

The School Games 2018 Selection Policy

INTRODUCTION

The [School Games 2018](#) (SG18) is nationwide initiative across a number of levels of competition; the SG18 being the pinnacle. The event is specifically designed to give athletes a big games experience similar to the Olympics or Commonwealth Games and in so doing support their development to senior international competition.

Athletes in Year 10 and 11 of the 2017/18 school year will compete in teams of 2 girls and 2 boys representing Scotland, Ireland, Wales and 10 English Regions¹.

In order to best understand this policy, find out more about the experience and the triathlon specific competition structure, which is non-standard, we would first recommend reading our [SG18 Explained pdf](#).

¹Scottish athletes who have different school years should refer to the specific Triathlon Scotland policy

Selection Process

All British Triathlon policies follow a similar process, this policy is split into four stages. These are explained below. Athletes should make sure that they clearly understand the relevance and importance of each stage including referring to the relevant sections in the Appendix as directed through the policy.

1. **Eligibility Process** - There are number of essential components that support this process to ensure athletes are eligible for selection.
2. **Qualification Process** - the athlete through their performance(s) have met the specific performance criteria and automatically qualifies for the event; their performance(s) are not evaluated by the selector(s).
3. **Selection Process** - the athlete has not met the specific performance criteria for automatic qualification and their performance(s) are evaluated by the selector(s) in order to be selected.
4. **Appeals Process** - in the event of illness/injury/accident and/or any other factor that impacts performance negatively in a selection event an athlete is able to lodge an appeal.



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Selection Events

As SG18 age groups do not match standard British Triathlon age groups the following events will be used to enable all eligible athletes to compete against each other for selection;

1. Blenheim Triathlon (Jun 3rd 2018)
2. Hetton Super Sprints (Jul 21st 2018)

Any September to December **2001 born** athletes (who would normally race as a junior) will have 2 options at **Blenheim** and **Hetton**:

1. Race in the Junior event and **NOT BE ELIGIBLE** for selection for the UKSG but qualify for Super Series points (Hetton only)²
2. Race in the Youth event and **BE ELIGIBLE** for selection for the UKSG but ineligible for Super Series points (Hetton only)²

When entering the event 2001 born athletes should register their interest to compete within the youth wave if they wish to be considered for this event.

² Blenheim is not part of the British Super Series, however, Sep to Dec 2001 born junior athletes will still need to decide whether to race in the youth (and be eligible for selection) or junior waves.

Gear Restrictions

British Triathlon does not apply gear restrictions to events where Juniors and Youths are grouped together; Blenheim, Hetton and SG18 therefore will NOT be gear restricted.

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The School Games, Loughborough University - 30 August - 2 September 2018³

1. Eligibility Process

- 1.1. All athletes entered into the Youth waves at the 2 selection races (Blenheim and Hetton) are considered to have notified British Triathlon of their eligibility for selection. Any athlete competing in either selection event who is unable to attend SG18 is expected to notify **Sophie Lewis** (sophielewis@britishtriathlon.org) by email by 18th July 2018 of their wish to **not be considered**; In line with the Athlete Development Framework pillar Learning to Lead British Triathlon expects communication from athletes (not parents or coaches) in this instance. Please see Appendix Note 1 point 11 and Note 2 point 1;
- 1.2. Athletes must be eligible to represent their Home Nation under BTF rules and must be members in good standing with that Home Nation Triathlon Association, which is a member of the British Triathlon Federation (BTF);
- 1.3. Athletes should understand and be compliant with British Triathlon's [anti-doping policy](#);

2. Qualification Process

- 2.1 The first eligible girl and first eligible boy from each Region or Scotland or Wales at the Hetton Super Sprints on 21 July 2018 will qualify for their SG18 Team;

NB. Hetton will operate over a heats and finals format. Any athlete competing in the A final will automatically beat all athletes in the B final. If no athletes from the team in question compete in the A final the best placed athlete in B final will qualify.

3. Selection Process

- 3.1 One further eligible girl and one further eligible boy from each Region or Scotland or Wales will be selected for their SG18 Team from their best single result at either Blenheim or Hetton using the following process;
 - 3.1.1 Selectors will consider each athlete's best single performance only, the other result being disregarded, and compare it to other athletes' best single performance;
- 3.2 Regions, Scotland or Wales may choose to select one further eligible girl and one further eligible boy as a non-travelling reserve using the process outlined above at 3.1.1: See Appendix Note 1 point 11

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4. Appeals Process

- 4.1 If an athlete does not contest both the 2018 Blenheim and Hetton events for medical reasons they must contact their SG18 Team Manager before the final race. If an athlete does not complete both races the SG18 Team Manager must be notified within 30 minutes of the last competitor finishing the final race. In the event of the SG18 Team Manager being absent at the event the Performance Pathway Manager may be contacted in their stead. In both cases, does not compete or complete, medical evidence in the form of a Doctor's note will be required;
- 4.2 In the event of an accident during either race, a written report may be filed with the UKSG Team Manager/Performance Pathway Manager by, or on behalf of, the athlete within 30 minutes of the last competitor finishing the relevant race, explaining mitigating circumstances and including previous results. Appropriate grounds for consideration will usually be those deemed to be **outside of the athlete's own control**, this does not normally include accidents that are down to the athlete's own error or mechanicals;
- 4.3 If athletes did not complete or did not contest both selection races selectors will consider those athletes with valid reasons for selection by assessing whether the athlete's performance at one of the events below demonstrates the potential to meet the policy;
- 4.3.1 May Gateway (Llanelli) 2018
 - 4.3.2 Performance Assessments 2018
- 4.4 Selectors will use the following process when assessing each athlete's performance at these events;
- 4.4.1 Consider each athlete's best single performance only and compare it to other athletes' best single performances.
 - 4.4.2 All other results will be disregarded;
- 4.5 In the unlikely event that 2 eligible girls or 2 eligible boys do not compete in the two designated selection events (as their roll down/ranking was not high enough to get a start) results from the Performance Assessments 2018 will be used and selection will follow the process laid out above as point 4.4.

