

## Great Britain Hockey

### Selection Policy & Procedures: Great Britain Elite Development Programme

**Reviewed Aug 2024**

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Aim of this document:** This document details the selection policy and processes for (1) selection onto the Great Britain Elite Development Programme (EDP) (“the Programme”), including the England under 21 element, (2) de-selection from the Programme, and (3) the Athlete Personal Awards (“APA”) awards process and associated athlete progress mechanism.
- 1.2.** The Programme is a world-leading hockey programme that provides athletes with the best possible opportunity to achieve their international hockey ambitions. It is funded primarily by UK Sport as part of their National Lottery funded World Class Performance Programme (“WCP”). The vision for the programme is to “develop future medal winning Olympians”. Everything underpins this vision. The objectives of the programme are to:
- Identify and select the most talented future senior internationals with the potential to perform at world’s best level.
  - Implement a programme that enables athletes to maximise their potential and that supports the development of the skills, physicality and character required to become a medal winning Olympian in the future.
  - Deliver junior international teams that excel at under-21 and non-under-21 level (European Championships and World Cup, and non-under 21 competition).
- 1.3. GB Framework:** The GB Framework guides the way of working and is relevant to the GB components of the Programme. All athletes and staff should be aware of the GB Framework and operating structure, which can be found here. GB Framework
- 1.4. Athlete Performance Awards:** As a UK Sport funded sport, a number of APAs are allocated to hockey. The APA is a National Lottery funded grant (not employment) awarded to certain athletes in support of their progression towards medal success at the Olympic Games and other world level events. The APA is designed to enable athletes to engage fully with the Programme and meet the necessary training and competition demands associated with progression towards the Olympic podium. The APA grant contributes towards the living and sporting costs that athletes incur whilst being a member of the Programme. In the LA 2028 Olympic Cycle, hockey has been awarded 75 APAs to be utilised across the senior programme and the GB Elite Development Programmes. The number of places available to each programme will be strategically managed based on performance need and may vary across the four-year Olympic cycle. This is at the absolute discretion of Great Britain Hockey (“GB Hockey”).
- 1.5. Player Agreement:** The contractual commitments of the athlete and GB Hockey (on joining the Programme) are captured in (1) the WCP Performance Athlete Agreement for athletes receiving a UK Sport funded APA, (2) in the EDP Athlete Agreement for all other EDP athletes, and (3) in the England under-21 Athlete Agreement for other England under-21 squad athletes. These agreements clarify each of the athlete’s and GB Hockey’s responsibilities and obligations to enable each athlete to make the most of his or her sporting career, relative to the resource available and parameters of the programme.
- 1.6. Men’s and Women’s programmes**

#### 1.6.1. Men's programme:

A squad of up to 35 of the highest potential sub-senior GB athletes who demonstrate the potential to be able to transition into the Senior GB Programme and perform at World's best level in the next 1-5 years.

As GB do not compete consistently at junior level, and as England is the Nominated Country (see GB Framework), the GB Elite Development Programme has a responsibility for the preparation and delivery of England under-21 teams. For this reason, a minimum of 24 England under-21 athletes will be selected.

Additional athletes will be identified on the EDP Men's Reserve list. Reserve list athletes will be invited to EDP training sessions on an ad-hoc basis if there are spare places available due to full squad members being unavailable for any reason. The Reserve list can include athletes from any Home Nation, however sufficient England under-21 will be included to ensure there is a pool of England athletes who are supported and prepared to perform successfully at under-21 level.

#### 1.6.2. Women's programme:

The programme will be made up of two components. These are:

A GB component made up of 10-15 of the highest potential sub-senior GB athletes aged 17-23+ and a distinct England under-21 squad of up to 30 players aged 16-21.

Some of the players in the England under-21 squad may also be part of the GB programme. The total number of players will not exceed 35 across both GB and England under-21 components.

There will not be a EDP or England under-21 Reserve List however players from the England under-18 squad or other eligible athletes identified through the year may be invited to England under-21 activity and/or included in England under-21 teams.

