



**BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION (“BJA”)
ENGLAND JUDO
2026 COMMONWEALTH GAMES
23 July - 2 August 2026
SELECTION PROCEDURE**



INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth Games are a priority performance competition, within both the British Judo Association’s and England Judo’s Strategies. Success in Glasgow 2026 is important not only as a success indicator to the Olympic Games, but also in building the reputation of judo to inspire the nation through medal winning performances.

Selection of fighters representing England at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow will be made according to the following criteria set out below. British Judo reserves the right to make changes to the policy.

The final decision in selection to the Commonwealth Games to Team England lies with Commonwealth Games England. Achievement of the selection criteria therefore represents an “eligibility for nomination”, not selection or even an automatic nomination.

1. ELIGIBILITY

- 1.2. In all cases, athletes must meet all of the eligibility requirements to participate in the Commonwealth Games as may be set by Team England, The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF), the International Judo Federation (“IJF”), and/or the BJA, including (for example) in respect of matters such as of nationality (e.g. by having a British passport) and of UK anti-doping requirements.
- 1.3. Athletes must meet the code of conducts laid out by the British Judo Association, Team England, and the Commonwealth Games Federation. Breaches of these codes may result in deselection or non-selection. This includes signing the Commonwealth Games England Team Members Agreement, and signing the CGF Entry and Eligibility Form.
- 1.4. Athletes must hold a current BJA Licence.

2. AGE REQUIREMENTS

- 2.1. All athletes participating in the Commonwealth Games must be born on or before 31 December 2010.

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3. COMPETITION FORMAT

- 3.1. The competition format for Glasgow 2026 consists of individual events in the weight categories listed below:
 - i. Male: -60kg, -66kg, -73kg, -81kg, -90kg, -100kg, +100kg
 - ii. Female: -48kg, -52kg, -57kg, -63kg, -70kg, -78kg, +78kg
- 3.2. A maximum entry of 14 athletes may be selected, 7 males and 7 females, with a maximum of 2 fighters per weight category. The Selection Panel is under no obligation to nominate the maximum number of athletes; this includes not nominating an athlete for each weight category and may instead nominate two athletes for one weight category in order to prioritise medal opportunity. This means that being the top ranked English athlete in a weight category does not guarantee nomination.

4. QUALIFICATION PERIOD

- 4.1. The qualification period is from 2nd June 2025 to 1st June 2026.
- 4.2. Athletes will be considered for nomination via the IJF world ranking list on the 1st June 2026 to be confirmed using <https://www.ijf.org/wrl>
- 4.3. The selection meeting will take place week commencing 1st June 2026.

5. SELECTION CRITERIA & PROCESS

The intention of the Selection Panel will be to select a team most capable of winning medals at Glasgow 2026. This means that England Judo will nominate up to 7 male and 7 female athletes who present the best opportunity to win medals. England Judo may double up on athletes in certain weight categories rather than fielding an athlete in every weight category should this present greater medal opportunities.

The selection meeting will take place on the week stated in 4.3 and will follow 3 stages.

- 5.1. **STAGE 1** - An athlete will be nominated to Commonwealth Games England for the Team England delegation at Stage 1 where he / she achieves Top 40 Women and Top 60 Men on the IJF World Ranking List. Where 2 or more athletes have met these criteria in a single weight category, the highest ranked athlete will be nominated. At stage 1, only 1 athlete per weight category will be nominated.
- 5.2. **STAGE 2** - If there are still spaces available in the Team England delegation after Stage 1, an athlete may be considered for nomination at Stage 2 where he / she achieves 1 or more of the following levels of performance:
 - 5.2.1. World Ranking Top 40 Women and Top 60 Men.
 - 5.2.2. Senior European Championships Top 5 placing in 2026.
 - 5.2.3. Grand Slam Top 7 placing.
 - 5.2.4. Grand Prix Top 7 placing.
 - 5.2.5. Senior European Continental Open Medal.
 - 5.2.6. Junior World Championships 2025 Top 7 placing.
 - 5.2.7. Senior European Continental Open Top 5 placing.
 - 5.2.8. Junior European Championships 2025 Top 5 placing.

5.3. At this stage 2, athletes may be nominated based on the performances listed above taking into account their likelihood to win a medal based on:

- 5.3.1. Potential competition seeding.
- 5.3.2. Previous Performances against likely opponents in 2025/2026 and quality of the field.
- 5.3.3. There shall be no obligation on the Selection Panel to nominate any athlete under this section. Athletes being considered for nomination under this section will be considered on an individual basis taking into account the factors listed in section 6.

