

ENGLAND SELECTION FRAMEWORK



Version	Published	Comments	Owner / Author	Review date
1.0 2024	5 October 2024	First Issue	Lorraine Brown Head of Performance GB Climbing	April 2024
1.1 2024	10 October 2024	Reference update in point 5.1.1.7.	Lorraine Brown Head of Performance GB Climbing	April 2024

ENGLAND SELECTION FRAMEWORK



WHO IS IT FOR?

This document relates to the following groups.

- ▶ England Regional Squad
- ▶ England National Squad

This document relates to the following disciplines.

- ▶ Lead
- ▶ Boulder
- ▶ Speed

This document relates to the following categories.

Regional:

- ▶ Junior (U20)
- ▶ Youth A (U18)
- ▶ Youth B (U16)
- ▶ Youth C (U14)

National:

- ▶ Junior (U20)
- ▶ Youth A (U18)
- ▶ Youth B (U16)

1. OBJECTIVES OF THIS SELECTION FRAMEWORK

- 1.1. This framework outlines the approach that the GB Climbing, a department at the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), will use when selecting eligible athletes to the England Regional and National Squads 2024.
- 1.2. This framework must be read in conjunction with the England Regional and England National Squad Annual Benchmarking Strategy (ABS) 2024.
 - 1.2.1. The ABS provides detailed information to assist athletes, parents, and primary coaches in understanding the relevant disciplines specific performance standards and capabilities which will be used by the GB Climbing coaching team and Selection Panels (see section 6).
- 1.3. This selection framework also describes the appeal process. Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Panel must follow the procedures detailed in the appeal process. Adherence to the process ensures that all applicants are treated equally.
- 1.4. Athletes should be aware that on meeting the selection criteria for the England National Squad they are eligible for the GB Climbing Team selection processes for Both boulder and Lead (regardless of the route by which the athlete gained selection) if athletes meet age category requirements in 2024. For details, please see GB Team Selection Framework and Annual Performance Strategy.
- 1.5. This framework and the ABS will be annually reviewed, updated, and made publicly available via the BMC and GB Climbing website.

2. PURPOSE OF SELECTION DECISIONS

- 2.1. The purpose of the selection decisions, in priority order:
 - 2.1.1. **England Regional Squad:**
 - 2.1.1.1. To select athletes who can meet the standard and capabilities of progression to final rounds of domestic competitions.
 - 2.1.1.2. To select athletes who have the future potential to progress onto the England National Squad and GB Climbing Squad and Team.
 - 2.1.2. **England National Squad:**
 - 2.1.2.1. To select athletes who can progress through rounds and deliver medal winning performances at domestic competition.
 - 2.1.2.2. To select athletes who have the potential to progress onto GB Climbing Squad and Team.
 - 2.1.2.3. To select athletes who can bridge the gap to the standard and capabilities of international competition and are appropriately prepared to manage the training and competition requirements.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1. In addition to BMC eligibility below, athletes must comply with the [UK Sport Eligibility Policy](#)¹
- 3.2. Athletes must be members of the BMC.

¹ [UK Sport Eligibility Policy](#)

