



**Goalball UK
Selection Policy**

**IBSA World Championships 2026
Hangzhou, China**

4 – 16 June 2026

Purpose of the Selection Policy

The purpose of this selection policy is to identify and select up to six goalball players to represent Great Britain (women) at the **IBSA World Championships with the aim of producing medal winning performances to qualify for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games.**

Eligibility Criteria

Potential players must satisfy the following criteria:

- Be eligible for selection under the rules of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).
- Meet the minimum impairment criteria (MIC) for goalball as stipulated by IBSA and have a current national or international classification of B1-B3.
- A British citizen in possession of a valid British Passport.
- Be a member of and be in good standing with Goalball UK.
- Comply with the rules and regulations set by the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA).
- Have completed and evidenced attendance at Anti-Doping education within the previous two years from the commencement of the competition.
- Comply with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) at all times.

Selection Criteria

The following criteria will be considered to determine who is eligible and included to ensure that the team(s) provides a high level of competitiveness in a variety of match situations.

- Players must be a member of Goalball UK and play for a club that plays in the Goalball UK domestic league structure or be a member of a recognised international club and play in their league/ competition structure.
- Players must demonstrate a commitment to all aspects of the Goalball UK Performance Pathway Programme.
- Full adherence to weekly monitoring commitments and administration.
- Attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to training, preparation and coaching.
- Commitment to individual training plan and all Goalball UK monitoring requirements.
- Performance record in domestic or international goalball events on appropriate playing surfaces up to two years prior to the competition start date.
- Previous performance record at European and/or World Championships, and/or World Games may be taken into consideration.
- Current competition form and readiness.
- Suitability as a team player and able to contribute to team dynamics.
- Position specific criteria for centre and wingers.
- Demonstrating a stable or upward trajectory in all elements of programme fitness testing;

- Demonstrate physical fitness and existing ability to cope with programme and competition demands including current medical / injury status fitness.
- Strategy awareness and delivery.
- Skill progression.
- Ability to react positively to game pressure.
- Performance Analysis gathered at training camps and competitions.
- Players will be considered and reviewed on their ability in:
 - 1) Shooting (accuracy, power & conversion rate);
 - 2) Defending;
 - 3) Passing;
 - 4) Apply tactics and demonstrating game sense;
 - 5) On court communication;
 - 6) Orientation;
 - 7) Movement skills;

Selected players may be subjected to a fitness test at any time between date of team announcement and one week prior to the first date of competition.

Exceptional circumstances

If an athlete is unable to meet the selection policy criteria due to any exceptional circumstances, then the athlete must submit this in writing (email accepted) outlining the exceptional circumstances to the Chair of the selection panel (gary.fraser@goalballuk.com) by no later than **09:00 on Tuesday 7 April 2026**.

Subjectivity

Goalball is not a measured or timed event and selection will have an element of subjectivity; not just objective data gathered. The above criteria has been set to ensure that Goalball UK can select a group of players capable of delivering the highest performances at major competitions.

In order to maximise medal potential, Goalball UK will select athletes based on composition of position, specific specialist and team dynamics which may be at the expense of a qualified player.

Reserve(s)

Goalball UK may select a reserve(s) that could be selected if a selected player is unable to compete at the IBSA World Championships, and in accordance with rules and regulations stipulated by IBSA.

Final selections are at the sole discretion of the Performance Director

De-Selection

A player may be de-selected for one or more of the following reasons:

- Demonstrates a lack of commitment to training, coaching and tournament preparations.
- Demonstrates a lack of commitment to any monitoring requirements.
- Demonstrates a decline in playing standard.
- Incurs an illness or injury that, in the opinion of the Performance Director, could inhibit their performance in a competition.
- Is not able to provide all relevant documentation within the requested timelines. E.g. a Medical Diagnostics Form.
- Breaches the Goalball UK High Performance Code of Conduct
- Any breach of or failure to comply with the Goalball UK Anti-Doping policy.

Any de-selected player will be informed of their de-election verbally and in writing. Any de-selected player will receive feedback from their Head Coach and Performance Director to clarify the de-selection decision. These discussions will be documented, and a copy of the notes sent to the player, and one retained on record.

Right of Appeal

Appeals against non-selection in relation to this selection policy will be made in accordance with the Goalball UK appeals procedure detailed below:

- An Athlete (the Appellant) may appeal to have the decision of Goalball UK selection panel reviewed by the Appeals Panel.
- The Appellant should lodge an appeal in writing within 48 hours after the selection decision has been communicated to them to the Chief Executive Officer of Goalball UK on mark.winder@goalballuk.com. Receipt of selection *will be assumed* no later than two hours after the selection email has been distributed.
- The notice of appeal should set out in full the grounds on which the Appellant wishes to appeal and should be accompanied by all relevant and supporting documentation.

Grounds for Appeal

An athlete may appeal against a non-selection, only on the grounds that:

1. there has been a failure to follow the process outlined in the Selection Policy; the departure from the process is more than minimal and has a material impact on the outcome.
2. the Selection Panel, or any member of it involved in making the relevant selection decision has shown actual bias when making the decision;
3. the Selection Panel reached a decision on the basis of an error of fact; or
4. the decision is unreasonable and one that no reasonable decision maker could ever have reached.

If none of these grounds are met the appeal will be dismissed.

Appeals Procedure

- The Appeal panel will meet via Microsoft Teams/ Zoom within 5 days of the appeal being received. The Appellant will be invited to attend, and is permitted to bring an advocate to support, but not speak on behalf of, the Appellant. If the Appellant is unable to attend a decision will be made based on the previously submitted documentation.
- Goalball UK has 5 working days to communicate a response to the Appellant.
- The decision of the appeals panel is final, and the appellant has no further right to appeal.
- Members of the Appeals panel will not have been involved in the selection process and 1 member will be from out with Goalball UK.

Selection Panel

The following members of the Goalball UK High Performance Team will act as the selection panel:

- Performance Director (Chair)
- Head Performance Coach
- Assistant Performance Coach

As part of the selection process the selection panel shall receive reports from all members of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT).

Final selections are at the sole discretion of the Performance Director.

Communication of Selection

The selected players shall be notified via email by **1200 on Friday 10 April 2026**

All players involved in the selection process will be informed of the final selection in writing, within 7 days of the selection announcement. All non-selected players will receive feedback from the Performance Director and Head Coach to clarify the selection decision.

Anti-Doping

Goalball UK is WADA compliant and adherence to such policies and processes as stipulated by WADA or its appointed agents is expected and detailed clearly in the GUK Anti-Doping policy.

Amendments to Selection Policy

The selectors have the right to amend or change the selection criteria where necessary at any time in order to fulfil the purpose of the selection policy. These changes or amendments, having been agreed and discussed will be clearly communicated to all parties.