## 2. Assessment Process

**2.1. Eligibility:** To be eligible for selection for the Programme, an athlete must:

- 2.1.1 Be a British citizen with a valid British passport
- 2.1.2 Not be currently serving a period of ineligibility as a result of a transfer of allegiance
- 2.1.3 Be available to participate fully in the Programme. In principle, athletes may be supported on a case-by-case basis whilst not fully engaging with the Programme for career or other acceptable commitments;
- 2.1.4 Meet and continue to meet the UK Sport Eligibility Policy (see <https://www.uksport.gov.uk/resources/eligibility>)
- 2.1.5 Not be serving any current or pending Anti-Doping suspension
- 2.1.6 Not be serving any current or pending GB Hockey code of conduct suspension.

- 2.1.7 (Women's programme only) Meet the eligibility criteria set out in the England Hockey Transgender and Non-Binary Participation Policy to be eligible for the women's programme. [Transgender and Non-Binary Participation Policy](#).

In addition to the above, we strongly encourage all GB programme athletes to play for their Home Nation.

If an athlete holds, or is eligible to hold, a British passport but has played for another senior international team in an International Hockey Federation ("FIH") competition during the last three years (outside England, Scotland and Wales), they may be invited to join the Programme in a training context. Under these circumstances, an invitation to join the Programme will not be combined with an APA offer and the athlete would be responsible for all of their living and medical expenses.

## **2.2. Routes to assessment:**

- 2.2.1. Men's programme: There are two routes to assessment for inclusion
- Nomination for a formal assessment phase by a Home Nation Coach, an EDP coach, a club coach, a Talent Academy coach, or a school coach
  - An ad hoc invitation for assessment based on the Programme Head Coach observation of international and / or domestic training and competition.
- 2.2.2. Women's programme
- GB component: Player application supported by a Home Nation Coach, an EDP coach or a club coach or nomination by an EDP coach.
  - England under-21 component:
    - Nomination for a formal assessment by an England Age Group Coach a club coach, a Talent Academy coach, or a school coach.
    - An ad hoc invitation for assessment based on the Programme Head Coach observation of international and / or domestic training and competition.
- 2.2.3. The route to assessment for England Age group (under-18) eligible players (i.e., players in school Years 12 or below or in school Year 13 and born between January 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>) is through the England Age Group programme and nomination by an England Age Group Coach. Club or school coaches wishing to nominate under-18 eligible players to England National programmes should do so via the England Age Group Open nomination process.

## **2.3. Frequency and format**

The assessment timeline and format may vary from year to year based on the international calendar, however a formal assessment phase will be conducted between November and January each year. This assessment will be for current members of the Programme and athletes nominated by a Home Nation, EDP Head Coach or a club coach.

Subject to agreement by the EDP Head Coach and GB Head of Elite Talent Development, current programme members may not be required to attend some or all, of the assessment phase.

Any formal assessment phase will be communicated in advance (by a minimum of six weeks written notice) to Home Nation Head Coaches, Home Nation Performance Leads and English/Scottish National League Clubs.

Ad hoc assessment opportunities may be conducted at additional times in all years of the cycle. Any ad hoc assessment phase will be agreed between the GB Head of Elite Talent Development and the Programme Head Coach and will be communicated clearly in advance to any athlete involved as well as those athletes currently involved in The Programme.

### 3. Selection Process and Criteria

**3.1. Selection context:** The aim of the selection process is to select the highest potential sub-senior GB / England under-21 athletes who demonstrate the potential to be able to transition into the Senior GB Programme and perform at World's best level in the next 1-5 years.

**3.2. Selection framework:** The selection criteria set out below are those identified by the GB Performance Director, GB Head of Elite Talent Development and the Programme Head Coaches as fundamental to selection for the Programme.

3.2.1. In developing this framework, it is acknowledged that hockey is a team sport and whilst athletes can do a great deal to develop in an individual environment, ultimately, those athletes must be able to realise their potential and perform within a team. Acknowledgement is made that in selecting for a team sport, combinations of athletes, the balance of a squad and the ability of athletes to play in more than one position will be considered alongside individual skill levels.

3.2.2. Valid and robust selection in a multi-faceted team sport is most effectively achieved through the combination of expert decision making, the triangulation of multiple opinions (coaches), objective and subjective information, and longitudinal performance information (where available / relevant). It is the combination of these factors that contributes to effective and impactful individual and squad selection. All selection decisions will be taken based on relevant information and will be taken fairly and equitably.

3.2.3. The selection criteria below may be revised from time to time as a result of further comment and feedback from the GB Performance Director, GB Head of Elite Talent Development, GB Senior Programme Head Coaches, Programme Head Coaches and other relevant parties (e.g., UK Sport). Any such revisions shall be notified to the athletes participating in the Programme and those attending any assessments for selection in the Programme.