Reserve athletes may be named at stage 2 and will be nominated should any unforeseen withdrawals occur.

5.4. **STAGE 3** - If, after the Selection Panel has completed its consideration and nomination of athletes under stages 1 and 2, there are still spaces available in the Team England delegation at the Second Selection Stage and the Selection Panel recognises other opportunities for medals have been exhausted, consideration of factors such as long-term development will be considered.

6. **ADDITIONAL FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION (Applies to Stage 2 & 3 only)**

6.1. When considering selections, in addition to the level of performance achieved by an athlete, the Selection Panel shall take into account, and give such weight as it considers appropriate, to the following factors (ranked in order):

- 6.1.1. An athlete's potential to win a medal; based on the evidence from World Rankings and Competition performances in the competitions stated in 5.2. At this point the panel may also consider Senior European Cups and Non-European Continental Opens at their discretion.
- 6.1.2. An athlete's current World Ranking;
- 6.1.3. An athlete's past results (2025 & 2026) (Note: when considering 'results', factors other than the final placing may be taken into account - these factors may include such things as the standard of the event, the draw, the opposition, officiating, injury and any other factors that may have influenced the final results).
- 6.1.4. An athlete's stage of development and their ability to win a medal at future milestone events including European, World Championships, Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games.
- 6.1.5. Number of wins against opponents on the IJF World Ranking List Top 30 or likely Glasgow Commonwealth Games opponents in 2025 & 2026.
- 6.1.6. An athlete's commitment to the GB WCPP Programme (and HN Programme where appropriate) - this may include attendance record at ONST/OPTC, National Randori and Competitions (Note: when considering 'meeting agreed expected attendance', factors such as performance, displaying the "GB Judo Way" values and punctuality may be taken into account);
- 6.1.7. Injury status at the time of selection and through the 2025 & 2026 Competition years.

- 6.1.8. An athlete's suitability as a team member against the (BJA code of conduct) and/or as an ambassador for the BJA (Note: when considering 'suitability', factors such as behaviour and previous disciplinary record over the qualification period will also be taken into account).
- 6.1.9. Current weight and the ability to make the fighting weight without detriment to performance.

7. SELECTION PANEL

- 7.1. All decisions in relation to nomination of athletes for selection by Commonwealth Games England in respect of the Games shall be made by the Selection Panel (the "Selection Panel"), which shall normally comprise of: a Chairperson (which may be the England Judo Team Leader or a representative/other member of the England Judo Team leadership team), Legal Observer/Adviser (normally with neutrality), Chair of the England Areas, the Team England Commonwealth Games Judo Coaching Team, and a Recording Officer.

The responsibilities and voting rights of the Selection Panel shall be as follows:

- 7.2. Chairperson: Will be responsible (along with the legal observer) for ensuring that due process is followed and selections are made in adherence with this policy. The Chairperson of the Selection Panel will be entitled to one vote per athlete selection ONLY in the event of a tied vote.
- 7.3. Legal Observer/Adviser: Will be an independent panel member with legal expertise with no voting right, but to ensure due process is followed. They may only advise voting panel members on the legal obligations of the policy and on such other matters requested by voting panel members.
- 7.4. Coaching Team: The Team England Commonwealth Games Judo Coaching Team normally comprising of 3 Coaches, of which 2 will be entitled to one vote each in the selection of all athletes. In the event of a tied selection vote, the Chairperson will have the deciding vote. The Coaching Staff and the Recording Officer will be responsible for compiling results and other relevant details on all athletes being considered for selection - to be presented to the Selection Panel in advance of the meeting.
- 7.5. Recording Officer: The Recording Officer of the Selection Panel will document the selection decisions as appropriate. The Recording Officer will not be involved in the discussions other than to provide advice on non-technical matters and will not be entitled to vote.
- 7.6. Observer: Team England will have a representative as an observer in the meeting.
- 7.7. Members of the Selection Panel must declare any perceived conflict of interest concerning the selection of any athlete. In cases where there is conflict of interest, the Selection Panel member affected will remain in the meeting BUT revert to an Observer Role for the athlete in question, and NOT vote on the selection of the athlete, subject to the declaration to which their conflict of interest extends. In such a case, the 3rd Coach will become a voting member.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SELECTIONS AND NON-SELECTIONS

- 8.1. Official announcement of the England Judo Team will be by Commonwealth Games England. Until this announcement is made all selections and non-selections must remain confidential.
- 8.2. Selected athletes will be informed in writing via email that they have been selected.
- 8.3. Athletes that have been deemed to have met stage 1, 2, or 3 of the selection criteria will be informed if they have not been selected. Athletes must keep this confidential, although this communication will trigger the start of an athlete's ability to appeal through the BJA Fast Appeals Policy.