- 3.3. Athletes must hold a current UK Passport or eligible to apply for a British passport.
- 3.4. Athletes must be a resident in England, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- 3.5. Athletes will comply with UK Anti-Doping rules and anti-doping blood/urine testing policies. Notified athletes in the National and/or International Registered Testing Pools, or the UK Anti-Doping Domestic Testing Pool, will comply with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard for Testing and Investigations with regard to Anti-Doping Administration & Management System (ADAMS) and whereabouts information.
- 3.6. Supporting athletes and ensuring their health and well-being are the foundations of GB Climbing. Athletes require various forms of support, and the GB Climbing athlete health policy will play a crucial role in safeguarding athletes' physical and mental health.
 - 3.6.1. Current procedures can be found in the BMC GB Climbing Welfare Support Plan <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/gb-climbing-welfare-support-plan>
 - 3.6.2. The GB Climbing Athlete Health Policy is in development and will be available by 31 Jan 2024.
- 3.7. Northern Irish athletes who hold both Irish and British passports,
 - 3.7.1.1. Have an option to declare national allegiance to the UK.
 - 3.7.1.2. To be eligible to be considered under this policy, an athlete will be required to declare their national allegiance to the UK prior to the selection processes commencing.
 - 3.7.1.3. In the interest of fair play in sport, this declaration will be for an agreed period of time.
 - 3.7.1.4. If the athlete had previously competed internationally for Ireland, we would follow the rules as set out by the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) in respect to changing nationality.
 - 3.7.1.5. If this is the first declaration of allegiance to a nation for the athlete, there is an expectation that an athlete will declare allegiance for a period of two years.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- 4.1. The ABS provides detailed information used by the Selection Panel (see section 6) in the decision-making process and supports the professional judgement and subjective decision-making regarding athlete selections.

5. SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA OVERVIEW

- 5.1. Lead and Boulder
 - 5.1.1. **England Regional Squad**

ENGLAND SELECTION FRAMEWORK



Stage 1: Application to attend England REGIONAL Benchmarking Jan 2024

Criteria

- ▶ Minimum Points Achieved, or
- ▶ Final at a Four Nations Series Boulder or Lead 2023



Stage 2: England Benchmarking Event Jan 2024

Provisional dates, Boulder 13/14 Jan & Lead 27/28 Jan

Selection Criteria

- ▶ Benchmarking Standards
- ▶ Coach Observations



Stage 3:

Selection process and possible offer of place on the England REGIONAL Squad



Stage 4:

Acceptance of offer for the England REGIONAL Squad Program Activity

- 5.1.1.1. The England Regional Squad is selected in February and will run for the year.
- 5.1.1.2. Athletes who wish to be considered for selection to the England Regional Squad will be required to make an application on the GB Climbing website, through the on-line form against the timeline below.
- 5.1.1.3. Following the completion of the 2023 Youth Climbing Series, the applications process will open on **27th November 2023 and close on 8th December 2023**.
- 5.1.1.4. If the minimum eligibility standard as set out in this framework and the ABS have been met, athletes will then be invited to attend a benchmarking opportunity for the England Regional Squad in January 2024.
- 5.1.1.5. The invitation to benchmarking will be sent by **15th December 2023**.
- 5.1.1.6. Provisional dates for England Regional Benchmarking - Boulder 13/14th January & Lead 27/28th January.
- 5.1.1.7. Athletes who were selected to the 2023 Regional Squad at the Lead Benchmarking event on 17 June 2023 will be required to attend the 2024 selection processes as per section 5.1.1.2. If athletes are unsuccessful in re-selection for 2024, they will be supported by remaining invited to the Regional Squad activity program until 22 June 2024.
- 5.1.1.8. Timetable

Date	Day / Time	Description
5th February 24	Monday	Nomination Panel meet
6th February 24	Tuesday	Selection Panel meet
7th February 24	Wednesday by 17.00	Selection letters confirmed and athletes informed
9th February 24	Friday by 17.00	Deadline for notice of appeal
Week commencing 12th February 24	Thursday or Friday	Appeal Panel convene
Week commencing 27th February 24	Following Tuesday (if not sooner)	Appellants notified of the appeal panel decision