#### 3.3. Selection principles:

3.3.1. To select athletes with the greatest potential to perform at a senior international level and contribute to consistent medal winning success.

- 3.3.2. To conduct a meritocratic selection process which recruits those athletes with the greatest potential and ability to contribute to senior podium success. This process is not necessarily designed to select the highest performing athletes at the time of assessment.
- 3.3.3. The selection process aims to identify athletes that possess 'super-strengths', who will add a certain physical, psychological, technical, tactical or skill-based strength to the Programme squad.
- 3.3.4. Each athlete has a unique set of strengths (super-strengths) and development areas (superfocus). It is this unique combination that helps determine an individual's potential and all aspects will be considered in the decision-making process.

### **3.4. Selection criteria:**

The Complete player qualities (CPQs) are a consensus from numerous elite coaches and past and present international players of what it takes to be a future Great Britain Hockey Squad member. These are the foundations on which both selection and player development are structured and are detailed in full in the Talent System Framework [TSF](#).

A player profile is defined as a player's status against the CPQs, ranking i) their current performance against either under-21 or senior international standards dependent on their age and ii) their future potential against senior international standards.

The selection panel (as referred to in paragraph 3.5 below) will consider all relevant factors in exercising its discretion in selecting players to the EDP / under-21 squad.

In doing so they will examine player profiles against the CPQs considering the blend and balance from both an individual athlete and squad perspective:

#### **Hockey ability & potential (Game understanding and highly skilled actions)**

- Proven ability to understand the game and apply highly skilled actions under the intensity / pressure of the game.
- Ability to learn, understand and implement options within identified systems of play and tactical principles, whilst demonstrates the ability / potential to execute good options effectively and consistently.
- Proven ability to apply highly skilled actions when in possession (e.g., receiving, passing, carrying, leading and goalscoring), in transition (e.g., reading of the game, positioning and movement) and when out of possession (e.g., marking, intercepting, closing down space and tackling).
- Set pieces and special skills: The ability to score and defend 'set-pieces', bringing individual skills of the highest quality including Penalty Corner Attack, Penalty Corner Defence and Penalty Strokes.
- (Goalkeepers) Proven ability to apply highly skilled actions e.g., shot stopping, blocking, clearances, stick skills, second phase play and 1v1

#### **Mental skills**

- Evidence of developing psychological skills that aid elite performance, supporting a player's progression, performance and wellbeing
- Evidence of developing mental skills that aid progression: ambition, commitment, and open mindedness and a desire / ability to learn
- Evidence of developing mental skills that aid performance: confidence, emotional regulation, and ability to focus / re-focus
- Evidence of developing mental skills that aid health and wellbeing: a commitment to #More2Me (e.g., dual career), resilience. and purpose
- (Goal keepers) Evidence of developing psychological skills that aid elite goalkeeper performance whilst providing the leadership skills (proven or potential) to positively impact the team, particularly in areas of set-piece play

### **Teamship skills**

- Evidence of developing psychological skills that help a player thrive in the team environment working effectively with others and making the team better through their impact on others (conflict resolution, communication, emotional intelligence and leadership skills).

### **Physical capabilities and tournament fitness**

- Current or potential ability to deliver repeated high intensity performances over the length of a tournament in various climatic conditions and without accruing significant injuries.
- Current or potential physical profile to cope with the demands of international hockey without accruing significant injury
- Current or potential physical profile underpinned by core competencies of (1) speed (acceleration, top end speed and ability to accelerate, decelerate and reaccelerate rapidly), (2) conditioning (aerobic and repeated sprint ability) and (3) strength (physical on pitch dominance, robustness, balance and explosivity)

### **Balance of the squad**

The balance of attackers, midfield and defence athletes and goalkeepers, who can play at a high standard in several areas, and athletes with critical set-piece skills are a crucial part of the selection decision.

## **3.5. Selection Panel & Decisions**

- 3.5.1. Final selection for places on the Programme will be determined by a selection panel containing as a minimum the Programme Head Coach and one Assistant Coach and the GB Head of Elite Talent Development.
- 3.5.2. The selection panel will review each athlete in relation to the framework, principles and criteria set out in paragraphs 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4 above when



making each selection decision. The GB Head of Elite Talent Development has final approval of all selection decisions.

