

British Orienteering - Selection Policy 2026

1. Purpose

- 1.1. This is the selection policy for athletes to the Great Britain (GB) team for all international competitions into which British Orienteering enters teams based on the aims and objectives of the British Orienteering Performance Programme.

2. Aim of the British Orienteering Performance Programme

- 2.1. The overall aim of the Performance programme is to maximise GB success at the World and European Orienteering Championships (WOC and EOC).
- 2.2. The objectives of the Performance programme are to:
 - Support and prepare our athletes to deliver medals and top-10 positions at WOC/EOC 2026
 - Develop athletes towards medal performances at major championships in 2027 and beyond
- 2.3. The only other competition with a performance focus is the Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC), although this is secondary to WOC and EOC.

3. General information

- 3.1. All selections for international competitions will use the selection criteria outlined in section 6.
- 3.2. Team selection for senior internationals will prioritise athletes who demonstrate the potential to meet the primary Performance Programme objectives (e.g. top-10 results at WOC and EOC 2026). Remaining places may be allocated to developing athletes for experience and to support their long-term competitive progress.
- 3.3. The selectors may choose not to select for all available positions at a competition if they feel that the standard of an athlete will not contribute towards the overall aims and objectives of the Performance Programme.
- 3.4. For each competition a Team Manager will be identified. From the point of arrival at the competition, the Team Manager has a duty of care to the athletes and may, in the best interests of the athletes and team, and in consultation with other staff in attendance at the competition, rest or withdraw an athlete from a race. Another athlete may be substituted if the Team Manager believes this is appropriate. Where practical, the Team Manager should seek agreement from the Performance Pathway Manager prior to making any team changes.
- 3.5. For EYOC and JEC, athletes will not be selected to 'run-up', e.g. M/W 16s will not be selected to compete in the M/W18 category at EYOC. For JWOC, only M/W18 and M/W20 athletes will be considered for selection.

3.6. Relay teams

The selection panel will either name a relay team in advance, or the team(s) will be selected by the competition staff during the competition, supported by Performance Programme Staff as necessary. A preselected team can be changed.

3.7. Reserves

For each competition the selection panel will consider, in the same selection meeting, what, if any, reserves should be named. These may be traveling or non-travelling reserves.

3.8. Availability

All athletes who wish to be selected for a competition should declare their availability for that competition. **This is done by completing an online form: <https://forms.gle/fk98r4rPHKR8Hh2a8>**. Athletes declaring availability for WUOC must also complete a BUCS availability form (details tbc). It is the athletes' responsibility to submit an availability form prior to the relevant availability deadline (details in the table below).

3.9. Mitigating circumstances

If an athlete with a realistic chance of meeting the aims and objectives of the Performance Programme has any mitigating circumstances which mean they are unable to participate in a selection race, or they encounter an issue out of their control at a selection race, the athlete should inform the selection panel in writing as soon as possible.

3.10. Force Majeure

British Orienteering reserve the right to withdraw all or part of a team, or change the selection policy, in response to abnormal situations beyond the control of the sport, including, but not limited to pandemics, terrorist threats or environmental disasters.

4. Selection Panels 2026

4.1. Senior selection panel 2026

- Jenny Peel, (Chair, voting position)
- Pippa Archer, Performance Pathway Manager (Selector, voting position)
- Emil Wingstedt, L5 coach (Selector, voting position)
- Independent Senior Selector – tbc (voting position)

- Andy Kitchin, L5 coordinator (Selection Advisor, non-voting position)
- Mark Nixon, L4 coach (Selection Advisor, non-voting position)
- Charlie Adams (Scrutineer, non-voting position)

4.1.1. L5 athletes wishing to communicate with the Selection Panel should do so via Andy Kitchin (andykitchin6@gmail.com). L4 athletes via Mark Nixon (mnixon@britishorienteering.org.uk), and athletes outside the squads, should do so via Pippa Archer (parcher@britishorienteering.org.uk).

