal.

The appointed independent member will consider the appealing athlete’s case and shall notify his decision to the athlete (“the independent member’s decision”) within five working days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal. The independent members’ decision will include the reasons for the decision.

Powers of the Appeals Panel

- 7.8 The Appeals Panel may at its sole discretion disregard any failure by a party to adhere to these Appeals Procedures and may give such further directions as may be appropriate.
- 7.9 The appointed independent member of the Appeals Panel may, at any time after a Second Notice of Appeal has been given, make such directions whether or not made at the request of the parties, for the proper conduct of the appeal as he or she deems may be reasonably necessary for the fair conduct of the appeal, including changes to the procedure set out in these Appeals Procedures.
- 7.10 The Appeals Panel may decide as follows:
 - a. That the WCPP Decision be set aside as it was based on an error of fact or procedurally flawed and the matter of the athlete’s inclusion within the WCPP remitted for fresh consideration to the GB Badminton Board (or such members of that Group as its independent member considers appropriately qualified to re-consider the matter); or
 - b. That the WCPP Decision be upheld and the athlete’s appeal be rejected.
- 7.11 The Appeals Panel may also make recommendations for the future revision and/or smoother execution of the WCPP Selection and Appeals Process, which should be considered by the GB Badminton Board.
- 7.12 Sport Resolutions will be invited as an independent arbitrator to the Appeals Panel.

Amendment

- 7.13 GB Badminton reserves the right to amend these Appeals Procedures at its sole discretion and will make the amended version publicly available. An athlete's continuing membership of the WCPP shall be deemed as continued acceptance of these Appeals Procedures as amended.

Correspondence

- 7.14 Any notification, correspondence or any other document submitted under these Appeals Procedures shall be sent by email and such document shall be deemed to have been received by the intended recipient on the date of transmission, provided no error message is received.
- 7.15 Any notification or correspondence for the GB Badminton Board shall be marked for the attention of the applicable person and sent to: Head of Performance Operations, Badminton England, National Badminton Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes. MK8 9LA