- 3.5.3. Athletes will be notified of their selection or non-selection via email as soon as reasonably possible after the assessment phase.

## **4. Athlete Progress & Retention**

**4.1.** The Programme is designed to be progressive and support athlete development. Athlete progress is monitored through regular review meetings. However, it is important to acknowledge that review meetings are only one mechanism; informal feedback in several forms (verbal, video etc.) will be provided on an ongoing basis (squad and individual basis). Athletes are expected to drive their own development and learning and seek input and feedback from coaching and support personnel.

### **4.1.1. Format of review meetings**

Each review will include the following core elements:

- Review of progress/target identified at the previous review meeting and outlined in an Individual Development Plan ("IDP").
- Setting areas for development and/or targets outlined in an athlete's IDP.
- Confirmation of athlete status within the programme (see paragraph 5.2 (Review Outcomes – Athlete Status) below).
- Review of progress of the athlete's commitments under the WCP Performance Agreement or EDP Athlete Agreement including contractual appearances.
- Athlete reflections on a combination of current life outside hockey, personal wellbeing, dual aspirations and planning for life beyond international hockey.

Athletes will be notified of the requirements for the review meeting in advance by a member of programme staff.

### **4.1.2. Frequency of review meetings**

Wherever possible review meetings will take place on six-monthly basis. Due to the nature of the international calendar, there may be occasions (e.g., through the summer, athlete break from Programme etc) when this frequency is not possible. In these circumstances, review meetings will take place as soon as possible as the calendar allows but no later than nine months after the previous review.

### **4.1.3. Attendance at review meetings**



Wherever possible the GB EDP Head Coach will be present at athlete reviews. If for any reason one of the coaching staff is not available (e.g. due to illness) the review will proceed with one of the GB Assistant coaches present. Other members of the practitioner team may also be present at their request, the request of the GB EDP Head Coach and/or or the request of an athlete. Athletes may also invite (or be required to have) another athlete or club/university coach to join his or her review in the capacity of critical friend/observer.

#### 4.1.4. **Review Outcomes – Athlete Status**

At the end of the review meeting each athlete should understand his or her position in the Programme via the following mechanisms:

- Current status of selection for upcoming tournaments and major events (e.g., next GB U23 tournament if the team was to be selected today – Very Likely, Possible, Unlikely.
- Red, Amber, Green (“RAG”) programme status in accordance with the table below:

<b>Traffic Light</b>	<b>Status</b>
Green	Athlete is viewed as high potential and progressing in line with expectation for their age and stage of development (assessed against the selection criteria in section 3.3) and has, or is developing, identifiable super-strengths
Amber	Athlete is progressing against some of the selection criteria but is not fully on track in all areas and/or there are currently factors limiting the likelihood of future progression to the Senior programme (e.g. performance profile, rate of progression, injury or illness, commitment levels, age profile)
Red	Not meeting the criteria for Programme membership. An athlete will be given written notice that their programme place is under review. Athletes can only stay on red status for 3 months before moving back to Amber or exiting the programme

Via the review process all athletes should be clear on their current status and their development areas. GB EDP Head Coaches must seek agreement from the GB Head of Elite Talent Development prior to communication with an athlete.

#### 4.2. **Annual review**

The programme runs on an annual basis from January to December each year with membership reviewed annually for all athletes subject to continuous assessment through the year. If at any time an athlete is not meeting the criteria for Programme membership they will be notified of this, given notice that their programme place is under review and moved to ‘Red’ status.

As there are a limited number of programme places, ‘Green’ status does not guarantee continued membership in the following year.

#### 4.3. **Retention of Athletes affected by Performance Limiting Factors**

4.3.1. In the event of injury/illness (both physical and mental), and in cases where an athlete is considered likely to recover to full fitness for training and

competition, the athlete should continue to receive their full APA up to three months from the point the injury/illness occurred, was identified, or declared.

- 4.3.2. An athlete may be asked to leave the Programme if he or she suffers a 'performance limiting' injury or illness which is defined as:
- a. an injury or illness (or combination of these) which results in significant interruption or impact upon training for at least three months – intermittent or continuous; or
  - b. an injury or illness which occurs at such a time that, in the absolute discretion of the Programme Head Coach, GB Head of Elite Talent Development and Chief Medical Officer, it significantly impacts an athlete's ability to contribute fully to the programme over an extended period.

If either of these scenarios occurs an athlete may be placed on Amber status at any point and moved to Red after at least 3 months.

