



# British Lacrosse

## British Lacrosse Events Selection Policy 2026

This document outlines the procedure British Lacrosse will use to select athletes for individual competitive events for the 2026 calendar year. This policy specifically relates to the selection of Podium, Podium Potential and Development teams.

Any questions surrounding this policy should be directed to [performancedirector@britishlacrosse.org](mailto:performancedirector@britishlacrosse.org) and will subsequently be distributed to:

Performance Director: Chris Russell

COO: Mark Coups

High Performance Coaches: Tom Wenham & Alex Carnegie Brown

## **1. Intro**

The main objective of the selection procedure is to select the players who have the best chance to win the best set of medals for British Lacrosse at competitive events. The policy describes in detail the sole process and criteria by which athletes are selected to represent British Lacrosse. The policy covers international and domestic events in the 6s discipline. It does not cover selection for the LA28 Olympic Games, or international training camps.

**Note:** Attendance at competitive events is principally guided by the British Lacrosse Performance Program, alongside a clear performance rationale for attendance, and detail of resources available to athletes. British Lacrosse reserves the right to amend this policy and to not select British Lacrosse teams for any given competitive event. British Lacrosse also reserves the right to update this policy, should future competitive opportunities arise.

### **2026 Events covered by this policy:**

The events BL will attend in 2026 is subject to change. Events included but not limited to are:

Germany Competitive Series (Mens and Womens) - March

Australia Competitive Series (Mens) - June

Canada Super 6s (Mens and Womens Teams) - October

US Atlas Cup (Mens and Womens Teams) - September

European Championships (Mens and Womens Teams) - November

## **2. Selection of athletes**

### **a. Eligibility Criteria**

In order to be considered for membership of the BLPP, an athlete must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- Meets the UK Sport Eligibility Policy (see <https://www.uksport.gov.uk/resources/eligibility>).
- Holds a British Passport, is eligible to represent Great Britain under WL rules and is eligible to compete for Team GB at the Olympic Games. Or has the ability to hold a UK passport, prior to the start of the LA 2028 Qualification process .
- Is UK resident. Please see the schedule outlined in Appendix 1 regarding timelines for Overseas Player eligibility (i.e. non UK resident players who hold, or could hold, a British passport and be eligible for selection).
- Agrees to adhere to this BLPP Selection Policy.
- Is not currently serving a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation.
- Has signed the British Lacrosse Code of Conduct. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought British Lacrosse into disrepute.
- Has not been disciplined by British Lacrosse for misconduct, as a result of violation of the Code of Conduct.
- Is not currently serving a period of ineligibility as a result of a transfer of allegiance, and is in good standing with their respective Home Nation.

b. Criteria for consideration

Athletes who have been selected for events in the previous 12 months, and/or are a part of the BLPP, will automatically be considered for selection.

i. Performance in senior 6s events since 1st January 2023, with particular focus on winning medals.

ii. Performance in senior 6s events since 1st January 2022, with particular focus on qualification for finals and winning medals.

iii. Performance trajectory since 1st January 2023 at senior 6s events, a consistent upward trend being most favorable, and at a level that demonstrates athletes could qualify for a final and win medals now, or in the near future, at a the designated event.

iv. An athlete profile that reflects, in the view of the expert selection panel, the potential ability to frequently deliver medal winning performances and demonstrates the performance behaviors associated with British Lacrosse. In selecting places for each event, the selection panel may consider the breadth and depth of the selected team, the role each athlete plays within the team, and how their selection could affect the overall team's performance outcome.

v. An athlete profile that would benefit from inclusion and participation at a particular event which would directly enhance said athletes' performance journey, and their future ability to deliver a medal winning performance at the LA 2028 Olympic Games.

### **3. Selection Process**

Selection of athletes to an event will be decided by the BL Events Selection Panel. The makeup of the panel is outlined below.

a. Panel

Voting:

British Lacrosse Performance Director: Currently Chris Russell (Chair)

British Lacrosse HPC (mens): Currently Tom Wenham

British Lacrosse HPC (womens): Currently Alex Carnegie Brown

Non Voting:

Procedural Advisor: Appointed for each selection meeting

Independent Athlete Representative: Invited for each selection meeting

Attendance will preferably be in person but, where this is not reasonably possible, attendance via video conference or other methods will be permitted.

**The Procedural Advisor**, who will normally be a qualified barrister or solicitor with appropriate experience and expertise, will be responsible for ensuring that British Lacrosse's selection procedures are complied with. Any questions of procedure that the Selection Panel may have will be referred to, and advised upon, by the Procedural Adviser. The Procedural Advisor will be recruited by the Performance Director.

**The Independent Athlete Representative** will be responsible for providing independent oversight for the selection process. The Independent Athlete Representative will be recruited by the Performance Director, who may work with other relevant organisations such as the British Olympic Association (BOA), the British Paralympic Association (BPA) or the British Elite Athletes Association (BEAA) as part of the recruitment process. The Independent Athlete Representative will attend the selection meeting.

