

**BRITISH JUDO SELECTION, NOMINATION, DESELECTION AND DISCIPLINARY DECISION  
"FAST" APPEALS PROCEDURE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document sets out the British Judo Association's Selection, Nomination and Deselection Appeals Procedure for all international team selection decisions, including all decisions to nominate an athlete to the British Olympic and Paralympic Associations or Commonwealth Games England for selection to compete at an Olympic, Paralympic or Commonwealth Games, and including all decisions to nominate an athlete to UK Sport for the receipt of an Athlete Performance Award. It applies equally to such nomination decisions as if each reference to 'selection' was replaced with 'nomination' unless otherwise stated, and disciplinary decisions as if each reference to 'selection' was replaced with 'disciplinary decision'. This document will remain in place until superseded or amended by the BJA from time to time. It is the Appeals Procedure referred to in all BJA Performance documents including the Athlete Agreement and governs all challenges to a selection decision by an athlete if he/she has signed the Athlete Agreement, on the basis that it is a condition of membership that all BJA members abide by BJA policy and procedures.
- 1.2 Selections will take place in accordance with the selection policy published annually, supplemented by any other published agenda for that particular year. For Olympic, Paralympic and Nomination to the World Class Programme (WCP), a separate document will be circulated which addresses the specific issues involved. In all cases, however, anyone wishing to lodge an appeal under this procedure must be fully familiar with the detailed provisions of the Selection Policy and BJA Athletes Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 This is intended to be an extremely accelerated procedure to enable any challenge to be resolved as quickly as is reasonably possible. Due to the nature of selection for major events, decisions often need to be taken shortly before the events to which the selection relates. Furthermore, there is a considerable potential for 'knock on' to athlete preparation related to the outcome of the appeal. Accordingly, the aim of this procedure is to return a decision on appeal within **5 working days**.
- 1.4 This is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each athlete and the BJA (together "the Parties") as to how selection decisions are to be challenged. The BJA agrees, and by virtue of their membership of the BJA, parties to any dispute concerning any matter connected with or arising out of selection issues agree to submit such dispute to binding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Selection Appeal Procedure. The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of this Procedure, or any decision made under this Selection Appeals Procedure, before any court of law or other dispute resolution body. The Parties will treat all decisions under this Selection Appeals Procedure as final and binding upon them.
- 1.5 The Parties agree that this Selection Appeal Procedure is to be treated as an arbitration procedure under Part 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 ('the Act') and the provisions of clause 1.4 above amount to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act. The seat of the Arbitration shall be England.

## **2. PARTIES**

- 2.1 This Selection Appeals Procedure is binding on the BJA and on each athlete who is seeking selection to the World Class Programme and any Great Britain or England Team selected by the BJA by virtue of their BJA membership.

## **3. HOW TO APPEAL**

- 3.1 This Appeals Procedure is commenced when an athlete directly affected by a selection decision makes a formal written appeal (the 'Notice of Appeal') to the Chair of the BJA Selection Appeals Panel, [Andrew.Scoular@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.Scoular@britishjudo.org.uk). This must be done **within 24 hours** of the selection being announced or communicated to the athlete whichever is later. If the athlete fails to submit the Notice within the time limit set out in this Procedure he/she will have lost their right of Appeal under this Procedure, save in wholly exceptional circumstances which will be judged by the Appeal Panel in their absolute discretion.
- 3.2 The Notice of Appeal will set out the ground of the appeal and will include full details of the basis of the appeal including the precise manner in which the appellant alleges the selection criteria have not been followed. The Notice of Appeal should be as full as possible, citing the particular criteria not to have been followed and specific evidence or information that supports this, as it will form the basis of the remainder of this procedure. Appeals will normally be conducted based on the written submissions of the appellant and the relevant BJA Selection Panel, without a hearing or the calling of witnesses or the giving of oral evidence.

## **4. \_\_\_\_\_ GROUNDS FOR APPEAL**

- 4.1 The grounds of appeal against the decision of any selection panel will be that there has been a failure to follow the applicable selection process or the decision has been made on the basis of error(s) of fact. This Selection Appeals Procedure is provided on this limited ground only and must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the selection panel where they have followed the proper procedure. In reaching their decision the selection panel are acting as experts and athletes agree that in so doing, the panel will exercise judgment and discretion which are not in themselves capable of challenge.
- 4.2 There are no appeals allowed against the content of the published selection criteria and therefore against the actions of the selection panel, provided they follow the selection criteria.

## **5. COMMUNICATIONS AND NOTICES**

- 5.1 Due to the timescales involved, the BJA Selection Panel will use any reasonable method of communicating with athletes which will include oral announcements to groups of athletes, telephone calls, text messages, email or fax, and other forms of social media - athletes must be aware of this and keep a constant review of these

communication channels to receive the selection decision. Athletes are advised that they should inform the BJA Logistics Manager ([john.bramall@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:john.bramall@britishjudo.org.uk)) of a preferred method of communication and provide email/ telephone/fax numbers/social media contacts etc.

