



## **Scotland National Squad**

Categories:

Youth B (U16), Youth A (U18) & Junior (U20)

## **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 National Squad (SNS).
- 1.2 To provide detailed information to assist athletes, parents, and home coaches in understanding the criteria that will be used by the coaches, staff and selection panels in the decision-making process. Aiming:
  - 1.2.1 To communicate the selection strategy that ClimbScotland will undertake when selecting eligible athletes to the SNS 2024 (including de-selection).
  - 1.2.2 To communicate the criteria by which athletes will be selected to the SNS.
  - 1.2.3 To outline the Selection Panels process, 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 National Squad**

- 2.1 To provide support, and opportunities for holistic athlete-centred development, to athletes' resident in Scotland, who have shown themselves to have performance orientated potential, and ambition.
- 2.2 To provide the linking step in the pathway from the Scotland Development Squad (SDS) to the GB Climbing Team.
  - 2.2.1 Athletes should be aware that on meeting the selection criteria for the SNS they are eligible for the GB Climbing Team selection processes for both boulder and Lead (regardless of the route by which the athlete gained selection) if athletes meet age category requirements in 2024. For details, please see [GB Team Selection Framework and Annual Performance Strategy](#).
- 2.3 Through the SNS, we intend to:
  - 2.3.1 Help athletes progress and develop their climbing skills, capabilities, and standards – with competitions (and climbing performance more generally) in mind – to deliver personal best performances.
  - 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 alternate opportunities to broaden an athlete's knowledge and skill set.
  - 2.3.4 Prepare athletes for selection to the GB Team.
- 2.4 ClimbScotland will achieve the above by:
  - 2.4.1 Introducing athletes (parents and Home Coaches) to a culture of performance, combined with a holistic health and wellbeing approach, which can positively enhance climbing abilities.
  - 2.4.2 Providing opportunities to engage with the ClimbScotland National Coaching Team for support through age and stage relevant learning and advice.
  - 2.4.3 Providing the opportunity for National Coaches to work collaboratively with athletes (parents and Home Coaches) in developing an **Individual Athlete Development Plan** (IADP).

- 2.4.4 Providing a programme of academies and/or training camps offering both general and specific content, applicable to the SNS, and including where appropriate joint events with the SDS.

### **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 National 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 **Sections 5 to Section 7**.

4.2 If successfully selected to the SNS an athlete will not be eligible to be part of the SDS for the same year of selection, although there will be opportunities to train with the SDS at joint training events.

4.3 Members of the 2023 GB Team will be automatically selected into the SNS 2024.

4.4 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 to Section 7)**. That is, they will need to demonstrate a:

- 4.4.1 Strong competitive performance standard.
- 4.4.2 Clear potential for future development.
- 4.4.3 Determined motivation to engage in the programme and expand their skill set.

4.5 An additional pathway into the SNS is available mid-year for Youth A and Youth B members of the SDS 2024. This will be based on their competition performance through the first part of the year at three (3) National 4-Nation events, using the points allocation system below (**Section 6**), and supporting information to help determine if the **Selection Decision Objectives** have been met. The latter information will be gathered through an application process that may involve an invitation to an appropriate event for coach observations.

4.6 A further route into the SNS is available through a demonstration of a high-performance standard that does not necessarily meet the competitive requirements laid out through the standard pathway entry to the SNS. Such as that achieved in an outdoor climbing

environment, or indoor, non-competitive, climbing environment. Full details of which can be found in **Appendix 2 – “Off-Pathway” selection.**

