



## **Scotland Development Squad**

Categories:

Youth E (U10), Youth D (U12), Youth C (U14),  
Youth B (U16), Youth A (U18)

## **Selection Strategy 2024**

Disciplines:

Lead

Boulder

Speed

## **1. Purpose of this document**

- 1.1 To provide insight into the purpose and objectives that ClimbScotland wish to work to in developing and supporting the Scotland Development Squad (SDS).
- 1.2 To provide detailed information to assist athletes, parents, and home coaches in understanding the criteria that will be used in the decision-making process. Aiming:
  - 1.2.1 To communicate the selection strategy that ClimbScotland will undertake when selecting eligible athletes to the SDS 2024 (including de-selection).
  - 1.2.2 To communicate the criteria by which athletes will be selected to the SDS.
  - 1.2.3 To outline the Exceptional Circumstances process, and the Appeals process (see Appendix 1).
  - 1.2.4 To communicate to athletes, parents, and home coaches the necessary requirements to bridge the gaps between Development, National and International competition standards.

## **2. Purpose of the Scotland Development Squad**

- 2.1 To provide support, and opportunities for holistic athlete-centred development, to athletes' resident in Scotland, who have shown themselves to have climbing potential and ambition.
- 2.2 To provide the initial step onto the pathway that has the possibility to lead on to the Scotland National Squad (SNS), and the GB Team.
- 2.3 Through the SDS, we intend to:
  - 2.3.1 Help athletes progress and develop their climbing skills, capabilities, and standards.
  - 2.3.2 Help athletes determine (and support them towards) their own specific ambitions.
  - 2.3.3 Provide opportunities which aid these ambitions, as well as provide opportunities to broaden an athlete's knowledge and skill set.
  - 2.3.4 If appropriate, prepare athletes for selection to the SNS.
- 2.4 ClimbScotland will achieve the above by:
  - 2.4.1 Providing access to a series of training academies specific to the ability level and purpose of the SDS.
  - 2.4.2 Opening opportunities to train alongside the SNS and the National Coaches through certain training academies, where it is deemed appropriate.
  - 2.4.3 Endeavouring to understand the aims and ambitions of the squad members so that further guidance can be given.

## **3. Eligibility**

- 3.1 In addition to ClimbScotland eligibility below, athletes must comply with the [UK Sport Eligibility Policy](#) (including anti-doping):
  - 3.1.1 Athletes must be members of ClimbScotland/Mountaineering Scotland.
  - 3.1.2 Athletes must be resident (with a full-time address) in Scotland.
  - 3.1.3 Athletes must hold a current UK Passport.
  - 3.1.4 Athletes will sign the ClimbScotland Athlete Agreement and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so will see their selection being withdrawn.

3.1.5 Athletes will comply with UK Anti-Doping rules and anti-doping blood/urine testing policies. Notified athletes in the National and/or International Registered Testing Pools, or the UK Anti-Doping Domestic Testing Pool, will comply with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard for Testing and Investigation with regards to ADAMS and their Whereabouts Information.

#### 4. Selection to the Scotland Development Squad

4.1 Selection decisions will be made following the conclusion of the 2023 competition season (November-December). The criteria by which these decisions will be made is outlined in **Section 5** below.

4.2 Members of the 2023 Scotland Talent Squad that are not selected to the SNS for the 2024 season will be automatically selected into the SDS 2024.

4.3 The **objective** of each selection decision will be to select athletes that meet our **Selection Decision Objectives** and satisfy the criteria laid out in the **Selection Process (Section 5)**. That is, athletes will need to have demonstrated that they:

4.3.1 Have a clear ambition to progress along the ClimbScotland Pathway.

4.3.2 Have a clear motivation to engage in the programme and expand their skill set.

4.3.3 Have shown potential in competitive performance.

#### 5. Selection Process

5.1 Athletes will be selected for the SDS by invitation having met a minimum points requirement as outlined in the table below (**5.4 Points Allocation**).

5.2 At the conclusion of the 2023 competition season ClimbScotland shall calculate the points achieved by athletes that have participated in the relevant competitions and on this basis will invite those that have met the criteria onto the SDS 2024.