9. DE-SELECTION AND REPLACEMENT

- 9.1. At any stage of the selection process prior to the 23rd June 2026, the Selection Panel reserves the right not to nominate, or to de-select, any athlete on the following grounds:
- 9.2.
 - 9.2.1. Medical grounds - i.e. when an injury/illness may inhibit the achievement of appropriate performance - pursuant to the process set out in paragraph 9.4
 - 9.2.2. Suitability as a team member, where an athlete is deemed to have breached the code of conduct leading to the Selection Panel to determine in its opinion that the selection of such athlete would be inappropriate. This would be managed through the British Judo Performance Programme Fighter Disciplinary Policy. Where there is a grievance from a fellow athlete or staff member, this will be managed through the Conduct and Complaints Policy.
<https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/BJA-Performance-Programme-Fighter-Code-of-Conduct-Agreement-2024-1.pdf>
- 9.3. The process under which an athlete may be de-selected from the Commonwealth Games Team applies post 23rd June 2026. After this date, if an athlete is deselected a replacement can only be called if deselection is for injury or illness reasons. A letter from a doctor must be provided. The replacement will be like-for-like in regards of gender and weight category.
- 9.4. In the event of injury/illness which may inhibit performance, the decision to deselect will be taken as follows:
 - 9.4.1. The British Judo Chief Medical Officer (CMO) will require the athlete to undergo a medical examination to determine his/her fitness to participate. This examination will be carried out by the British Judo CMO or another doctor delegated by him/her. If the athlete fails the medical examination, his/her nomination will be withdrawn and the BJA may (if appropriate) nominate a replacement athlete in accordance with its selection policy.

9.4.2. If the athlete passes the medical examination carried out, but the BJA still has concerns over whether or not the athlete is able to compete to the best of his/her ability due to the underlying injury or illness, the England Judo Team Leader can require (on a date specified by The Team Leader) the athlete to undergo a performance test. The test, as set out in Section 9.5 below, may be replaced by an actual competitive event performance, at the Team Leader's discretion. If the athlete fails the test (which can be undertaken on more than one occasion and within a short time frame if the Team Leader considers appropriate), his/her nomination will be withdrawn on medical grounds and, if appropriate, a replacement can be nominated by the BJA in accordance with this selection policy. Athletes wishing to appeal deselection may do so through the BJA Fast Appeals Policy.

9.5. The test protocol will be as follows:

9.5.1. Successful completion of three training bouts of appropriate length (4 minutes) of identified opponents selected by the Team Leader and Team England Commonwealth Games Coaches, with a rest interval of 20 minutes between bouts.

9.5.2. The criteria for successful performance will be determined by a panel and described to the athlete prior to the test. The panel will consist of the Team Leader, and Team England Commonwealth Games Coaches and CMO. A majority decision will be acceptable. In the instance of a tie, the Team Leader shall have the deciding vote.

9.5.3. All members of the panel must declare any perceived conflict of interest concerning the selection of any athlete. In cases where there is conflict of interest, the Panel member affected will remain in the meeting BUT revert to an Observer Role for the athlete in question, and NOT vote on the selection of the athlete, subject to the declaration to which their conflict of interest extends. In such a case, the 3rd Coach will become a voting member.

9.6. For administrative purposes, Team England must be kept informed of any possible decision to withdraw an athlete. The nomination of a replacement athlete must also conform to and meet the criteria described in this selection policy.

10. REPLACEMENTS AND RESERVES

10.1. In cases where another athlete(s) has/have achieved the qualification criteria, the BJA may nominate prior to the 23rd June 2026 a reserve for consideration, using the same criteria as applied to the nominated athletes and as set out in this selection policy.

- 10.2. After the 23rd June 2026 and in the case of medically certified injury, such nominated reserves would be eligible to replace a selected athlete in accordance with section 9. This is subject to and in accordance with The Late Athlete Replacement Policy and to any Commonwealth Games regulations in force at that time.

11. GROUNDS FOR APPEAL

- 11.1. The BJA Fast Appeals process is the only method of appeal should an athlete wish to appeal a selection, de-selection or replacement decision prior to the 23rd June 2026. The BJA Fast Appeals Process can be found on the BJA website at <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/British-Judo-Selection-Nomination-and-Deselection-Fast-Appeals-Procedure.pdf>

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 12.1. All athletes, officials, panel members or any other persons connected with any selection decision shall keep all matters relating to any selection decisions confidential and shall not announce any selection decisions until after the final team is announced by Commonwealth Games England.