



**Policy and Procedure  
LA Cycle  
2026 Senior European  
Championships  
Selection Procedure**

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BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION

# 2026 SENIOR EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

## SELECTION PROCEDURE

16 - 19 APRIL 2026 | TBILISI, GEO

### INTRODUCTION

The Senior European Championships is a performance competition and key opportunity in the journey to the Olympic Games. As we near the start of LA2028 Olympic qualification window, this event serves as a vital stepping stone in our long-term strategy.

British Judo is committed to selecting athletes who demonstrate the potential to qualify for the LA Olympic Games over the next three years. This championship is a key opportunity to test, challenge, and elevate our judoka on the European stage, laying the foundation for future Olympic success.

Athletes should note that for all major championships, each delegation may enter a maximum of 9 entries in total for men and 9 entries in total for women, and in each weight category of men or women, a maximum of 2 athletes can be entered.

### SELECTION MEETING

The GB Team for the 2026 Senior European Championships (wk16) will be selected as follows:

- Week 13 w/c Monday 23 March – First and Final Selection Stage

### ELIGIBILITY

- To be eligible for selection to the 2026 Senior European Championships, athletes must meet the following criteria:
  - 1.1. Hold a valid British passport or meet the International Judo Federation (IJF) / European Judo Union (EJU) policy requirements regarding refugees. See the IJF rules here: [IJF Rules](#).
  - 1.2. Hold a valid membership of British Judo or a home nation.
  - 1.3. Not be aged 15 or under which is the minimum age applied for all IJF/EJU competitions.
  - 1.4. Not serving a period of ineligibility as a result of a transfer of allegiance.
  - 1.5. Not serving a provisional or permanent suspension for an anti-doping violation or any other reason.
  - 1.6. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought British Judo into disrepute.
  - 1.7. Has not been disciplined by British Judo for misconduct.

### SELECTION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

In sections 2, 3 and 4, reference to medals achieved refers to the definitive Performance Timeline from **21 April 2025 to 22 March 2026**, including ALL IJF World Ranking events during this period.

#### 2. First Round:

An athlete will be selected to the GB Team where he / she achieves one or more of the following levels of performance (prioritised in descending order):

2.1	1x Grand Slam medal
2.2	1x Grand Prix medal
2.3	WRL Top 50 (ranked in descending order)

### 3. **Second Round:**

In round two, athletes will be **considered** for selection by the Selection Panel ("the Panel") if they have met one or more of the performance standards listed below, in order of priority from highest to lowest. The Panel will assess each athlete against the criteria outlined in Section 5.

3.1	1x Grand Slam Top 7 placing
3.2	1x Grand Prix Top 7 placing
3.3	WRL Top 60 (ranked in descending order)
3.4	1x European Open medal & 1x Top 7 placing

3.5 If the number of qualified athletes exceeds the limit of 9 men or 9 women, and more than two athletes in any single weight category have achieved equivalent performance levels as outlined in sections 2 to 3, the Panel will determine which athlete(s) to select. This decision will be made at the Panel's discretion, taking into account the factors listed in section 5 and the provisions of section 7.

### 4. **Third Round:**

In the third round, athletes in the junior age group (born between January 2006 and December 2010) **may be considered** by the Panel, if they have achieved the performance criteria listed below. The Panel will consider athletes against the criteria listed in section 5:

4.1	1x Senior European Open medal
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5. When considering selections, in addition to the level of performance achieved by an athlete, the Panel shall take into account, and give such weight as it considers appropriate, to the following factors (not ranked in order):

- 5.1. An athlete's potential to win a medal;
- 5.2. An athlete's current World Ranking;
- 5.3. An athlete's past results (when considering results, factors other than the final placing may be taken into account such as the standard of the event, the draw, the opposition, injury and any other factors that may have influenced the final results);
- 5.4. An athlete's stage of development and their ability to win a medal in the future at milestone events including European Championships, World Championships and Olympic Games;
- 5.5. Number of wins against opponents on the IJF World Ranking List top 36;
- 5.6. Current and previous medical / injury history;
- 5.7. An athlete's suitability as a team member and/or as an ambassador for the British Judo Association (BJA) (when considering 'suitability', factors such as behaviour and previous disciplinary record will also be taken into account).

