



**Policy and Procedure
LA Cycle
2026 U23 European
Championships
Selection Procedure**

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BRITISH JUDO ASSOCIATION
2026 U23 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
SELECTION PROCEDURE
30 OCT - 1 NOV 2026 | NAPLES, ITA

INTRODUCTION

The U23 European Championships serve as a key performance pathway event for athletes with the potential to compete and medal at this level. Results from the GB team will play a critical role in shaping British Judo's strategy for the LA 2028 and Brisbane 2032 Olympic Games.

It is conditional of being selected for the 2026 U23 European Championships, that all selected athletes follow the GB Preparation Programme.

Each delegation may enter a maximum of 9 athletes in total for men and 9 athletes in total for women. In each weight category of men or women a maximum of 2 athletes can be entered. The maximum number of athletes per delegation is 18 in total.

SELECTION PROCESS

The GB Team for the 2026 U23 European Championships (wk44) will be selected as follows:

- **Week 39: w/c Monday 21 September 2026**

ELIGIBILITY

1. To be eligible for selection to the 2026 U23 European Championships, athletes must meet the following criteria:
 - 1.1. Be born between 2011 – 2004 (15 – 22 years in the calendar year);
 - 1.2. Hold a valid British passport or meet the IJF / EJU policy requirements regarding refugees. See the International Judo Federation rules here: [IJF Rules](#);
 - 1.3. Hold a valid membership of British Judo or a home nation;
 - 1.4. Be a member of a home nation development programme or the World Class Performance Programme (WCPP);
 - 1.5. Not serving a period of ineligibility as a result of a transfer of allegiance;
 - 1.6. Not serving a provisional or permanent suspension for an anti-doping violation or any other reason;
 - 1.7. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought British Judo into disrepute;
 - 1.8. Has not been disciplined by British Judo for misconduct.

CRITERIA

All 2026 European based JNR Continental Open and JNR European Cup events as identified on the JNR World Ranking List, will be used for selection purposes.

Bremen JNR International (Male) and Thuringia JNR International (Female) are NOT Junior European Cups but have been classified as events that are of the level to the identified Junior European Cups and will be considered as such through the selection process.

In sections 2 & 3, reference to medals achieved in 2026 refers to the definitive Performance Timeline from **1 January 2026 to 20 September 2026**, including ALL identified events and 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	IJF Senior World Ranking List top 75
2.2	1 x Grand Slam or Grand Prix top 7 placing
2.3	1 x IJF SNR European Open medal
2.4	2 x SNR European Cup medals
2.5	2026 Junior European Championships top 5 placing.

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	1 x IJF SNR European Open top 7 placing
3.2	1 x SNR European Cup medal
3.3	3 x JNR European Cup medals
3.4	A minimum of 3 wins at the individual 2026 Junior European Championships.

3.6 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 4 and the provisions of section 6.

4. When considering selections in section 3 (Second Round), 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:

- 4.1. An athlete’s potential to win a medal;
- 4.2. An athlete’s past result (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, officiating, injury and any other factors that may have influenced the final results);
- 4.3. An athlete’s stage of development and their ability to win a medal in the future;
- 4.4. The athlete’s commitment to the GB and/or home nation development programme;
- 4.5. The athlete’s number of wins against opponents on the IJF SNR World Ranking List top 36;
- 4.6. Current level of physical fitness;
- 4.7. Current and previous medical / injury history;
- 4.8. An athlete’s suitability as a team member and/or as an ambassador for the BJA (when considering ‘suitability’, factors such as behaviour and previous disciplinary record will also be taken into account).

5. **Third Round**

Following the completion of rounds one and two, 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 3.6

- 5.1. 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 win a medal at the 2026 European U23 Championships,
- 5.2. There shall be **no obligation** on the Panel to select any athlete under section 5. Athletes being considered for selection will be considered on an individual basis, taking into account the factors listed in section 4.

6. 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.
7. **Mixed Team Event**
Should British Judo enter a team in the 2026 European U23 Championships, the Panel shall select the team according to what it considers will be in the best interests of British Judo.
8. 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 2.1–2.5 or 3.1-3.4 and
 - 8.1.2. The Panel have assessed the athlete against the factors listed in section 4.
 - 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 3.6, the Panel may rank reserve athletes according to their potential to medal at the Championships.
 - 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:
 - o Performance Director, who will act as the Chairperson,
 - o Minimum of 3 WCPP Performance Coaches/Home Nations Coach.
 - 9.2. Non-voting members:
 - o Independent Observer,
 - o 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 voting member will have one vote each. The Performance Director will have a casting vote should it be required.
12. The Recording Officer will take notes and document selection decisions as appropriate.
13. The GB Home Nations coach 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 Selection 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 or 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/>