#### **4.4. Pregnancy and Childbirth:**

Being pregnant and an elite athlete should not be mutually exclusive. To ensure support is provided for athletes who wish to have a child whilst they are in membership of a high-performance programme, the following policy will apply:

Athletes in receipt of APA funding will remain eligible to access their full APA (subject to means testing) for the duration of the pregnancy at the APA level they were on at the time of becoming pregnant and up to nine months post childbirth.

To maintain programme membership and/or an APA during this period the athlete will be required to agree to an appropriate training and return to fitness programme with the GB Head of Talent Development and programme Head Coach. This programme will include a timeline for the athlete to return after childbirth to full competitive level.

Continued access to the APA post childbirth will be dependent upon:

- (i) The athlete's intention to return to the sport and programme being discussed and confirmed no later than six months post childbirth
- (ii) At the point where the intention of the athlete is clear, forming a mutually agreed plan / timetable with the GB Head of Elite Talent Development and GB EDP Head Coach for return to training and competition
- (iii) Monitoring, reviewing and confirming that the athlete has made the necessary commitment to this plan and is on track to return

If the level of commitment and or progress against this plan are not demonstrated, the athlete will be given notice and offered a period of transition before the APA funding stops (see Leaving the Programme).

At nine months post childbirth the potential of the athlete will be assessed and confirmed to UK Sport in order to continue to access the APA. It is important to note that this assessment will indicate the athlete's future Senior medal potential and not necessarily performance outcomes.

An athlete who announces retirement from the sport during pregnancy or in the initial six months post childbirth, will not be given a further period of

notice before the APA terminates.

In the event of complications either during the pregnancy or post childbirth, this policy will be flexed as is reasonable to accommodate the circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

UK Sport has commissioned further research into athletes' experiences of pregnancy, with the aim of providing further guidance about how athletes should be supported through pregnancy and post childbirth. GB Hockey reserves the right to adjust this pregnancy policy where the findings of this research suggest the policy should change.

## 5. Athlete Personal Awards (APA)

### 5.1. APA Matrix

An APA matrix had been developed for the Paris cycle with D and E level APAs available to GB EDP players and is applicable to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. A revised matrix will be developed for the LA cycle applicable from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

<p>E £7,875 per annum</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Based on GB EDP, ENG U21 or Scottish / Welsh senior international performance, has proven their ability and potential against selection criterion</li> </ol> <p>And</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Based on selection criterion is in the 38 most high potential players across GB. In the next 0-4 years, is expected to transition into and contribute to impactful senior international hockey for ENG and / or GB.</li> </ol> <p>And</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Fulfils GB EDP activity and any ad hoc GB Hockey senior programme activity where / if suitable.</li> </ol>
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### 5.2. APA Selection & Process

The Programme Head Coach and GB Head of Elite Talent Development will use the matrix above to identify the relevant APA funding level for each athlete. APAs for the Programme will be awarded on a 6-month basis after which time they will be reviewed (See section 5).

### 5.3. APA mean testing:

Means testing is applied to all APA awards to ensure UK Sport targets resource where there is evidence of financial need.

### 5.4. Acceptance onto the Programme:

Following the allocation of a place on the Programme, individual athletes will only be formally accepted onto the Programme once they have signed and returned the WCP Athlete Agreement or, EDP Athlete Agreement.

## 6. Process for amending Athlete Personal Awards

- 6.1. Amendments to APA levels** (new awards or removal of award) may occur at any 6 monthly review point (end of June and December) in the cycle. If Programme athletes are selected to join the Senior Centralised Programme on a full-time basis, amendments to their APA can be made at any time. In exceptional cases athletes may be added at other times if places become available.
- 6.2.** The Programme Head Coach and GB Head of Elite Talent Development are responsible for making any amendments to APA levels. The GB Performance Director has final sign off on all APA amendments. (In the instance that the Programme Head Coach is not available / in post, two assistant coaches will be utilised to support APA funding amendments. In the instance that the GB Head of Talent Development is not in available, the GB Performance Director will be utilised to support the review and revision of APA funding awards).