## **5. Selection Process – Boulder & Lead**

### **5.1 Stage 1 – Accruing of points and application made**

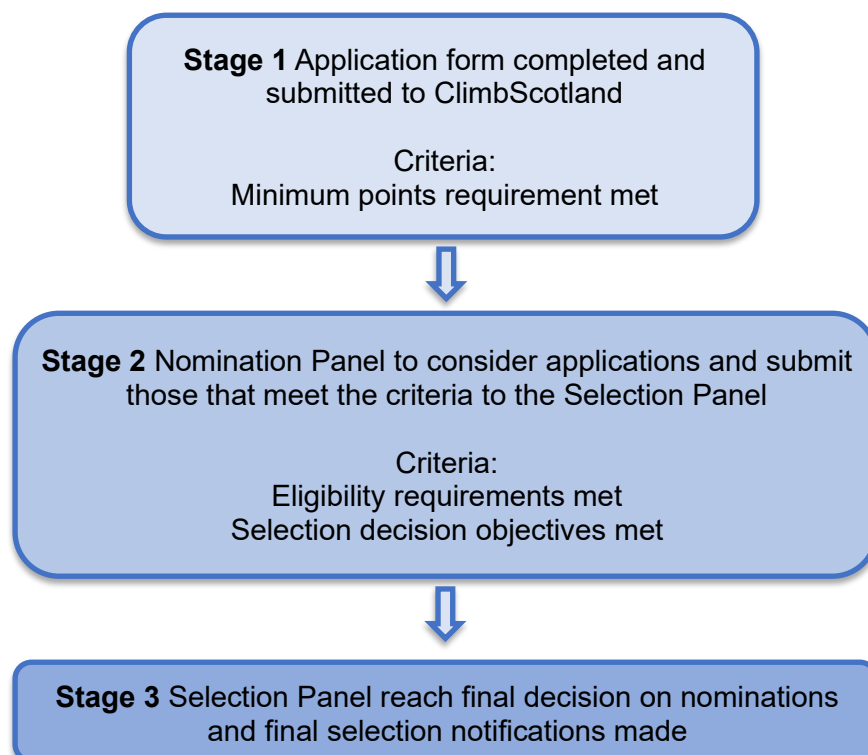
- 5.1.1 On meeting the minimum points requirement as outlined in **Section 6** below an application can be made to ClimbScotland for consideration.
- 5.1.2 Points requirements will be checked, as well as proper completion of the application form. Those that have met the criteria will be presented to the Nominations Panel.
- 5.1.3 Application forms can be obtained by emailing the Talent & Pathways Officer – [jack@mountaineering.scot](mailto:jack@mountaineering.scot).

### **5.2 Stage 2 – Nomination Panel to consider all applications that have been made**

- 5.2.1 The Nomination Panel will review all applications against the selection decision objectives and the wider squad purpose.
- 5.2.2 Submitting those that meet these objectives to the Selection Panel

### **5.3 Stage 3 – Selection Panel reaches final decision and notifications will be made**

For further details on the Nomination Panel and Selection Panel please see Appendix 1



## 6. Points Allocation – Boulder & Lead:

6.1 Points will be accrued based on rankings achieved at the competitions specified below.

6.1.1 The total points will be calculated based on the top 5 highest points achieved.

Points Requirement for Selection
3000

6.1.2 Where 16 or fewer competitors take part in a competition the points allocation has been amended to reflect the smaller sized field.

6.1.2.1 Where there is only 1 competitor taking part in a category they will not have competed against other participants and so the points allocation will be that of a podium position in the corresponding competition with 16 or fewer competitors.

6.1.3 Ranking in all competitions is based on positioning within the total field of competitors (not just Scottish competitors).

### 6.2 Points Breakdown for athletes in Youth A and Junior in 2023:

British Championships	Podium	Top 25%	Top 50%		1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium Position	Top 50%
Competitions with 17+ Competitors					Competitions with 16 - Competitors		
BBC	2400	2000	1250		2400	2000	1250
BLCC	2400	2000	1250		2400	2000	1250
JBBC	2200	1750	1000		2200	1750	1000
JBLCC	2200	1750	1000		2200	1750	1000

4 Nations Series	Podium	Top 25%	Top 50%		1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium Position	Top 50%
Competitions with 17+ Competitors					Competitions with 16 - Competitors		
<b>Youth A Category:</b> 4 Nations Comp	1750	1000	500		1750	1000	500
<b>Junior Category:</b> Scottish Comps: SYBC & SYCC	1750	1000	500		1750	1000	500
<b>Junior Category:</b> English/Irish/Welsh Comps	2000	1250	750		2000	1250	750
Overall Series	500	-	-		500	-	-

6.2.1 A higher points allocation has been assigned to the Junior category in the English, Irish and Welsh 4 Nations Series because any junior athletes will be competing in the Senior category, as there is no Junior category in these competitions.

6.2.2 **Overall Series** points for the **4 Nations Series** will be awarded based on the number of competitors that have achieved an overall series ranking.

### 6.3 Points Breakdown for athletes in Youth B 2023:

British Championships	Podium	Top 25%	Top 50%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium Position	Top 50%
Competitions with 17+ Competitors				Competitions with 16 - Competitors		
JBBC	2400	2000	1250	2400	2000	1250
JBLCC	2400	2000	1250	2400	2000	1250

4 Nations Series	Podium	Top 25%	Top 50%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium Position	Top 50%
Competitions with 17+ Competitors				Competitions with 16 - Competitors		
4 Nations Comp	1750	1000	500	1750	1000	500
Overall Series	500	-	-	500	N/A	N/A

6.3.1 **Overall Series** points for the **4 Nations Series** will be awarded based on the number of competitors that have achieved an overall series ranking.