4.2. Junior selection panel 2026

- Jenny Peel (Chair, voting position)
- Pippa Archer, Performance Pathway Manager (Selector, voting position)
- Mark Nixon, L4 Coach (Selector, voting position)
- Paul Murgatroyd (Selector, voting position)
- Jenny Johnson (Selector, voting position)

- L3 Talent Scotland Coach (Selection Advisor, non-voting position)
- L3 Talent North Coach (Selection Advisor, non-voting position)
- L3 Talent South Coach (Selection Advisor, non-voting position)
- Charlie Adams (Scrutineer, non-voting position)

4.2.1. L3 athletes wishing to communicate with the Selection Panel should do so via their respective Talent South, North or Scotland Squad managers. L4 athletes via Mark Nixon (mnixon@britishorienteering.org.uk), and athletes outside the squads, should do so via Pippa Archer (parcher@britishorienteering.org.uk).

5. Clarification and Appeals Procedure

5.1. If you have specific questions regarding the selection policy or process, please contact Pippa Archer (Performance Pathway Manager) parcher@britishorienteering.org.uk or Peter Brooke (CEO) pbrooke@britishorienteering.org.uk.

5.2. British Orienteering operates a formal appeals procedure for challenging the selection process which can be found at www.britishorienteering.org.uk/selection, or is available on request from the British Orienteering National Office.

6. Selection Criteria

- Performance and performance data (time behind winner etc.) from the selection races listed below will be taken into account. Only if necessary to separate athletes, or if something unforeseen occurs (e.g. a misplaced control due to organiser error), will additional information such as split times and GPS traces be used.
- 2025 and 2026 international performances will also be considered at each selection stage.
- For Knock-Out Sprint selections, the initial consideration will be the likelihood of athletes qualifying for the knock-out stage of the competition, with any demonstrated head-to-head racing performance taken into consideration thereafter.

In addition, the following may be taken into consideration:

- Performances in WOC 2024 and EOC 2024.
- Whether an athlete has clearly demonstrated the potential to podium at the next three WOCs.
- Development opportunities for athletes who are potentially top 10 athletes in future WOCs and who will benefit from the experience.
- Evidence of athlete progression (or otherwise) over the last two years.
- Other data that provide evidence of competitive potential this season.
- Adherence to the Code of Conduct and any outstanding disciplinary matters.

The criteria above are not listed in any order of priority and those involved in selecting will exercise discretion fairly and without bias in making selection decisions.

In all cases, selectors may consider (and may require) additional evidence of athlete fitness. Where past international performances play a role in selection, athletes may be asked to demonstrate that their physical fitness is at a similar level to their fitness at that time.

The selection panel, at their discretion, may choose to select some athletes for a competition prior to the selection meeting dates listed below.

7. Competitions 2026

7.1. Senior international competitions 2026

	Dates	Availability deadline	Selection meeting w/c	¹ Selection Races / ² Disciplines / max team size
World Cup 1 – Sprint Switzerland Show/8246">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/8246	24-26th April	31st March	6th April	JK Sprint (3 rd April) Disciplines: S, MSR, KOS Max: 8 men, 8 women, 4 MSR teams
World Cup 2 - Sprint Sweden Show/8225">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/8225	28-31st May	31st March	6th April	JK Sprint (3 rd April) Disciplines: S, MSR, KOS Max: 8 men, 8 women, 4 MSR teams
World Championships - Sprint Italy Show/7383">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/7383	7-11th July	30th April	8th June	Domestic selection races (6-7 th June) Disciplines: S, KOS, MSR Max: 3 men / women in S and KOS, 1 MSR team
World Cup 3 - Forest Czechia Show/8245">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/8245	5-9th August	31st May	22nd June	JK Middle & Long (4-5 th April) Domestic selection races (20-21 st June) Disciplines: L, M, FR Max: 8 men, 8 women, 3 men's FR teams, 3 women's FR teams (3 per team)
European Championships & World Cup 4 - Forest Lithuania Show/8247">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/8247	23-27th September	28th August	31st August	Overseas selection races (29-31 st Aug, dates tbc) Disciplines: L, M, FR Max: 8 men, 8 women, 3 men's FR teams, 3 women's FR teams (3 per team)

