



OLYMPIC GAMES LONDON 2012

OPEN WATER MARATHON SWIM, 9-10 AUGUST 2012

SELECTION POLICY

For any selection to be confirmed, all swimmers and team staff wishing to be considered for selection must have completed and returned a Selection Acceptance Form, as outlined in 3.12

The Open Water team for the Olympic Games 2012 will be identified from performances at the FINA World OWS Championships 2011 Shanghai, China and the FINA Olympic Marathon Swim Qualifier Setubal, Portugal 9-10 June 2012. The selection procedures below follow the published 'FINA QUALIFICATION SYSTEM – GAMES OF THE XXX OLYMPIAD' for Marathon Swimming. Final selection is at the sole discretion of the British Olympic Association (BOA) following nominations made by British Swimming against this selection policy. The team will be announced following ratification by the BOA.

1. ATHLETE SELECTION

- 1.1. There are 2 male and 2 female places available for Team GB selection in the 10km event at the Olympic Games 2012 subject to qualification of named quota places.
- 1.2. British swimmers will be nominated to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games 2012 if they have achieved a top 10 ranked place in the 10km event at the FINA World OWS Championships 2011 subject to clause 3.13.
- 1.3. If there are no British male qualifiers in 1.2 above, the National Performance Director will have the sole discretion to select up to 2 'available' British male swimmers to challenge for an Olympic place at the FINA Olympic Marathon Qualifier 2012. Such a decision will be made following the British Gas Swimming Championships 3-10 March 2012 and exercised in accordance with clause 3.3.
- 1.4. If there are no British female qualifiers in 1.2 above, the National Performance Director will have the sole discretion to select up to 2 'available' British female swimmers to challenge for an Olympic place at the FINA Olympic Marathon Qualifier. Such a decision will be made following the British Gas Swimming Championships 3-10 March 2012 and exercised in accordance with clause 3.3.
- 1.5. Where swimmers are selected via 1.3 and 1.4 to compete in the FINA Olympic Marathon Qualifier 2012, the highest placed British male and highest placed British female swimmer will be nominated to represent Great Britain at the Olympic Games 2012 if they achieve a top 9 ranked place in the 10km event at the FINA Olympic Marathon Qualifier 2012.
- 1.6. If there are no British male qualifiers following selections in 1.2 or 1.5 above, one (1) male host nation place may be offered to an 'available' male swimmer at the complete discretion of the British Development/Open Water Coach and the National Performance Director. Such a decision will be made in consultation with the BOA following the conclusion of the FINA Olympic Marathon qualification 2012 and exercised in accordance with clause 3.3.
- 1.7. If there are no British female qualifiers following selections in 1.2 or 1.5 above, one (1) female host nation place may be offered to a female swimmer at the complete discretion of the British Development/Open Water Coach and the National Performance Director (*refer to clause 3.3*). Such a decision would be made in consultation with the BOA following the conclusion of the FINA Olympic Marathon qualification 2012 and exercised in accordance with clause 3.3.

2. COACH SELECTION

- 2.1 The British Development/Open Water Coach will act as the Open Water Team Leader at the Olympic Games 2012.
- 2.2 Support coaches will be nominated at the complete discretion of the British Development/Open Water Coach in consultation with the National Performance Director and coach numbers will be subject to available accreditations.
- 2.3 Coaches 'available' for nomination must be holders of the UKCC/ASA Coaches Certificate or equivalent, or be enrolled on an UKCC/ASA Coach Course at time of selection.
- 2.4 Coaches 'available' for nomination must have been resident within the UK for a minimum period of two years leading into the FINA World OWS Championships 2011, unless employed or deployed by a British or Home Country National Governing Body.

3. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 3.1 The reference to 'available' in the sections above denotes British swimmers and coaches who have declared their availability (as outlined in 3.12) to participate in the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012.
- 3.2 Only swimmers eligible and available to represent Great Britain in the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012 (as documented in the Olympic Charter Rules) will be selected. The BOA in consultation with FINA and the IOC will decide on any question of eligibility and their decision will be final.
- 3.3 Selections made at the discretion of the National Performance Director and the British Swimming Development/Open Water Coach in clause 1.3, 1.4, 1.6 and 1.7 will be subject to number of factors such as a swimmer's past performance, their rate of progression, their Olympic medal potential for 2012 and/or 2016. Such nominations will be at the complete discretion of the National Performance Director and British Development/Open Water Coach taking into consideration those factors listed.
- 3.4 Swimmers must demonstrate an uncompromised commitment to training preparation for peak performance in the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012, as determined by their personal coach and approved by the British Development/Open Water Coach. If for any reason a swimmer is unable or unwilling to fulfill this commitment, their nomination may be withdrawn or they may be de-selected from the team following consultation with the BOA.
- 3.5 **ALL** team members will be expected to attend ALL activities organised following their nomination and the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012, if selected and required to attend by British Development/Open Water Coach. Under exceptional circumstances, written approval to be excluded from activities may be given by the National Performance Director. Failure to attend compulsory activities could result in withdrawal from the team following consultation with the BOA.
- 3.6 Team members will be expected to attend each programmed camp, where selected, on a full-time basis, taking part in all programmed activities. Unless otherwise agreed, no team member will be allowed to leave a camp or undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the camp programme, this includes any external media, sponsor or social activities.
- 3.7 Selected swimmers may not take holiday or attend overseas camps and/or competitions following their nomination and the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012 without prior written approval from the British Development/Open Water Coach and the National Performance Director.
- 3.8 Swimmers becoming unfit due to illness or injury at any time following their nomination and the BOA Delegation Registration Meeting 8th July 2012 must notify British Swimming immediately and unless otherwise agreed, will be required to undertake a full medical examination by British Swimming Medical Staff which may result in the swimmer being de-selected from the team following consultation with the BOA.
- 3.9 Swimmers may be subjected to fitness (land/water) and/or medical tests at any time between the BOA Delegation Registration Meeting 8th July 2012 and the conclusion of the Olympic

- Games 2012. Any swimmer judged to be unfit by the BOA and British Swimming, following tests conducted by British Swimming in the presence of a BOA representative, may be de-selected from the team.
- 3.10 Replacement of swimmers withdrawn from the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012 will be considered by the National Performance Director and British Development/Open Water Coach if viewed to be in the best interest of the overall team performance. Nomination of replacement swimmers will be identified at the complete discretion of the British Development/Open Water Coach and the National Performance Director following consultation with the BOA. Such a replacement will be in accordance with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Late Athlete Replacement policy or equivalent.
 - 3.11 All selected team members will be required to sign and comply with the British Swimming Code of Conduct and the BOA Team Member's Agreement. A breach of the British Swimming Code of Conduct or BOA Team Member's Agreement may result in de-selection from the team.
 - 3.12 **Selection Acceptance Form:** All swimmers and coaches will be expected to complete a Selection Acceptance Form to confirm they will be available to participate in the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012. Failure to do so will be interpreted as non-availability by the Federation. Selection Acceptance Forms will be provided by British Swimming to qualifying team members.
 - 3.13 Swimmers gaining selection from the FINA World OWS Championships 2011 (as specified in 1.2) will be required to maintain their fitness levels and may be subjected to fitness (land/water) tests any time following their nomination and the Open Water Marathon Swim at the Olympic Games 2012. Any swimmer judged to be unfit by British Swimming, following tests conducted by British Swimming, may be de-selected at the discretion of the British Development/Open Water Coach and National Performance Director following consultation with the BOA.
 - 3.14 All swimmers must comply with IOC, FINA and BOA swimwear regulations.
 - 3.15 Nominations for all coaching, sport science/medicine and team manager positions (with the exception of the Team Leader) will be made to the BOA following a mandatory interview process. The interview panel will comprise of the National Performance Director, the British Development/Open Water Coach, and an independent representative as nominated by the National Performance Director. The interviews will be held within a one month period following the conclusion of the Team GB Open Water swimmer selection process as outlined in this policy. Failure to attend the interview process will rule the individual ineligible for nomination to the BOA.
 - 3.16 British Swimming will impose a fine of £500 on any swimmer who withdraws from the team for any reason other than illness or injury (as certified by British Swimming Medical Staff).
 - 3.17 All team members will be expected to abide by the Media Protocols of the British Swimming Programme. Athletes must only speak to the media about their own performances and group coaches must only comment on performances of swimmers in their group. The British Development/Open Water Coach and National Performance Director may discuss performances of the entire team. During the Games period 16th July - 15th August 2012, swimmers must also comply with the BOA media rules as set out in the Team Members Agreement.
 - 3.18 The National Performance Director and British Development/Open Water Coach will exercise their authority to ensure that the final selections for the Open Water marathon event at the Olympic Games 2012 are in line with this policy and will result in the best possible achievements at the Olympic Games 2012.
 - 3.19 Any appeals against nominations in relation to this GB Technical Swimming Committee selection policy must be made in accordance with the British Swimming Team Selection Appeals Procedures that can be found on the British Swimming website <http://www.swimming.org/library/document/team-selection-procedure> or upon request.

**GB Technical Swimming Committee
July 2011**