Table 1 | Timetable of selection / England Regional Squad

5.1.2. England National Squad – Junior and Youth A

- 5.1.2.1. All current eligible GB Team - Junior and Youth A athletes will gain automatic selection into the England National Squad and are not required to make an application or attend England National Squad Benchmarking.
- 5.1.2.2. All other Junior and Youth A athletes who meet the minimum points criteria as set out in the ABS will be required to complete the on-line application on the GB Climbing website.
- 5.1.2.3. Following the completion of the 2023 Junior British Lead Climbing Championships, the applications process will open on **16th October 2023 and close on 3rd November 2023**.
- 5.1.2.4. If the minimum eligibility standard as set out in this framework and the ABS have been met, the athletes will be nominated for selection to the England National Squad.
- 5.1.2.5. In alignment with section 8 and section 9 of this document, an athlete may also be nominated for selection into the England National Squad throughout 2024 if the

nomination panel has performance rational through domestic competition results or regional squad activity that they believe there would be benefit for that athlete to be experience the England Squad pathway programme. This would be undertaken to support athlete development and accelerate the athlete’s performance in accordance with the GBC campaign principles.

- 5.1.2.6. England National Squad selection will commence week beginning the **13th of November**.
- 5.1.2.7. Timetable

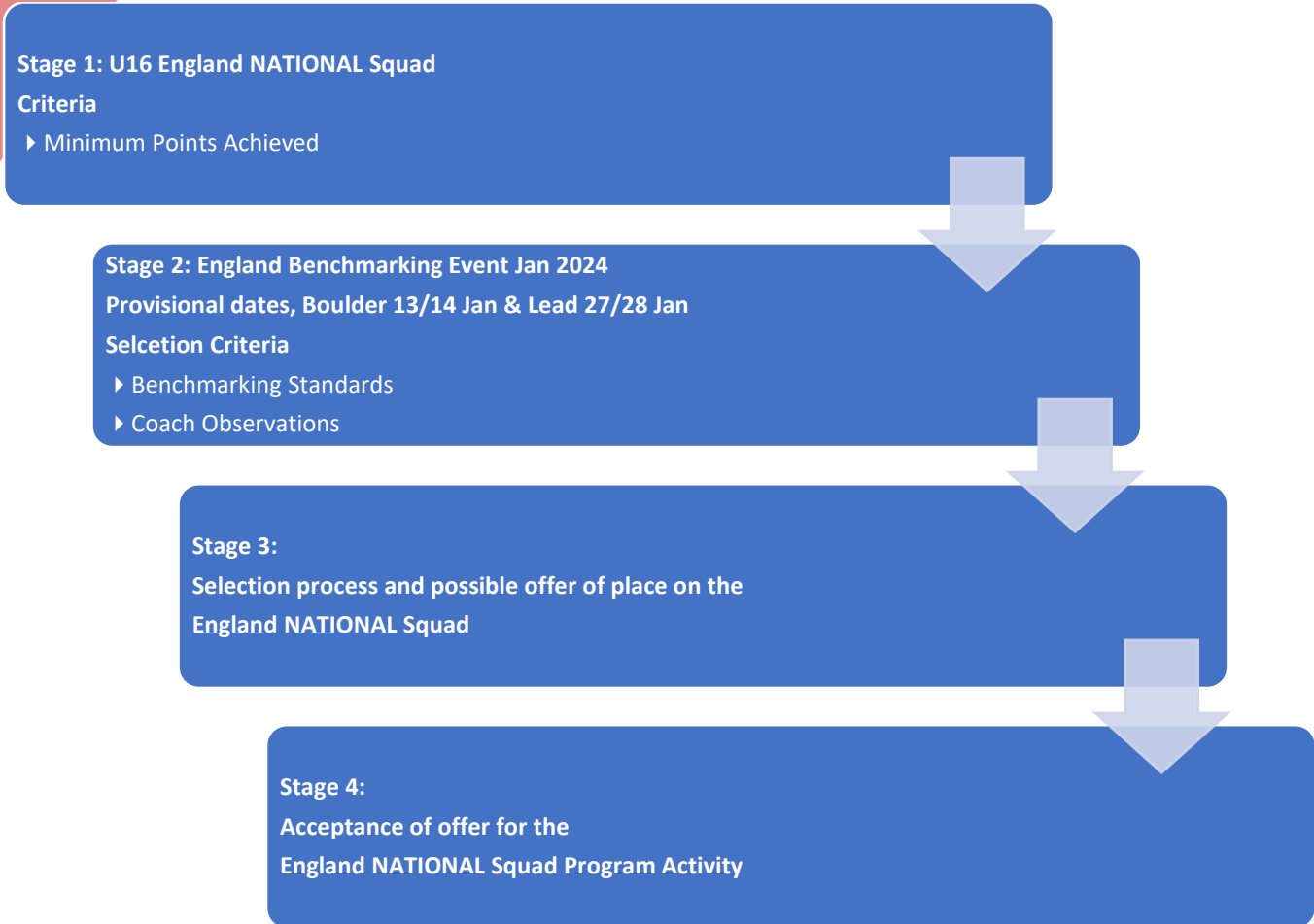
Date	Day / Time	Description
13th November 23	Monday	Nomination Panel Meet
14th November 23	Tuesday	Selection Panel Meet
15th November 23	Wednesday by 17.00	Selection letters confirmed and athletes informed
18th November 23	Friday by 17.00	Deadline for notice of appeal
Week commencing 20th November 23	Thursday or Friday	Appeal panel convene
Week commencing 27th November 23	Following Tuesday (if not sooner)	Appellants notified of the appeal panel decision