¹ For more details of selection races, see appendix A1

²S = Sprint, MSR = Mixed Sprint Relay, KOS = Knock-Out Sprint, M = Middle, L = Long, FR = Forest Relay

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World University Championships (Senior Panel) Portugal Show/8599">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/8599 WUOC Technical Handbook	28th July - 1st August	31st March	6th April	BUCS Individual (14 th March) Domestic S/M selection races (20-21 st March) JK Sprint (3 rd April) Disciplines: S, KOS, M, MSR Max: 6 men, 6 women, 2 MSR teams N.B. Athletes must meet BUCS eligibility criteria, details tbc
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See also World Cup 2026 special rules, which will be uploaded here: <https://orienteering.sport/orienteering/competition-rules/>

7.2. Junior international competitions 2026

	Dates	Availability deadline	Selection meeting w/c	³ Selection Races / Classes / ⁴ Disciplines / max team size
European Youth Championships (EYOC) Slovenia Show/8274">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/8274	25-27th June	31st March	13th April	Domestic selection races (20-22 nd March) JK Sprint, Middle & Long (3-5 th April) It is envisaged that different teams will be selected for EYOC and JWOC due to the timing of the races. Age Classes: 16 & 18 Disciplines: S, L, FR Max: 4 men / women per class, 1 men's / women's FR team per class (3 per team)
Junior World Championships (JWOC) Sweden Show/7922">https://eventor.orienteering.org/Events>Show/7922	29th June - 4th July	31st March	13th April	Domestic selection races (20-22 nd March) JK Sprint, Middle & Long (3-5 th April) It is envisaged that different teams will be selected for EYOC and JWOC due to the timing of the races. Age Class: Junior (under 21) Disciplines: S, M, L, FR, MSR Max: 6 men, 6 women, 3 MSR teams, 2 men's / women's FR teams (3 per team)
Junior European Cup (JEC) Switzerland	2-4th October	31st March	tbc	<u>Primary selection races:</u> Domestic selection races (20-22 nd March) JK Sprint, Middle & Long (3-5 th April) <u>Secondary selection races:</u> BOC Middle (18 th April) Midland Champs (19 th April) Scottish Individual Championships (23 rd May) BOC Sprint (27 th June) Age Classes: 18 & 20 Disciplines: S, L, FR Max: 6 men / women per class, 8 FR teams (3 per team). Select up to 4 athletes in each class w/c 13 April based on results from the primary selection races. Any additional places will be selected by 23 August, considering primary and secondary races. There is no requirement to attend secondary races, but they provide an additional chance for athletes not selected after primary races to show form and fitness, if necessary.

³ For more details of selection races, see appendix A1

⁴ S = Sprint, MSR = Mixed Sprint Relay, KOS = Knock Out Sprint, M = Middle, L = Long, FR = Forest Relay

A1. Selection Races 2026

Date	Competition	Discipline	Website
14 th March	BUCS, Merthyr Mawr	Long	https://uboc.org.uk/bucs
20 th March	Lakes Spring races	Sprint	
21 st March	Lakes Spring races	Middle	http://www.masterplanadventure.uk/
22 nd March	Lakes Spring races	Long	
3 rd April	JK, Tayside	Sprint	
4 th April	JK, Tayside	Middle	www.theJK.org.uk
5 th April	JK, Tayside	Long	
18 th April	BOC Middle, Brown Clee	Middle	britishmiddlechamps.org.uk/
19 th April	Midland Champs, Brown Clee	Long	details tbc
23 rd May	Scottish Individual Championships	Long	Grandtully, Ballinluig - St. Andrew's Orienteering Club
6-7 th June	UK WOC test races, Manchester	Sprint	details tbc
20-21 st June	UK World Cup 3 test races	tbc	details tbc
27 th June	BOC Sprint, University of Bath	Sprint	details tbc
29-31 st Aug	EOC test races, Lithuania	tbc	Trainings EOC 2026

Athletes are reminded that they must comply with embargos. For UK-based selection races, the list of embargoed areas can be found here: https://www.britishorienteering.org.uk/embargoed_areas

A2. Eligibility

To be eligible to be selected for a competition, each athlete must:

