British Orienteering - Selection Policy 2027

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 2027
- Develop athletes towards medal performances at major championships in 2028 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 2027). Remaining places may be allocated to developing athletes for experience and to support their long-term competitive progress.

3.3. The selectors will only select athletes for a competition if this contributes to the overall aims and objectives of the Performance Programme. The selectors may choose not to fill all available places at a competition.

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 may choose to name a relay team in advance, or may choose to ask the competition staff to select the team(s) before or 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 which will be available here.** It is the athletes' responsibility to submit an availability form prior to the relevant availability deadline (details in the table below).

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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 2027

4.1. Senior selection panel 2027

- Jenny Peel, (Chair, voting position)
- Graham Gristwood, Performance Pathway Manager (Selector, voting position)
- Emil Wingstedt, L5 coach (Selector, voting position)
- Murray Strain (Vice-Chair, voting position)

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

4.1.1. Athletes wishing to communicate with the Selection Panel should contact Graham Gristwood (ggristwood@britishorienteering.org.uk).

4.2. Junior selection panel 2027

- Jenny Peel (Chair, voting position)
- Graham Gristwood, Performance Pathway Manager (Selector, voting position)
- Mark Nixon, L4 Squad Lead (Vice-Chair, 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. Other athletes wishing to communicate with the Selection Panel should contact Graham Gristwood (ggristwood@britishorienteering.org.uk).

5. Clarification and Appeals Procedure

5.1. If you have specific questions regarding the selection policy or process, please contact Graham Gristwood (Performance Pathway Manager) ggristwood@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.

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6. Selection Criteria

- Performance and performance data (time behind winner etc.) from the selection races listed below will be taken into account. Additional information such as split times and GPS traces may also be used.
- 2026 and 2027 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 2025 and EOC 2025.
- 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. It is an athlete responsibility to ensure that the selection panel is aware of such data where relevant.
- Adherence to the Athlete Handbook and Code of Conduct
- 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 health / fitness. Similarly, where a selected athlete experiences illness or injury between selection and the relevant competition, they may be asked to demonstrate prior to competition that their physical fitness and state of preparedness is appropriate for them still to take their place in the team. If this cannot be demonstrated on an agreed basis, then the athlete may be de-selected.

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

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7. Competitions 2027

7.1. Senior international competitions 2027

	Dates	Availability deadline	Selection meeting w/c	[1]Selection Races / [2]Disciplines / max team size
World Cup 1 – Forest Sweden https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/8512	2-6th June	4th April	w/c 12th April	JK Middle/Long (27/28th March) FVO weekend Middle/Long (10/11th April)
				Disciplines: L, M, FR
				Max: 8 men, 8 women, 3 men's FR teams, 3 women's FR teams (3 per team)
World Cup 2 - Forest Czechia https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/8575	2-6th July	4th April	w/c 7th June	JK Middle/Long (27/28th March) FVO weekend Middle/Long (10/11th April)
				Disciplines: L, M, FR
				Max: 8 men, 8 women, 3 men's FR teams, 3 women's FR teams (3 per team)
World Championships - Forest Hungary https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/7931	9-14th August	11th July	w/c 19th July	Official test races, Hungary (15-18th July)
				Disciplines: L, M, FR
				Max: 3 men / women in L and M (tbc for L), 1 men's FR team, 1 women's FR team (3 per team)
European Championships & World Cup 3 - Sprint Switzerland https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/8612	29th September-3rd October	29th August	w/c 6th September	SYO weekend (4-5th September)
				Disciplines: S, KOS, MSR
				Max: 8 men, 8 women, 4 MSR teams (4 per team)
World Cup 4 - Sprint Spain https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/8576	30-31st October	29th August	w/c 4th October	SYO weekend (4-5th September)
				Disciplines: S, MSR
				Max: 8 men, 8 women, 4 MSR teams (4 per team)

See also World Cup 2027 special rules, which will be uploaded here: https://orienteering.sport/orienteering/competition-rules/

7.2. Junior international competitions 2027

	Dates	Availability deadline	Selection meeting w/c	[3]Selection Races / Classes / [4]Disciplines / max team size
European Youth Championships (EYOC) Latvia https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/8613	25-28th June	4th April	w/c 19th April	JK Sprint/Middle/Long (26-28th March) FVO weekend Sprint/Middle/Long (9-11th April) 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) Poland https://eventor.orienteering.sport/Events/Show/8237	11-17th July	4th April	w/c 19th April	JK Sprint/Middle/Long (26-28th March) FVO weekend Sprint/Middle/Long (9-11th April) 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) / Nordic Junior Cup (NORD) France / Finland	1-3rd Oct (NORD) 8-10th Oct (JEC)	Tbc	tbc	Details to be added when the situation for a GB team at one or other of these has been confirmed

[1] For more details of selection races, see appendix A1
[2] S = Sprint, MSR = Mixed Sprint Relay, KOS = Knock-Out Sprint, M = Middle, L = Long, FR = Forest Relay
[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

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8. Selected Camps 2027

For information only, there will be a Pre-JWOC 2028 training camp (dates tbc). This camp will be selected from athletes eligible for JWOC 2028. Athletes will be selected by the Performance Staff (not the selection panel).

A1. Selection Races 2027

Date	Competition	Discipline	Website
26th March	JK, SE England	Sprint	https://www.thejk.org.uk/
27th March	JK, SE England	Middle	
28th March	JK, SE England	Long	
9th April	FVO races, location tbc	Sprint	https://www.fvo.org.uk/
10th April	FVO races, Oban area	Middle	
11th April	FVO races, Oban area	Long	
15th-18th July	WOC test races, Hungary	Long/Middle (tbc)	https://woc2027.hu/
4th September	SYO races	Sprint, format tbc	https://www.southyorkshireorienteers.org.uk/
5th September	SYO races	Sprint, format tbc	

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:

a) Hold a valid British passport and be eligible to represent Great Britain in accordance with the rules of the IOF

b) Hold a valid and current membership of British Orienteering

c) Meet the age class requirements of the competition on 31st December in the year of competition

d) Not be serving a period of ineligibility because of an anti-doping rule violation

e) Complete anti-doping training as requested by British Orienteering and/or the IOF

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)

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

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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.

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Change Log

Date	Version name	Changes
11/11/26	v1.0	Original document published on British Orienteering website

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