## 7. Appeals Procedures

- 7.1.** The following procedure has been adopted by GB Hockey in consideration of any appeal made by or on behalf of any athlete wishing to appeal by virtue of either his or her:
- (i) non-nomination for the Programme; and / or
  - (ii) de-selection for the Programme; and / or
  - (iii) nominated APA level.
- 7.2.** The parties agree not to commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of the appeals panel before any court of law or dispute resolution body without first following this procedure.
- 7.3. Grounds of Appeal**
- An athlete may appeal against a nomination decision only on the grounds that:
- there has been a failure to apply the applicable selection criteria at 3 above; and/or
  - there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in this selection policy.
- The athletes will have been made aware of the selection criteria and selection policy by Great Britain Hockey.
- 7.4.** An athlete does not have a right of appeal against any judgement or discretion exercised in the course of making nomination decisions, or against the content of the applicable selection criteria.

## **7.5. Notice of Appeal**

This procedure is commenced when an athlete affected by a selection decision submits a formal written appeal (the Notice of Appeal) to the Performance Director / Interim Head of Olympic Programmes. This must be sent by e-mail and shall be deemed to have been received at the time and date of the e-mail transmission. The Notice of Appeal must be received by the individual identified above within 96 hours of the selection decision being communicated to the athlete.

7.5.1. If the athlete fails to submit the Notice of Appeal within the time limit set out above, they will have lost their right of appeal.

7.5.2. The Notice of Appeal must set out full details of the grounds of appeal and include:

- (a) details of the decision which the athlete is appealing;
- (b) details of the grounds of appeal 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 applicable selection policy has not been followed; and
- (c) any documents or written evidence upon which the athlete relies in support of their appeal. These documents must be relevant specifically to the athlete's grounds of appeal.

7.5.3. The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of £200, payable to Great Britain Hockey. If the appeal is upheld the deposit will be returned in full to the athlete. If the appeal is dismissed the deposit will be retained by Great Britain Hockey as a contribution towards the administration costs of the appeal.

## **7.6. Appeal Panel**

Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal Great Britain Hockey will notify, as soon as possible, Sport Resolutions and provide them with a copy of the Notice of Appeal. Sport Resolutions will then, as soon as reasonably practicable, notify the athlete and Great Britain Hockey of the members of the Appeal Panel.

The Appeal Panel will consist of 3 people selected by Sport Resolutions from their panel of arbitrators and mediators (a panel of nearly 300 members including barristers and KCs, and experts in fields such as finance, medicine and sports administration). No member of the original Great Britain Hockey selection panel may form part of the Appeal Panel.

Given the independent nature of the Sport Resolutions panel members, the decision of Sport Resolutions on the composition of the Appeal Panel under this rule shall be final.

## **7.7. Conduct of Appeal**

7.7.1. The Chair of the Appeal Panel will set a date for the matter to be considered, with any hearing to occur no later than the close of play (5pm) on the seventh full day after the Notice of Appeal has been received.

- 7.7.2. The Chair of the Appeal Panel shall consider whether the interests of any party other than the athlete may be affected by the appeal under consideration and may direct that any such party is joined to the appeal. Where so joined, the Appeal Panel will determine the rights of that interested Party and may restrict them to only raising matters directly related to the appeal in question.
- 7.7.3. The appeal will be conducted by written submissions only and none of the parties to the appeal shall be entitled to appear before the Appeal Panel. If the Chair of the Appeal Panel feels that a decision cannot be arrived at without further information, then they may direct that further information be submitted in writing, or accordingly by telephone or video link.
- 7.7.4. The Appeal Panel will consider the grounds set out in the Notice of Appeal, the documentation submitted by parties and establish to their reasonable satisfaction whether or not there has been a failure to apply the applicable selection criteria at 3 above and/or that there has been a failure to adhere to the procedure set out in the this Selection Policy.
- 7.7.5. The Appeal Panel shall be required to either:
- (a) reject the Appeal; or
  - (b) allow/uphold the Appeal. The matter will be then referred back to the Great Britain Hockey selection panel with written reasons, requesting that a new selection decision is made.
- 7.7.6. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be reached by either unanimous or, majority vote.
- 7.7.7. Sport Resolutions will inform all parties in writing (e-mail) about the Appeal Panel's decision to either allow or reject the Appeal immediately, or as soon reasonably practicable, following the hearing.
- 7.7.8. Where an appeal is allowed, this does not mean that the original selection decision was incorrect, but that the procedure set out in this selection policy was not followed and/or the applicable criteria was not applied. The Great Britain Hockey selection panel, when reconsidering selection, are not obliged to come to a different decision but are simply required to ensure that they follow the correct process and consider the correct information. There is nothing to prohibit the selectors from reaching the same decision.
- 7.7.9. There shall be no order as to additional costs made by the Appeal Panel upon conclusion of the Appeal save for those mentioned at 7.5.3 above. Any costs incurred by the parties in preparing or presenting an appeal shall be borne by the parties and are unrecoverable via this process.