The Performance Director may, exceptionally, co-opt one more additional voting members of the Selection Panel where this is necessary by virtue of the absence of one or more of the Selection Panel members, or some other substantial reason. Any such co-opted voting members will be required to have significant and demonstrable knowledge and experience of the sport of Lacrosse.

b. Procedures

The relevant British Lacrosse Coaches and support staff may input their professional opinion and advise on athlete performances and potential to the Selection Panel. This information will be considered by the Selection Panel in determining their decisions, which will be solely based on the selection criteria set out in this Selection Policy (section 2). This input may be given in person by any of the above in attendance at the selection meeting. The Selection Panel may consult specialists including relevant sports science and medicine practitioners and other consultants and coaches where this is believed likely to assist with a selection decision. Where this happens, the Performance Director will determine what reasonable requirements in relation to confidentiality and otherwise should be applied.

Any such attendees may be asked to leave when other athletes are being discussed, or at any other time, and will not be present when any voting takes place.

Voting members of the Selection Panel will be required to declare any conflicts of interest prior to BL Events selection. Voting members of the Selection Panel will be encouraged to exercise their votes, save where the Procedural Adviser advises that one or more voting members should abstain by reason of a conflict of interest or another legal requirement. Where, exceptionally, a voting member of the Selection Panel is required to abstain, the Procedural Adviser will consider and advise upon whether fairness requires that voting member to abstain in respect of any other related selections. Decisions are made by majority vote.

The Performance Director will have the final decision in the event of any dispute and will have the casting vote where the votes cast are not decisive. The selection process is an exercise of judgement and is guided by, but not determined by, results in competitions. The selection decision is based on consideration of all the Events election criteria (section 2.2 and 2.3) which utilises objective performance data and the opinion of the expert selection panel.

## 4. Timeline

The timeline below outlines key dates and activity within the Event election process for 2026:

<b>Selection Window</b>	<b>Events</b>
2 – 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Germany Competitive Series (Mens and Womens) - March
23 – 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Australia Competitive Series (Mens) - June
6 – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	US Atlas Cup - Sept
6 – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Canada Super 6s - Oct
6 – 10 <sup>th</sup> July	European Championships (Men)
7 <sup>th</sup> Sept – 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	European Championships (women)

## 5. Communication of selection

Communication of selection decisions for 2026 will fall in line with the timeline above. The Performance Director or HPCs will inform athletes individually of Event selection decisions and an overview of the rationale behind them, either in person or by telephone. This will be followed up with an email. Subsequently, a provisional list of selected Event athletes will be published via the British Lacrosse website and social media channels on by the last Friday within the selection window by 16:00. Selected athletes are not to make any announcements to the media or general public in any form whatsoever of their possible or confirmed selection or non-selection prior to the official announcement by British Lacrosse.

## **6. Athlete Code of Conduct**

All selected athletes will be bound by the British Lacrosse Athlete Agreement, and Code of Conduct, contravention of which will trigger a disciplinary process and may result in de-selection. Specific detail can be found within the relevant documents which will be published and circulated by British Lacrosse.

## **7. Deselection**

The Selection Panel reserves the right to de-select, or to remove from consideration for selection, any athlete, at any time (subject to any event-specific deadlines):

- Who is medically unfit to compete as a result of injury or illness. This includes for any reasons associated with COVID-19 and any subsequent requirement to self-isolate.
- Who does not comply with British Lacrosse's code of conduct for team members or whose behaviour is otherwise disruptive or potentially damaging to British Lacrosse and the team and/or undermines, in any way, the objective of winning the best set of medals.
- Whose performance level falls following selection to the extent that the Selection Panel considers in its reasonable opinion that the athlete will not perform to the best of his/her ability at the relevant event.
- Where British Lacrosse does not provide full funding, an individual who fails to pay any sum required within the agreed time frames, to be paid to attend the Event. Or, where there is any outstanding amount owed to British Lacrosse from a previous event.
- Where logistical arrangements are being made on behalf of the athlete by British Lacrosse, the athlete fails to provide timely organisational information and fails to co-operate in a manner that allows timely completion of competition arrangements.
- Who fails to comply with any drug-testing requirement of the Anti-Doping, or any anti-doping requirements imposed by the Event organisers or others with appropriate authority so to do, or who otherwise breaches the WADA Code or other applicable anti-doping regulations.

- Where a selection has been successfully appealed, the athlete originally selected will be automatically de-selected pending the further selection process. Where an athlete is de-selected, or removed from consideration for selection, written reasons will be provided within 72 hours of such removal/de-selection.

## **8. Athlete Replacement**

A reserve athlete can be selected to replace any athlete who is removed based on the above or for any other unforeseen reason. The reserve athlete will be selected in accordance with the criteria set out above.

## **9. Selection Policy Amendments**

British Lacrosse reserves the right to amend the Selection Procedure wherever appropriate or necessary, in particular as a result of factors beyond British Lacrosse's control. It is the responsibility of players to acquaint themselves with the Selection Procedure applicable to the event, and all related documents (as set out above). Changes to the Selection Procedure will come into effect from the date where they are shown on the British Lacrosse website.