Notification of Selection

Except in unforeseen circumstances, athletes will be notified by **29 July 2018**. Athletes will need to be available to travel to the SG18 and stay in team accommodation from **August 30 to September 2 2018**.

³Final SG18 triathlon dates are to be confirmed.

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APPENDIX

Note 1: Guiding Principles and Conditions of Selection

1. In line with the British Triathlon philosophies of Intelligent Racing and One Day One Race this opportunity aims to provide Youth athletes with appropriate experiences in supporting their development toward the Olympic Podium;
2. The goal of each Team is to represent their Home Nation or Region in a manner that aligns with the values and philosophies of their Home Nation Talent Programme. Each team member will be made aware or reminded of their obligations on arrival into the team environment;
3. Selected athletes must confirm, two weeks prior to the event that they are able to compete to the standard that earned them selection (additional information and clearance from a Doctor may be required);
4. Athletes should not race in the 14 days prior to the Championship, unless otherwise approved by the SG18 Team Manager;
5. Athletes may be required to sign various SG18 documentation as part of their experience and will be expected to follow a SG18 code of conduct when onsite at the SG18;
6. Athletes will also be expected to maintain the professional standards that are required when representing British Triathlon this includes but is not limited to;
 - a. Maintaining agreed curfews;
 - b. A no alcohol policy;
 - c. No boys in girls rooms and vice versa;
 - d. Polite and courteous behaviour at all times;
 - e. Not bringing yourself, British Triathlon or SG18 into disrepute;

The violation of any of the above will lead to a disciplinary meeting that will include the Chef de Mission, SG18 Team Manager and BTF Welfare Officer and will very likely mean the athletes parents are required to collect the athlete and take them home;

7. Athletes will be expected to wear appropriate Team apparel as and when required;

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8. Athletes will be expected to take part in both individual and team debriefs as and when required;
9. To comply with the BTF child protection policy athletes under the age of 18 when emailing BTF staff (as with all other correspondence with the BTF) should ensure that they copy a parent in. Likewise BTF staff will follow the same procedure;
10. No announcements of selection are to be made on social media (or elsewhere) until either there has been an official announcement on the BTF website or permission has been given by the relevant UKSG Team Manager.
11. Non-travelling reserves should be available to travel at short notice and in particular for the Mixed Team Relay (the final day of Triathlon competition)

Note 2: Notification Process

1. Entry for all ITU international events requires each nation to first nominate the athletes who wish to race. From these nominations start lists are drawn up by the ITU. Any British athlete wanting to race internationally must therefore notify British Triathlon of this desire ahead of the ITU nomination deadline for that event. Supporting athletes 'Learning to Lead' British Triathlon operates a phased approach to this notification process to develop a better understanding of how the sport works internationally.
 - a. **Youth level*** (e.g School Games, European Youth Championships, Youth Olympic Games) all athletes **ARE automatically nominated** and are expected to let British Triathlon know if they **do not wish** to be eligible for selection.
 - b. **Junior level** (e.g. European/World Junior Champs/ETU Junior Cups) similar to senior athletes **ARE NOT automatically nominated**. All Juniors have to notify British Triathlon of their desire to race and be considered for selection.

*Any 1st year Juniors competing as Youths are considered to be Youths in the notification process

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Note 3: Event Cancellation

1. Should the Qualification event (Hetton) be cancelled or changed from a triathlon to a duathlon or run race due to adverse weather conditions/act of God the following will be used for qualification;
 - i. Blenheim 2018
2. Should the Selection event (Blenheim) be cancelled or changed from a triathlon to a duathlon or run race due to adverse weather conditions/act of God the following will be used for selection;
 - i. Hetton 2018

Note 3: Selection Committee

1. A selection committee will be established comprising up to three members including the SG18 Team Manager (Chair) and the BTF Performance Pathway Manager and/or Home Nation representative (Scotland/Wales) along with any others who have expert knowledge of domestic youth drafting triathlon. The composition of the selection committee will be reviewed and agreed by the BTF Performance Pathway Manager;
2. Additional experts may be asked to provide advice to the committee at the request of the Chair.

Note 4: Medical and Injury Appeals Committee

1. If required a Medical and Injury Appeals Committee will be established comprising up to three members, including the UKSG Team Manager as chair and Performance Pathway Manager.

Note 5: Selection Review Process

1. Athletes have the right to appeal selection decisions through British Triathlon's Selection Review Process. A copy of the policy outlining this process is available on the BTF website. https://www.britishtriathlon.org/britain/documents/about/policy-documents/general-policies/btf_selection_review_policy_2014_nb.pdf

ENDS 15 January 2018