## **7.8. No Further Right of Appeal**

There is no further right of appeal after the decision of the Appeal Panel.

## **7.9. Minor and Non-Consequential Breaches of this Procedure**

Where any party deviates from any requirement of this procedure it shall not invalidate the procedure or the decision of the Appeal Panel unless there is a clear and significant risk that the deviation has affected the decision of the Appeal Panel. This excludes the 96 hours in which to lodge an appeal.

## 7.10. Confidentiality of Proceedings / Publication of Decision

All parties are bound by confidentiality in respect of any appeal in line with this procedure. No party will disclose any information or make any public statement during the course of the appeal.

Great Britain Hockey reserves the right to publish the decision of the Appeal Panel where it deems appropriate or necessary.

## 8. Leaving the Programme

8.1. The following procedures will be adopted when a decision to leave the Programme is made by GB Hockey or the athlete:

8.1.1. **Athlete is moved to Red status following a review meeting:** Where reasonably possible the athlete will be notified in person by the Programme Head Coach at a review meeting. GB Hockey will also provide written notification after the review meeting.

8.1.2. **Athlete decides to leave the Programme (Amber or Green Status):** The athlete must notify the GB Programme Head Coach in writing of their decision as soon as reasonably possible.

8.1.3. **Athlete not re-selected to the Programme after the Autumn formal assessment process:** Where reasonably possible the athlete will be notified in person by the Programme Head Coach at a review meeting. GB Hockey will also provide written notification after the review meeting.

8.2. **Access to Sports Science & Medicine Services:** In line with GB Hockey's agreement with the UK Sports Institute the following service access will be available to athletes leaving the Programme who are in receipt of an APA to the extent as set out below. Any transition support for other athletes is at the discretion of GB Hockey.

8.2.1. **Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine and Strength & Conditioning:** For athletes who are receiving treatment for an existing injury at the time of leaving the Programme these services (and medical cover) can be accessed for up to 3 months. Athletes who do not have existing injuries are able to access transition sessions referenced in paragraph 8.3.3 below.

8.2.2. **Mental health support:** Athletes receiving mental health support at the time of leaving the Programme may access further Mental Health support sessions whilst BOA Athlete Medical Scheme coverage is in place. Additional support will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Support can also be provided to transition an athlete into the NHS mental healthcare pathway if appropriate.



- 8.2.3. **British Olympic Association Athlete Medical Scheme (APA Athletes only):**  
Access to this health insurance will cease at the end of any relevant period of APA transition funding. An athlete can choose to pay for an extension to this cover if appropriate.

- 8.3. **Exit Interview** All athletes leaving the Programme who are receiving an APA will be offered, and encouraged to attend, an Exit Interview with the GB Head of Elite Talent Development within a two-month period of leaving the Programme.

## 9. Conflicts of Interest

GB Hockey is committed to upholding high standards of integrity and as such any person who is part of the inclusion decision making process shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts and shall refrain from participation in the discussion in respect to inclusion in which they have a conflict of interest. If a person is unsure whether they have a conflict or potential conflict they should consult the Head of Governance.

## 10. Data Protection

GB Hockey is a privacy conscious organization and is strongly committed to your right to privacy. That is why we have drafted a Privacy and Data Protection Statement, which follows guidelines set out in the 2018 General Data Protection Regulations which can be found on our website:

<http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=2434&sectionTitle=Privacy+Policy>

Please note that any data gathered in the course of the selection process will be used in accordance with this Statement and in particular will not be shared with any third party without your consent.

## 11. Policies

For the avoidance of doubt this selection policy operates in conjunction with all relevant GB and England Hockey policies including but not limited to its Anti-Doping Policy and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

## 12. General Conditions

GB Hockey reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version available to all athletes who are at that time a member of the Programme. An athlete's continuing membership of the Programme shall be deemed as continued acceptance of this Selection Policy as amended from time to time.

If an athlete is in breach of the GB Hockey Player Agreement, GB Hockey may invoke the Athlete Disciplinary Process to deal with the breach.

**ENDS (08 August 2025)**