## **10. Antidoping**

Athletes selected to represent Great Britain will be required to consent to the requirements of the British Lacrosse and England Lacrosse anti-doping policy, as amended from time to time, and any other

requirements that may be imposed for the event. As a condition of selection, athletes should have attended Anti-Doping education with a recognised body.

## **11. Appeals Process**

1. Athletes are entitled to appeal a decision by the Selection Panel not to select them for an event in accordance with the procedure set out here. The appeal process is intended to be fair and independent.

2. If an athlete wishes to appeal, he or she must notify the Chief Operating Officer (COO) (Currently Mark Coups) of British Lacrosse that they wish to appeal as soon as possible, and in any event no later than by 4pm on the second working day after the announcement of selection on the British Lacrosse website. A notification of an intention to appeal must be given in writing (an e-mail is acceptable; this should be sent to [info@britishlacrosse.org](mailto:info@britishlacrosse.org))
3. The athlete must, by 4pm on the third working day following such notification, provide to the COO of British Lacrosse a written document setting out the grounds for the appeal (the “Grounds of Appeal”). The Grounds of Appeal must include the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for the athlete’s appeal, together with any evidence that they rely on. Athletes should note that the only available grounds of appeal are either that the Selection Policy was not followed, or that the decision in question was unreasonable and/or not reached in a manner consistent with the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.
4. If, in the reasonable view of the COO of British Lacrosse, the appeal may affect other athletes (“Affected Athletes”), then at his discretion, he may provide the Grounds of Appeal to any such persons as soon as possible.
5. The selection appeal will then as soon as possible be referred to Sport Resolutions (UK) for determination by way of binding, confidential, arbitration. The parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to decisions taken by the Selection Panel other than through this Appeals Procedure.
6. An athlete seeking to appeal will, accordingly, be required to pay to British Lacrosse a deposit of £250 towards the cost of using Sport Resolutions’ services, which should be paid at the same time as the Grounds of Appeal are provided. This sum will be reimbursed to the athlete in the event that the appeal is upheld.
7. British Lacrosse must, as soon as possible and by no later than by 4pm five working days after receipt of the Grounds of Appeal, serve on the appealing athlete and on any Affected Athlete a written response to the appeal, including the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for that response together with any evidence that British Lacrosse wishes to rely on.
8. Any Affected Athlete may also, as soon as possible and by no later than by 4pm three working days after receipt of the Grounds of Appeal, serve on British Lacrosse a written response to the appeal, including the fullest explanation possible, in the time available, of the basis for that response together with any evidence that they wish to rely on. British Lacrosse must provide this written response to the appealing athlete as soon as possible.

9. The appeal will then proceed, on the earliest possible date by way of oral hearing in front of a single legally qualified arbitrator appointed by Sport Resolutions (UK). The appealing athlete, British Lacrosse and any Affected Athlete are entitled to attend such a hearing, with representatives if they so wish. Sport Resolutions will be responsible for arranging the hearing and for notifying the appealing athlete, British Lacrosse and any Affected Athlete of the time, date and location of the hearing. Alternatively, if the athlete, British Lacrosse and any Affected Athlete agree, the appeal will be determined on the papers by the arbitrator. The arbitrator may set any directions in connection with such a hearing or written determination as they consider fair and appropriate and may likewise determine how any such hearing is to be conducted in order for that hearing to be fair.

10. The arbitrator will endeavor to render a decision in respect of the appeal as soon as possible. In the interests of expediency, the arbitrator may initially render a brief summary of the decision orally at the conclusion of the hearing, or in writing after the hearing, with full reasons to follow. Sport Resolutions (UK) will be responsible for notifying all participants of the decision.

11. The arbitrator may either dismiss the appeal or uphold the appeal and remit the selection decision back to the Selection Panel, with any guidance which the arbitrator may consider appropriate. The arbitrator will not have jurisdiction to select or de-select any athlete.

12. The arbitrator's decision will be final: if an athlete's appeal is dismissed, he or she will have no further right of appeal. Equally an Affected Athlete shall have no right to appeal the decision of the arbitrator.

13. Save as may otherwise be agreed between them, all participants to the appeal process are required to keep the fact and contents of the appeal process confidential.

14. Save as provided for above, all parties to an appeal shall bear their own costs.

## **Appendix One – Overseas Player Eligibility**

An Overseas player is defined as any player who is non-UK resident, yet is or may be eligible for future selection.

Any overseas player wishing to represent British Lacrosse, may be selected for any individual competition under the World Class Competition Selection Policy, whilst not being a part of the BLPP. All costs for overseas player participation at an international competition, will be absorbed by the player.

Any overseas player wishing to attend training (either UK or international based) may do so, with the express permission of the HPC, providing said player pays the additional monthly subscription cost equivalent to that of a domestic player, plus any other costs associated with said training, in the month in which the training falls.

It is expected that any overseas Player, to be eligible for selection for the LA2028 Olympic Games, will have committed to the required training with the team by December 31<sup>st</sup> 2026, and be resident no later than 30<sup>th</sup> April 2027 (unless previously agreed by the HPC and PD as a part of the individual athlete ´s PDP) . It is also expected that any overseas player, wishing to be considered for selection, must attend at least 2 of the residential training camps in the UK in 2026 (dates TBC).