### 6.4 Points Breakdown for athletes in Upper Youth C 2023:

British Championships	Podium	Top 25%	Top 50%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium Position	Top 50%
Competitions with 17+ Competitors				Competitions with 16 - Competitors		
JBBC	2200	1750	1000	2200	1750	1000
JBLCC	2200	1750	1000	2200	1750	1000

4 Nations Series	Podium	Top 25%	Top 50%	1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Podium Position	Top 50%
Competitions with 17+ Competitors				Competitions with 16 - Competitors		
Comp	1750	1000	500	1750	1000	500
Overall Series	500	-	-	500	N/A	N/A

Youth Climbing Series	Podium	Top 25%
Series Ranking	750	-
Grand Final	1500	750

6.4.1 A YCS series ranking can only be obtained by recording a ranking at a minimum of 3 separate YCS rounds.

6.4.2 To take into consideration the lateness in the year of the release of these documents we will be considering all 2023 competition results for the Youth C athlete. In the future further consideration will be given around the number of competitions needed for a successful selection to the SNS.

6.4.3 **Overall Series** points for the **4 Nations Series** will be awarded based on the number of competitors that have achieved an overall series ranking.

## **7. Selection Process – Speed**

7.1 Selection to the SNS for Speed will be based on times indicated in the table below:

<b>MALE SPEED</b>		<b>FEMALE SPEED</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Scotland National Squad</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Scotland National Squad</b>
	<b>Standard</b>		<b>Standard</b>
<b>Junior (U20)</b>	7.0 sec	<b>Junior (U20)</b>	10 sec
<b>Youth A (U18)</b>	7.5 sec	<b>Youth A (U18)</b>	10.5 sec
<b>Youth B (U16)</b>	9.0 sec	<b>Youth B (U16)</b>	11 sec

7.2 To apply for selection, video evidence of achieving the qualification time on an IFSC ratified speed wall, using official speed wall timing system is required.

## **8. Selection Time Frames**

8.1 Applications will be made available and should be submitted between the 27<sup>th</sup> November and the 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact [jack@mountaineering.scot](mailto:jack@mountaineering.scot) for application forms.

8.2 The panels shall be held from the 11<sup>th</sup> December and athletes shall be notified of selections decisions within 2 weeks of this date.

## **9. Subjective Nature of Selection Decisions**

9.1 ClimbScotland does not consider it desirable to select the Scotland National Squad purely based on hard edged competitive criteria. Such an approach would not consider factors such as injury or illness which may have affected attendance at events, future performance potential or squad dynamics.

## **10. Confidentiality**

10.1 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.

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

11.1 An athlete may be de-selected from the Scotland National Squad on the following grounds:

11.1.1 Ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this selection policy.

11.1.2 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.

11.1.3 Failure to engage with Scotland National Squad programmes and the Individual Athlete Development Plan processes.

11.2 Replacement of athletes de-selected from the squad will be considered at the complete discretion of the Selection Panel. Any replacement will be selected in accordance with the selection policy.

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

11.3.1 An anti-doping rule violation or receiving provisional suspension due to anti-doping infringement; or

11.3.2 A serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct; or

11.3.3 A breach of any ClimbScotland/Mountaineering Scotland Department Policy.

## **12. Disclaimer**

12.1 The selection process may be amended at any time at the total discretion of ClimbScotland.

12.2 Should amendments be made they 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.

12.3 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.

## **13. Questions about the Policy**

13.1 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 – Selection Panel, Exceptional Circumstances and Appeals**

### **Selection Panel**

The minimum points requirement, application forms and the information laid out in this document are the primary input into the selection decision making process. They will support the professional judgement and subjective decision-making regarding athlete selections. To minimise the risk of personal biased judgments, a range of people will make up the nomination and selection panels.

All selection recommendations will be made by the following nomination panel:

- ClimbScotland Talent & Pathway Officer (Chair, casting vote)
- ClimbScotland member of staff with relevant experience and knowledge (Minimum x2, voting)
- Independent Observer (non-voting) – with relevant experience and knowledge.

All selection nominations will be presented to the following Selection Panel:

- ClimbScotland Talent & Pathway Officer (Chair, casting vote)
- ClimbScotland Climbing Development Officer (voting)
- ClimbScotland Development Manager (voting)
- Independent Observer – (non-voting) – with relevant experience and knowledge.

The Selection Panel will be responsible for:

- Confirming that due consideration and process has been followed and that the athlete nominations made by the Nomination Panel are appropriate, free from bias and/or conflict of interest.
- Ensuring selections are made in accordance with the purpose of the selection strategy as stated.
- Ratifying the nominations of the Nomination Panel. Using the most recently published selection document, in conjunction with its own assessments, as a guide to its deliberations and conclusions.

Other expert advisors or observers such as representatives from Mountaineering Scotland, SportScotland, and GB Climbing may be invited to attend.

Conflicts of interest (if any) will be declared at the start of the meeting. In the event of a conflict of interest, the person will not be eligible to vote. The existence of a disclosed conflict will not preclude a member of the nomination or selection panel from participating in deliberations.