### 6. **Fourth Round**

Following the completion of rounds one to three, the Panel may consider additional athletes, who have not achieved the performance standard during the performance timeline, subject to the maximum team size outlined in section 3.5

- 6.1. Athletes may only be considered for selection in this round if the Panel believe their inclusion would benefit British Judo and that they demonstrate the potential to qualify for the LA2028 Olympic Games.
- 6.2. There shall be **no obligation** on the Panel to select any athlete under section 6. Athletes being considered for selection will be considered on an individual basis, taking into account the factors listed in section 5.

7. Except for selections made under section 2, the Panel retains the discretion to determine whether to select two, one, or no athletes in any given weight category. This decision will be made based on what the Panel considers to be in the best interests of British Judo.

### 8. **Reserves**

Reserves may be selected by the Panel in cases where a weight category has already been filled as follows:

- 8.1. Reserve athletes may only be considered if:
  - 8.1.1. They have met the performance criteria outlined in sections 3.1–3.4 or 4.1 and
  - 8.1.2. The Panel have assessed the athlete against the factors listed in section 5.
- 8.2. The Panel reserves the right not to select any reserve athletes for a given weight category.
- 8.3. Where the maximum team size has been reached, as outlined in 3.5, the Panel may rank reserve athletes according to their potential to qualify for the LA2028 Olympic Games.
- 8.4. If a selected athlete withdraws from the GB Team, the confirmation of a reserve athlete's inclusion will be subject to the final entry deadlines set by the EJU or IJF.

## **SELECTION PANEL**

9. The Panel shall comprise of the following voting and non-voting members:
  - 9.1. Voting members:
    - Performance Director
    - Minimum of 2 WCPP Olympic Performance Coaches
  - 9.2. Non-voting members:
    - Chairperson – a member of the Performance Leadership Team
    - Independent Observer
    - Recording Officer
10. The Chairperson and the Independent Observer shall be responsible for ensuring that due process is followed and decisions are made in accordance with this selection policy.
11. Any selection decisions shall be made by way of a majority decision. Each WCPP Olympic Performance Coach will have one vote each. Where there is a tie in the votes, the Performance Director shall have the casting vote.
12. The Recording Officer will take notes and document selection decisions as appropriate.
13. The GB WCPP Performance team will be responsible for compiling results and other relevant details on athletes for consideration by the Panel at the selection meeting.
14. Any individual involved in the selection process must declare any association / conflict of interest concerning any athlete being considered for selection.

## **COMMUNICATION OF SELECTIONS**

15. The Chairperson of the Panel will provide the selection recommendations, together with any material that the Panel considers appropriate to justify such selections, to the Performance Advisory Group (PAG) for ratification. The PAG shall ratify the selections if the correct procedures were followed by the Panel in the decision-making process.
16. Once selections have been ratified by the PAG, these will be immediately communicated to the relevant athletes by email and published on the BJA website.

## **PREPARATION**

17. All WCPP athletes will follow the WCPP preparation programme.
18. All selected athletes will attend any planned Preparation Camps at the British Judo National Training Centre.

## **ADIDAS JUDO GI**

19. It will be compulsory that all selected athletes for the 2026 European Championships will wear adidas Judogi in competition. The GB WCPP will provide 1x white and 1x blue adidas Judogi to each selected athlete.
20. All selected athletes will be responsible for purchasing and applying their backnumber to the adidas Judogi in accordance with the IJF Judogi regulations. The backnumber can only be ordered from [www.ijfbacknumber.com](http://www.ijfbacknumber.com) or [www.mybacknumber.com](http://www.mybacknumber.com).

## **FITNESS**

21. Athletes may be required to undergo fitness tests and/or 'fit to compete' tests at any time.

## **DE-SELECTION & APPEALS**

22. The Panel reserves the right to de-select an athlete at any stage, in accordance with the GB Team De-Selection Policy. For full details regarding the de-selection process, please refer to the GB Team De-Selection Policy available on the BJA website: – <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/gb-judo/support/gb-judo-policies/>.
23. An athlete may only appeal a selection or de-selection decision on the grounds that the Panel failed to follow the applicable criteria. The BJA Fast Appeals process is the only method of appeal should an athlete wish to appeal a selection or de-selection decision. Any appeal must be made within 24 hours of the selection or de-selection decision being communicated to the athlete. The BJA Fast Appeals Process can be found on the BJA website: – <https://www.britishjudo.org.uk/gb-judo/support/gb-judo-policies/>