Table 2 | Timetable of selection / England National Squad – Junior and Youth A

5.1.3. England National Squad – Youth B

- 5.1.3.1. All current GB Climbing Team Youth B athletes will gain automatic selection into the England National Squad and are not required to make an application or attend England National Squad Benchmarking.
- 5.1.3.2. All other Youth B athletes who meet the minimum points criteria as set out in the ABS will be required to complete the on-line application on the GB Climbing website.
- 5.1.3.3. For Youth B athletes following the completion of the 2023 Youth Climbing Series, the applications process will open on **27th November 2023 and close on 8th December 2023**.
- 5.1.3.4. If the minimum eligibility standard as set out in this framework and the ABS have been met, athletes will be invited to attend a benchmarking event.
- 5.1.3.5. In alignment with section 8 and section 9 of this document, an athlete may also be nominated for selection into the England National Squad throughout 2024 if the nomination panel has performance rational through domestic competition results or regional squad activity that they believe there would be benefit for that athlete to be experience the England Squad pathway programme. This would be undertaken to support athlete development and accelerate the athlete’s performance in accordance with the GBC campaign principles.
- 5.1.3.6. The invitation to benchmarking will be sent by **15th December 2023**.
- 5.1.3.7. Provisional Benchmarking dates - Boulder 13/14th January & Lead 27/28th January 2024.

ENGLAND SELECTION FRAMEWORK



5.2. Speed

5.2.1. England Regional and National Squad

- 5.2.1.1. Speed qualification time considerations are referenced in the ABS
- 5.2.1.2. To apply for selection, video evidence of achieving the qualification time on an IFSC ratified speed wall, using official speed wall timing system such as Depron is required.
- 5.2.1.3. The nature of the speed climbing discipline is time based, and therefore this policy outlines the consideration times and does not guarantee selection.
- 5.2.1.4. The deadline date for athlete applications is the **3rd November 2023 at 17.00pm.**
- 5.2.1.5. Timetable

Date	Day / Time	Description
13th November 23	Monday	Nomination Panel Meet
14th November 23	Tuesday	Selection Panel Meet
15th November 23	Wednesday by 17.00	Selection letters confirmed and athletes informed
18th November 23	Friday by 17.00	Deadline for notice of appeal
Week commencing 20th November 23	Thursday or Friday	Appeal panel convene
Week commencing 27th November 23	Following Tuesday (if not sooner)	Appellants notified of the appeal panel decision

