



Selection Policy for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games - 2021 supplementary guidance Tokyo, JPN

OVERVIEW

In July 2020, BTF reviewed the existing Selection Policy for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games (“the Policy”) following postponement of the Games. In doing so, the decision was made to retain any nominations already made and to complete the remainder of the selection process using the provisions outlined in the published Policy (see [here](#)). Only relevant dates were to be amended in the Policy.

However, due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19, the Selection Panel (“the Panel”) will be required to make some further adjustments to their application of the provisions outlined in the remaining phases of the Policy to ensure that the original goals of the policy are protected, and to provide clarity/guidance to those aiming to gain selection for the remaining places on the team. This document outlines how the Panel will do this.

SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS AND CONDITIONS

General

- As communicated to athletes on the Olympic long-list previously - due to the impact of Covid-19 on training/racing in 2020 - no performances from 2020 will be considered by the Panel. As such, any references to races in 2020 in the Policy will now apply to races in 2021.

Attendance at the BTF preparation camp in Miyazaki

- We still believe that the Miyazaki camp is the best location to complete final preparations for the Games. However, due to the impact of Covid-19 we are aware that some athletes may be uncomfortable preparing outside of the UK. As such, whilst strongly advised, attendance at this camp will no longer be a condition of selection.

Reserves

- Due to the risk of British athletes missing the Games due to Covid-19 (either positive tests or forced isolation), BTF shall be entitled to select more than one reserve for each sex. Whether reserves will be required to follow the same travel and preparation schedule as the remainder of the team will be decided at the completion of the selection process (dependent on the Covid related issues in play at the time).

Phase 3

- The selection meeting to complete phase 3 - *additional individual event discretionary nominations* - will now take place on Tuesday 8 June 2021.
- WTS Yokohama has long been considered the most relevant race in determining nominations at phase 3. This is primarily because of its location and similar course profile to the Tokyo Olympic course.

- In order to increase certainty and to put selection in the hands of athletes, BTF had considered changing phase 3 from a discretionary selection to a 'race-off' scenario in Yokohama. However, this was discounted for the following reasons:
 - o There is a realistic risk that one or more athletes genuinely in contention for nomination as an individual (or reserve) at phase 3 may be forced to miss this race - through no fault of their own - due to catching Covid-19 or being forced to isolate over the race weekend.
 - o BTF are still trying to secure a third male quota slot and the Yokohama race will likely be a key race in this process. However, the current state of the men's rankings means that BTF cannot be sure of securing start-list places for those British athletes needing to race for quota places AND those pursuing individual selection.
 - o Due to local Covid-19 restrictions, many countries may not be able to travel to Yokohama. As such, it is possible that the quality of field in Yokohama (and any other race) will be reduced and therefore result in an un-representative race outcome.
- Instead, the Panel will - unless relevant circumstances change from what is now anticipated - prioritise performances from Yokohama in making discretionary decisions under this phase.
 - o In other words, if all British athletes genuinely in contention for nomination at phase 3 secure a place on the start line, the quality of field is sufficiently high, and the race proceeds without significant incident (which in the opinion of the Panel has a material impact on the race result), performances from athletes in Yokohama that the Panel feel indicate medal winning potential for the Games will carry greater weight and importance than any other 2021 event, (or any other discretionary factor listed in determining nominations at phase 3).

Phase 4

- The selection meeting to complete phase 4 - Pilot Athlete nominations (and reserves if not selected by that point) - will now take place on Tuesday 22 June 2021. This is moving to a later date because the qualification window will now finish later in the year than originally planned for in 2020. A potentially key race for Pilot (and/or reserve) athletes will now take place on the final weekend of the qualification period.
 - o Athletes aiming for nomination as a Pilot (and reserves if not nominated at phase 3) should target the European Super-Sprint and Relay Championships in Kitzbuhel on 20/21 June 2021 as this will likely be the only relay opportunity (and one of the only super-sprint races) prior to the end of the qualification window.
- This meeting will only be required if all slots - including reserves - have not been filled in the phase 3 selection meeting on 8 June 2021 OR if any deselection process needs to be instigated.