Each voting member of the Nomination and Selection Panels shall have one vote as regards to each selection decision. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote.

There is no obligation for the Nomination or Selection Panel to select a specific number of squad members. Selection will be based on athletes who achieve the criteria outlined in the Selection Strategy 2024 document.

## **Exceptional Circumstances**

The Selection Panel has the sole discretion to invoke the provisions in this clause and any decision is final. It is also recognised that although the below aims to account for most consequences of an exceptional circumstance, there may be circumstances that fall outside of the this. In these instances, the Selection Panel can, at their discretion, invoke the exceptional circumstances clause and consider the case.

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).

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.

## Appendix 2 – “Off-Pathway” selection

To help consider the multifaceted nature of climbing performance and with a view to provide opportunities to all those young climbers dedicated to progressing their climbing whether it be competitive or not, ClimbScotland are putting in place an “Off-Pathway” selection route to the SNS to facilitate this.

**NOTE – Selections made via this pathway will not be eligible for any GB Climbing selection events unless the climber goes on to satisfy the standard “competitive” focused selection criteria.**

### Criteria

- Accumulate 28 points or higher across x10 routes or problems (or a combination of the two). Using the points allocation outlined in the performance standard tables below.
  - At least one route/problem **MUST** be at the top performance standard for that age category (as listed below).
- These must be completed over a 6-12month period to give an indication of performance consistency over time.
- They can be a combination of indoor and outdoor performances.
- Problems on training boards cannot be used.
- If verifiable evidence (as outlined below) can be given, we will consider performances in the 6-12 months preceding the publishing of this document.
- **Indoor Environment:**
  - These must be completed at, at least x2, ClimbScotland International or National Performance Centres:
    - EICA – Ratho
    - Eden Rock – Edinburgh
    - TCA Newsroom – Glasgow
    - The Ledge – Inverness
  - Video evidence must be provided or there must be signed confirmation by a ClimbScotland endorsed setter/coach who can verify the performance (organised by the applicant).
  - An application form must be completed.
    - In which you will also be asked to include a description of the style and general hold type of the routes/problems, and the number of attempts made)
- **Outdoor Environment:**
  - These must be completed at established crags and on established routes.
  - There must be confirmation of the grade from a recognised guidebook, cross referenced with UKClimbing.com and their community voting system.
  - Video evidence must be provided or there must be signed confirmation by a ClimbScotland endorsed setter/coach who can verify the performance (organised by the applicant).
  - An application form must be completed.
    - In which you will also be asked to include a description of the style and general hold type of the routes/problems, and the number of attempts made)

- Performance standards and points:

Male - Junior		Target 28pts		
INDOOR		OUTDOOR		Points
V10	8b	V11	8a+	8
V9	8a+	V10	8a	4
V8	8a	V9	7c+	2

Male - Youth A		Target 28pts		
INDOOR		OUTDOOR		Points
V9	8a+	V10	8a	8
V8	8a	V9	7c+	4
V7	7c+	V8	7c	2

Male - Youth B		Target 28pts		
INDOOR		OUTDOOR		Points
V9	8a+	V10	8a	8
V8	8a	V9	7c+	4
V7	7c+	V8	7c	2

Female - Junior		Target 28pts		
INDOOR		OUTDOOR		Points
V9	8a+	V9	8a	8
V8	8a	V8	7c+	4
V7	7c+	V7	7c	2

Female - Youth A		Target 28pts		
INDOOR		OUTDOOR		Points
V8	8a	V8	8a	8
V7	7c+	V7	7c+	4
V6	7c	V6	7c	2

Female - Youth B		Target 28pts		
INDOOR		OUTDOOR		Points
V8	7c+	V8	7c+	8
V7	7c	V7	7c	4
V6	7b+	V6	7b+	2

- Please contact the Talent & Pathway Officer for an application form – [jack@mountaineering.scot](mailto:jack@mountaineering.scot)
- Applications can be submitted at any point in the year but will only be applicable to the 2024 season (any successful selection will finish at the point at which the 2025 selection process begins).
- On receipt of an application the Talent & Pathway Officer will call together the following panel to act as nomination and selection panel as per Appendix 1:
  - ClimbScotland Talent & Pathway Officer (Chair, casting vote)
  - ClimbScotland Development Manager (voting)
  - ClimbScotland member of staff with relevant experience and knowledge (voting)
  - Independent Observer with relevant experience and knowledge (non-voting)
- This panel will reach a decision on the application at which point the applicant will be contacted with regards to the outcome.
- The Talent & Pathway Officer will call together the panel as soon as practical, and on receipt of the application will advise accordingly on the timescales of this process.
- If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt of your application from the Talent & Pathway Officer please contact them directly via – [jack@mountaineering.scot](mailto:jack@mountaineering.scot), and include – [info@climbScotland.net](mailto:info@climbScotland.net)