Table 3 | Timetable of selection / England Regional and National Squad

6. SELECTION PANEL

- 6.1. To minimise the risk of personally biased judgements, a range of sporting professionals will make up the Nomination and Selection panels.
- 6.2. Minutes from all meetings of both the Nomination Panel and the Selection Panel will be taken by a non-voting, independent observer.
- 6.3. All selection nominations are made by the following panel, or their equivalent if in exceptional circumstances they are unavailable:
 - 6.3.1. GB Climbing England Talent Manager (Chair, casting vote)
 - 6.3.2. 3 x GB Climbing Coach (England Regional) (Voting)
 - 6.3.3. Independent Observer with High Performance Sport knowledge (non-voting)
 - 6.3.4. (The Nomination Panel)
- 6.4. All selection nominations will be presented to the following panel, or their equivalent if in exceptional circumstances they are unavailable:
 - 6.4.1. GB Climbing Pathway Manager (Talent and Performance) (Chair, casting vote)
 - 6.4.2. GB Climbing Coach (England Talent) (Voting)
 - 6.4.3. GB Climbing Coach
 - 6.4.4. Independent Observer with High Performance Sport knowledge, as defined in 6.6 (voting)
 - 6.4.5. (The Selection Panel)

- 6.5. The Selection Panel is responsible for:
 - 6.5.1. Confirming that due consideration and process has been followed and that the athlete nominations made by the Nomination Panel are free from bias and/or conflict.
 - 6.5.2. Ensuring selections are appropriate and made in accordance with the purpose of this selection framework and the ABS.
 - 6.5.3. Ratification of the nominations from the Nomination Panel.
- 6.6. The role of the non-voting Independent Observer at clause 6.3.3 is to:
 - 6.6.1. Act as an observer, scrutinising the process while holding both panels accountable to the selection policy and its criteria as set out in the framework and the supporting ABS.
 - 6.6.2. Ensuring the principles of fairness and acting without prejudice are upheld.
 - 6.6.3. The Independent Observer must have no current or previous relationship (personal or financial) with GB Climbing, the athlete, or the athlete's support personnel, which could be perceived as biased.
- 6.7. Other expert advisors or observers such as representatives from Mountaineering Scotland, Sport England, UK Sport, British Athletes Commission may be invited to attend.
- 6.8. Selections will be made without prejudice or discrimination, and, as such, any conflicts, real or perceived, must be declared and recorded at the start of the meeting.
 - 6.8.1. In the event of a conflict the panel member will removed from the meeting for discussions pertaining to the conflict.
 - 6.8.2. The panel member will abstain from voting.
- 6.9. Each voting member of the Nomination and the Selection Panels (the Panels) shall have one vote as regards each selection decision. In the event of a tie, the respective Chair will have the casting vote.
- 6.10. There is no obligation on the Panels to select a specific number of squad members.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 7.1. Athletes and officials must not disclose any information regarding any selection decisions or appeals until such information is publicly announced or disclosed by GB Climbing. GB Climbing will make selection decisions publicly available within 1 working day of the appeal process being completed.

8. SUBJECTIVE NATURE OF SELECTION DECISIONS

- 8.1. GB Climbing does not consider it desirable to select the England Regional and National Squad purely based on hard-edged criteria. The Panels will use the ABS to inform the decision-making process.

9. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 9.1. The Selection Panel has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause.
- 9.2. Should an athlete miss an event or fall ill during or prior to elements of the 2024 selection process; or have any other mitigating circumstances, the Selection Panel reserve the right to either provide a separate opportunity for an athlete to compete and challenge for selection or take into consideration the mitigating circumstances under the following conditions:
 - 9.2.1. Evidence of illness, injury or other mitigating circumstance must be provided in writing prior to