- Hold a valid British passport and be eligible to represent Great Britain in accordance with the rules of the IOF
- Hold a valid and current membership of British Orienteering
- Meet the age class requirements of the competition on 31st December in the year of competition
- Not be serving a period of ineligibility because of an anti-doping rule violation
- Complete anti-doping training as requested by British Orienteering and/or the IOF
- Meet any additional eligibility requirements that apply for WUOC

Any athlete who is the subject of an outstanding disciplinary matter is ineligible for selection until the matter reaches an agreed resolution. The selection panel must be satisfied that the selection of any athlete will not jeopardise the efficient, safe and orderly management of the group and/or individual during the competition.

A3. Anti-Doping

All selected athletes must comply with the UK Anti-Doping Rules as published by UK Anti-Doping Limited (or its successor): [The Anti-Doping Rules | UK Anti-Doping \(ukad.org.uk\)](http://www.ukad.org.uk)

A4. Selection Panel Roles

The Selection Panel will exercise discretion fairly and without bias.

The Selection Panel will consist of the following (not exclusively):

- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Performance Pathway Manager
- Selectors
- Selection Advisors
- Scrutineer

The role of the Chair is to:

1. Coordinate Selection meetings and ensure all members are fully briefed in advance.
2. Chair the Selection meetings and ensure a formal record of the meeting is taken.
3. This is a voting position.

The role of the Vice-Chair is to:

1. Chair all or part of a selection meeting if the Chair declares a conflict of interest.
2. The Vice Chair is a member of the selection panel who has delegated responsibility to chair all or part of a selection meeting.

The role of the Performance Pathway Manager is to:

1. Ensure selections reflect the Performance programme's aims set by British Orienteering.
2. Ensure up-to-date information is available to the Selection Panel for all relevant athletes, including from Squad Managers, coaches, and other experts (e.g. medics) as appropriate.
3. Maintain a full record of all performance information relevant to the selection criteria, and make sure this is available at Selection meetings.
4. As requested, provide support to the Chair in matters of selection. This may include providing selection proposals ahead of the meeting
5. This is a voting position.

The role of a Selector is to:

1. Provide advice to the Panel, based on the criteria described in this document, regarding selection of athletes to international events at which GBR competes.
2. Challenge the selections presented to the Panel and ensure selections reflect and apply the selection philosophy, overview and criteria set by British Orienteering.
3. As requested, provide support to the Chair in matters of selection.
4. This is a voting position.

The role of a Selection Advisor is:

1. As per the Selector, but this is a non-voting position. In short, advisors advise, but selectors decide.

The role of the Scrutineer is to:

1. Ensure selections accurately represent the data presented
2. Ensure that the selection philosophy, overview and criteria set by British Orienteering is fairly and consistently applied.
3. As requested, provide support to the Chair regarding the interpretation and application of the selection policy.
4. This is a non-voting position.

The Selection Panel may choose to delegate selection to an appropriate person(s) but will retain responsibility and accountability for all selection decisions. British Orienteering reserves the right to identify possible future Selection Panel members and involve them as observers in meetings, so they may familiarise themselves with the selection process.

Conflict of Interest: Any panel member must declare any conflicts, or potential conflicts, of interest and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of, or any vote, in respect of any selection matter in which they have a material conflict of interest. If the Chair of Selectors declares a conflict of interest, the Vice Chair will step in and chair the relevant part of the meeting. The Scrutineer will be responsible for ensuring that any conflicts of interest are managed fairly and without bias.

Meetings: The Panel may conduct the meeting by means of a telephone or video conference, allowing all persons to hear each other at the same time. Such participation shall constitute presence in-person at such meetings.

Quorum: The quorum for every decision is a minimum of three members.

Voting: The Chair only has one vote. The Chair may choose not to vote despite being entitled to do so as a member. If there is not a majority, the Chair of the meeting has the casting vote.

Communication: It is the responsibility of the Performance Pathway Manager to communicate selection decisions to athletes. It is important that members of the panel do not become involved in communicating with athletes and personal coaches any matters of selection other than to refer any queries to the Performance Pathway Manager.