5.3 Points will be accrued based on rankings at the following domestic competitions:

5.3.1 Scottish Youth Boulder Championship (SYBC), Scottish Youth Climbing Championship (SYCC) & Scottish Youth Speed Championship (SYSC).

5.3.2 Youth Climbing Series (YCS) competitions.

5.3.2.1 Points will be accrued based on the competitor's ranking at any YCS round they participate in.

5.3.2.2 **Additional** points can be accrued on top of these, based on an overall series ranking, which can be obtained by participating in a minimum of 3 YCS rounds.

#### 5.4 **Points Allocation:**

Points Requirement for Selection
1750

5.4.1 Ranking in Scottish National Competitions is based on positioning within the total field of competitors (not just Scottish competitors).

National Competitions	Top 25%	Top 50%
SBC	750	500
SCC	750	500
SSC	750	-

Youth Climbing Series	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium	Top 50%
Round 1	750	500	250
Round 2	750	500	250
Round 3	750	500	250
Round 4	750	500	250
Series Ranking	2000	1750	1250

## **6. Confidentiality**

6.1 Athletes and officials must not disclose any information regarding any selection decisions or appeals until such information is publicly announced or disclosed by ClimbScotland/Mountaineering Scotland.

## **7. De-selection – Substitutions and Injuries**

7.1 An athlete may be de-selected from the Scotland Development Squad on the following grounds:

- 7.1.1 Ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this selection policy.
- 7.1.2 Injuries, illness and changes in health status will be considered on a case-by-case basis where an athlete wishes to be considered for selection.
- 7.1.3 Failure to engage with SDS programmes.

7.2 Replacement of athletes de-selected from the squad will be considered at the complete discretion of the Talent & Pathways Officer. Any replacement will be selected in accordance with the selection policy.

7.3 Athletes will cease to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in the selection policy if any of the following occur:

- 7.3.1 An anti-doping rule violation or receiving provisional suspension due to anti-doping infringement; or
- 7.3.2 A serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct; or
- 7.3.3 A breach of any ClimbScotland/Mountaineering Scotland Department Policy.

## **8. Disclaimer**

8.1 Should this document require amendment due to a change in any competition or selection event, these amendments will be made public via an updated version of this document, made available (including the date on which any amendment was made) on the ClimbScotland website.

8.2 This policy is subject to periodic review to ensure that the selection policy remains fair and efficient; considers any external rule or policy amendments; and includes any relevant feedback from the selectors, athletes, coaches, and appeals panels.

**9. Questions about the Policy**

9.1 Questions about this policy should be directed to [info@climbscotland.net](mailto:info@climbscotland.net) where a staff member who has been involved in the selection process will respond.

## **Appendix 1 – Exceptional Circumstances and Appeals**

### **Exceptional Circumstances**

Any requests for exceptional circumstances should be directed to the Talent & Pathway Officer – the Chair of the Selection Panel – via email – [jack@mountianeering.scot](mailto:jack@mountianeering.scot).

It is recognised that although the below aims to account for most occurrences of an exceptional circumstance, there may be occurrences that fall outside of these. In these instances, ClimbScotland can, at their discretion, invoke the exceptional circumstances clause and consider the case.

Should an athlete miss an event, fall ill or become injured, prior to or during elements of the 2024 selection process; or have any other exceptional circumstances, the Talent & Pathway Officer reserves the right to provide an opportunity for an athlete to challenge for selection under the following conditions:

- Details of the exceptional circumstances are provided in writing to the Talent & Pathway Officer, along with any supporting and/or certified evidence.
  - If occurring in the lead up to an event - no later than 1 hour prior to the commencement of the event via email to the Talent & Pathway Officer.
  - If occurring during an event – within 24 hours following the end of the event in which the incident occurred via email to the Talent & Pathway Officer.
- In such a case the Talent & Pathway Officer may identify another selection opportunity whereby the athlete can provide the necessary performance data to support a selection decision.
- Or if no opportunity is available, submission of an application to the Talent & Pathways Officer may be accepted, with a request for further supporting information that demonstrates an established track record in climbing performance.
- Where an athlete is seeking any other exceptional circumstances to be considered, the athlete must contact the Talent & Pathway Officer with full details as soon as possible within the selection timeframes.