- the event in question via email (l.whittaker@thebmc.co.uk) to the Chair of the Selection Panel.
- 9.2.2. If the athlete has been unable to take part in the selection event the Selection Panel may identify another selection opportunity whereby the athlete can provide the necessary performance data to support the selection decision making process.
- 9.2.3. Where an athlete is seeking for the Selection Panel to consider any other mitigating circumstances, the athlete must satisfy the criteria stated below:
- 9.2.3.1. In the case of an incident occurring during an event used in the selection process, a member of staff must be informed of the situation and the athlete must provide details of the situation via email (l.whittaker@thebmc.co.uk) to the chair of the Selection Panel within **twelve hours** following the end of the event in which the incident occurred.
 - 9.2.3.2. In all other cases certified details must be provided via email (l.whittaker@thebmc.co.uk) to the Chair of the Selection Panel no later than **one hour** prior to an event via an email to the Chair of the Selection Panel.
 - 9.2.3.3. The athlete must be able to demonstrate an established consistent track record in competition climbing performance that objectively demonstrates their standard and capability above other athletes.
 - 9.2.3.4. All decisions under mitigating circumstances that relate to injury, illness or medical conditions will be determined by the Head of Performance and Pathway Manager and an appointed Medical Officer to ensure a transparent process that also considers the medical needs of the athlete involved. When assessing if an athlete is fit to compete, the Medical Officer decision is final.

10. APPEALS

- 10.1. Any appeal against a decision of the Selection Panel must follow the procedures detailed in this appeal process and applies to all disciplines.
- 10.2. Reasons for an appeal:
- 10.2.1. There has been a failure to apply the selection criteria contained in the framework and/or the ABS.
 - 10.2.2. The Selection Panel has failed to follow its procedures properly; and/or
 - 10.2.3. The Selection Panel's discretion has not been exercised in a reasonable manner, and such discretion was exercised in such a way as to be prejudicial to the appellant.
 - 10.2.4. The athlete does not have the right to appeal against any judgement or discretion exercised in the course of making a selection decision or against the content of the selection framework or ABS.
- 10.3. Appeal Process
- 10.3.1. The appeals process is commenced when an athlete affected by a selection decision, or the athlete's authorised representative submits a formal written appeal (the Notice of Appeal) to the BMC using, appeals@thebmc.co.uk.
 - 10.3.2. The Notice of Appeal must be submitted within **48 hours** of the selection decision being communicated to the athlete.
 - 10.3.3. If the athlete fails to submit the Notice of Appeal within the time limit set out in this appeals process, they will have lost their right of appeal, save in wholly exceptional circumstances, which will be agreed by the Appeal Panel in their absolute discretion.
 - 10.3.3.1. Timetable

Date	Day / Time	Description
18 th November 23	Friday by 17.00	Deadline for notice of appeal
Week commencing 20 th November 23	Thursday or Friday	Appeal panel convene
Week commencing 27 th November 23	Following Tuesday (if not sooner)	Appellants notified of the appeal panel decision

10.3.4. The Notice of Appeal must set out full details of the athlete’s ground(s) of appeal and include:

- 10.3.4.1. Details of the decision which the athlete is appealing.
- 10.3.4.2. Details of the grounds(s) upon which the athlete relies, including the precise manner in which the athlete alleges that the selection criteria have not been applied or in which the procedure set out in the selection policy has not been followed.
- 10.3.4.3. Any documents of written evidence upon which the athlete relies in support of their appeal.
- 10.3.4.4. These documents must be relevant specifically to the athlete’s grounds of appeal.

10.4. Athletes should be aware that appeals are normally conducted by reference to the Notice of Appeal and supporting documents. The athlete (or their authorised representative) will not normally be allowed to attend the meeting of the appeal panel in person. Therefore, the athlete should ensure that the Notice of Appeal is as comprehensive as possible.