- 5.2 Any Notice of Appeal must be sent by email to the Chair. [Andrew.Scouler@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:Andrew.Scouler@britishjudo.org.uk)

## **6. APPEAL PANEL**

- 6.1 The Appeal Panel will consist of 3 people (including one alternate) whose names and contact details are set out in Schedule 1.
- 6.2 In the event that any member of the Appeals Panel has any direct connection or involvement with or is related to an appellant or any athlete who might be affected by the outcome of the Appeal, or is in any other way placed in a position of conflicting interests in respect of any appeal she/he shall be disqualified from sitting on the Appeal Panel and will be replaced by one of the alternates. This will be determined by the chair of the panel.

## **7. CONDUCT OF THE APPEAL**

- 7.1 As soon as reasonably practicable following the receipt of the Notice of Appeal the Appeal Panel shall contact the Chairman of the Selection Panel to inform him of the Appeal, provide him with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Chairman provides any response which he wishes to make on behalf of the Selection Panel within 24 hours of this notification.
- 7.2 The selection panel and any Third Party (see para 7.5 below) will not be entitled to appear before the Appeal Panel but may at the discretion of the Appeal Panel be invited to provide information by telephone or in writing. No party will be entitled to separate representation (including legal representation). Upon request and at the discretion of the appeals panel, the athlete may be accompanied at this meeting by a supporter, e.g., friend, family, trainer, legal advisor, medical adviser, for athletes under 18 they have the right to be accompanied by an adult family member or friend in addition to a supporter.
- 7.3 If the appeal lodged is unsuccessful, the Appellant will be required to pay up to £100 to the BJA as a contribution to the administrative costs of holding the Appeal. (This must be done within 24 hours of the appeal decision)
- 7.4 Until the appeal is decided, the BJA will refrain from publishing any further details in relation to the selection which is the subject of the appeal, although the existing details will remain where originally published before the Notice of Appeal was received.
- 7.5 Where it appears to the Appeal Panel that the interests of some other athlete (other than the Appellant, referred to as the 'Third Party') may be directly affected by any decision of the Appeal Panel, they will invite the Third Party to comment in writing on the merits of the Appeal and will provide the Third Party with copies of all relevant documentation as soon as possible, but in any event within 24 hours. In such a

situation it is likely that the decision of the Appeal Panel will determine the rights of all the affected athletes (not just the appellant) and therefore the Third Party will be prohibited from raising again by way of a separate or further appeal matters which have already been decided upon.

- 7.6 The Appeal Panel will seek to reach its conclusion within 48hrs of receipt of the Notice and will inform all interested parties in writing and by telephone (or such other method of communication as the Appeal Panel shall decide) as soon as possible.

## **8. REMEDIES**

- 8.1 The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to confirm the decision of the Selection panel and reject the Appeal.
- 8.2 The Appeal Panel may uphold the appeal and refer the matter back to the Selection Panel identifying the errors they have identified in the conduct of the Selection process and request that a new selection meeting is convened within one week to undertake the selection process again for that particular appellant/ weight category.
- 8.3 The Appeal Panel, if it upholds the appeal, may not substitute its own decision for that of the Selection Panel.

## **9. MINOR AND NON-CONSEQUENTIAL BREACHES OF THIS PROCEDURE**

- 9.1. Save that the time limit for commencing this Procedure by the Appellant shall be strictly enforced, where any party deviates from any requirement of this Procedure it shall not invalidate the Procedure or the decision of the Appeal Panel, unless there is a clear and significant risk that the deviation has affected the decision of the Appeal Panel.

## **10. CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROCEEDINGS AND PUBLICATION OF DECISION**

- 10.1 The BJA, the Appellant and any Third Party are under an obligation of confidentiality in respect of any appeal proceeding under this Procedure. Save as permitted under this Selection Appeals Procedure, none of these Parties will make any public statement or disclosure of the contents of the Notice, or any other matter referred to by any of the parties during the course of these Proceedings.
- 10.2 The BJA will be entitled to publish the decision of the Appeal Panel where it upholds the Appeal (or any element of it) in such manner and to such extent as is necessary to inform all properly interested and affected parties of the status of the selection decision previously published and the resulting position as to selection.

## **11. CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROCEDURE**

- 11.1 The BJA will be entitled to amend this procedure from time to time and such amendments will take effect from the first date of publication of the complete amended procedure on the BJA website.

## SCHEDULE 1

### Appeals Panel

#### **Andrew Scoular - Chair of Appeals Panel**

BJA Chief Executive Officer  
British Judo Association Head Office  
Kudhail House  
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Great Barr  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B43 7AH

[andrew.scoular@britishjudo.org.uk](mailto:andrew.scoular@britishjudo.org.uk)

#### **Jonathan Hall**

Legal Consultant  
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#### **Peter Blewitt**

BJA Board Member  
[petercharlesblewitt@lineone.net](mailto:petercharlesblewitt@lineone.net)

### Alternate Panel Member

#### **Brian Davies**

BJA Council Member  
[brian.davies@freeuk.com](mailto:brian.davies@freeuk.com)