All decisions made on exceptional circumstances relating to injury, illness or medical conditions will endeavour to consider the medical needs of the athlete involved. The Talent & Pathway Officer may seek further medical advice from external professionals or may ask the athlete to provide this further information.

### **Appeals**

Any appeal against a decision made in relation to selection to the Scotland Development Squad must follow the procedures detailed in this appeals process

#### **Reasons for an appeal:**

- There has been a failure to apply the selection criteria contained in the Selection Strategy 2024 document.
- There has been a failure to follow outlined procedures properly.
- Discretion has not been exercised in a reasonable manner, as such being prejudicial to the appellant.

The athlete does not have the right to appeal against any judgement or discretion exercised while making a selection decision.

The athlete does not have the right to appeal against the content of the Selection Strategy 2024 document.

### **How to Appeal**

This appeals process is commenced when an athlete affected by a selection decision, or the athlete's representative submits a formal written appeal ("the Notice of Appeal") to ClimbScotland via an email to the Talent & Pathway Officer – [jack@mountaineering.scot](mailto:jack@mountaineering.scot).

The Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 72 hours of the selection decision being announced or communicated to the athlete (whichever is later).

If the athlete fails to submit the notice of appeal within the time limit set out in this appeals process, they will have lost their right of appeal, save in wholly exceptional circumstances. This will be agreed by the Appeals Panel in their absolute discretion.

The Notice of Appeal must set out the full details of the athlete's ground(s) of appeal and must include:

- Details of the decision which the athlete is appealing.
- Details of the ground(s) upon which the athlete relies.
  - Including the precise manner in which the athlete alleges that the selection criteria have not been applied.
  - Or in which the procedure set out in the selection policy has not been followed.
- Any documents of evidence, specifically relevant to the grounds of appeal, upon which the athlete relies for support of their appeal.

### **Appeals Panel**

The ClimbScotland Development Manager will appoint the Appeals Panel. It will be composed of three members, namely:

- Two Mountaineering Scotland Board members (who were not part of the selection panel). One of which will be nominated as Chair.
- An external person with performance and sports knowledge/experience.

The ClimbScotland Development Manager will ensure that those appointed to the Appeals Panel do not have an actual or perceived conflict of interest in respect of the appeal.

If any member of the Appeals Panel has

- Any involvement with an appellant.
- Or is related to an appellant.
- Or any athlete who might be affected by the outcome of the appeal.
- Or had any involvement with the selection decision under appeal.
- Or is in any way placed in a position of conflicting interests in respect to the appeal.

They shall be disqualified from sitting on the Appeals Panel and will be replaced by an alternate, who shall be nominated by the ClimbScotland Development Manager.

Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the ClimbScotland Development Manager will circulate it to all members of the Appeals Panel as soon as reasonably practicable.

The Chair of the Appeals Panel will convene a meeting to take place as soon as practical, aiming for within five working days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal.

The Appeals Panel will investigate the grounds set out in the Notice of Appeal and establish to their reasonable satisfaction whether there has been a failure in the process.

The Appeals Panel, when considering the Notice of Appeal, shall be entitled to take advice (including legal advice) as they see fit.

### **The Decision**

The appeal panel shall be entitled to:

- Quash the selection decision under appeal and remit the matter back to the original decision maker, identifying the errors they have identified in the conduct of the selection process and request that a new decision be made within 72 hours; or
- Rescind the selection decision under appeal and confirm the selection of the athlete.

The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be reached by a majority vote, and all members shall have one vote each.

In the case of a frivolous or vexatious appeal, the Appeals Panel reserves the right to seek remuneration against the appellant to cover the costs of the appeal.

The ClimbScotland Development Manager will, in writing, inform all parties about the Appeals Panel's decision to either uphold or reject the appeal.

The Appeals Panel's decision shall be final and binding on all parties.