10.5. Appeal Panel

- 10.5.1. The Chair of Competition Climbing Performance Group (CCPG) will appoint the appeal panel. The appeal panel will be composed of three members, namely: One BMC Board Member with Performance expertise, one CCPG member (who was not part of the selection panel) from which one shall be nominated as chair; and an external person with high performance and elite sports knowledge/experience (the Appeals Panel).
- 10.5.2. The Chair of CCPG shall ensure that when selecting the Appeal Panel, those appointed do not have an actual or perceived conflict of interest in respect of the appeal.
- 10.5.3. In the event that any member of the Appeal Panel has any involvement with, or is related to an appellant or any athlete who might be affected by the outcome of the appeal, or had any involvement with the selection decision under appeal, or is in any way placed in a position of conflicting interests in respect of the appeal, he or she shall be disqualified from sitting on the Appeal Panel and will be replaced by an alternate who shall be nominated by the Chair of the CCPG.
- 10.5.4. Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Chair of the CCPG will as soon as reasonably practical circulate it to all members of the Appeal Panel.
- 10.5.5. The chair of the Appeal Panel will convene a meeting to take place as soon as practical, and in any event within five working days of the Appeal Panels receipt of the Notice of Appeal, at which the Appeal Panel will consider the Notice of Appeal.
- 10.5.6. The Appeal Panel will investigate the grounds set out in the notice of appeal and establish to their reasonable satisfaction whether or not there has been a failure to apply the applicable selection criteria and/or that there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the selection policy.
- 10.5.7. The Appeal Panel, when considering the Notice of Appeal, shall be entitled to take advice (including legal advice) as they see fit.

- 10.6. The Appeal Decision.
 - 10.6.1. The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to:
 - 10.6.1.1. Confirm the selection decision under appeal and reject the appeal; or
 - 10.6.1.2. Quash the selection decision under appeal and remit the matter back to the original decision-maker identifying the errors they have identified in the conduct of the selection process and requesting that a new decision be made within 72 hours; or
 - 10.6.1.3. Rescind the selection decision under appeal and confirm the selection of the athlete.
 - 10.6.2. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be reached by a majority vote, and all members shall have one vote each.
 - 10.6.3. In the case of a frivolous or vexatious appeal, the panel reserves the right to seek remuneration against the appellant to cover the costs of the appeal.
 - 10.6.4. The Chair of the CCPG will, in writing, inform all parties about the appeal panel's decision to either uphold or reject the appeal.
 - 10.6.5. The Appeal Panel's decision shall be final and binding on all parties.

11. DE-SELECTION - SUBSTITUTIONS AND INJURIES

- 11.1. An athlete may be de-selected from the England Regional and National Squad on the following grounds:
 - 11.1.1. Ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this selection policy.
 - 11.1.2. Injuries, illness and changes in health status will be considered on a case-by-case basis where an athlete wishes to be considered for selection.
 - 11.1.3. Failure to engage with the BMC and GB Climbing.
 - 11.1.4. Replacement of athletes de-selected from the squad will be considered at the complete discretion of the Selection Panel. Any replacement will be selected in accordance with section 5 of this policy.
- 11.2. Athletes will cease to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this selection policy if any of the following occur:
 - 11.2.1.1. An anti-doping rule violation or receiving provisional suspension due to anti-doping infringement; or
 - 11.2.1.2. A breach of the BMC Code of Conduct and/or athlete agreement or;
 - 11.2.1.3. A breach of any BMC and/or GB Climbing policy.

12. TIMEFRAMES

- 12.1. The selection process will take place and decisions announced in line with the dates outlined.

13. FRAMEWORK CHANGES

- 13.1. The selection framework may be amended at any time by the BMC for one or more of the following circumstances:
 - 13.1.1. Any changes in rules governing a particular event.
 - 13.1.2. Any change in eligibility, rules, or program of events.
 - 13.1.3. To give effect to the selection process in case of a drafting error or oversight.
 - 13.1.4. To clarify any ambiguity to the intended meaning of the selection policy.
 - 13.1.5. Any other reason determined by BMC at its total discretion.

13.2. Any changes will be communicated on the BMC and GB Climbing websites.

14. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE POLICY

14.1. Questions about this policy should be directed to the GBCadmin@thebmc.co.uk who will forward the query to the appropriate staff member who will ordinarily respond within 5 working days.