

# 2026 Selection Updates

## GENERAL POLICY UPDATES

### No More Specific Year on the Main Policy Document

- We're removing year references from our main selection policy document in an effort to build a consistent, long-term foundation for selection
- The core selection policy will remain in place year-round and will be reviewed after each selection cycle. Only key updates will be made as needed (e.g. to points criteria or competition tiers).
- Changes and updates will be published on the selection webpage – [HERE](#) – and will be clearly marked with the relevant year.
- A full policy review will happen every 3-5 years, unless significant changes in the sport or competition landscape require it sooner.

### Points System

- The points system has been updated to provide more detail and reduce arbitrary differences between climbers.
- Consistency is rewarded – which is particularly relevant for Development Squad selection, which includes the Youth Climbing Series.

- We've moved away from a reliance on percentages, making the scoring system simpler and easier to understand.
- You may notice that YCS rankings and selection points don't always align. This is because the selection system works to different criteria and covers all competitions across the year.

### **Competition Tiers**

- We've introduced a tiered system for how competitions are valued in the selection points system.
- This makes it easier to understand how points are awarded while still recognising the different levels of competition.

## **SCOTLAND DEVELOPMENT SQUAD**

### **Updated Selection Criteria**

- We've removed the strict points threshold for entry.
- Instead, while still recognising the top end standard as an entry criterion, we've also introduced some flexibility to consider the overall standard of performance in each age category.
- Regardless of point achieved the new system will always select at least 4 climbers from each category – ensuring a broad opportunity for development across all age groups.
- This has been set up alongside a consideration for our programme capacity.

## **National Squad Aspirants**

- We're introducing a National Squad Aspirant system to offer opportunities to those showing potential to progress from the Development Squad to the National Squad.
- This will be applicable to those who are in the following age categories at the point of the Development Squad selection:
  - U17
  - U15
  - Upper U13
- The focus in on U17 and U15 climbers is to maximise the long-term development impact, and to make best use of the limited resources we have.
- Aspirants will be members of the Development Squad but will be given selected opportunities to train with the National Squad and/or National level coaches during the year.
- As a new development this system will be under regular review and refinement.

## **SCOTLAND NATIONAL SQUAD**

### **No More Applications**

- There is no longer an application process.
- ClimbScotland will track and submit points automatically to the selection panels, just as we do for the Development Squad.

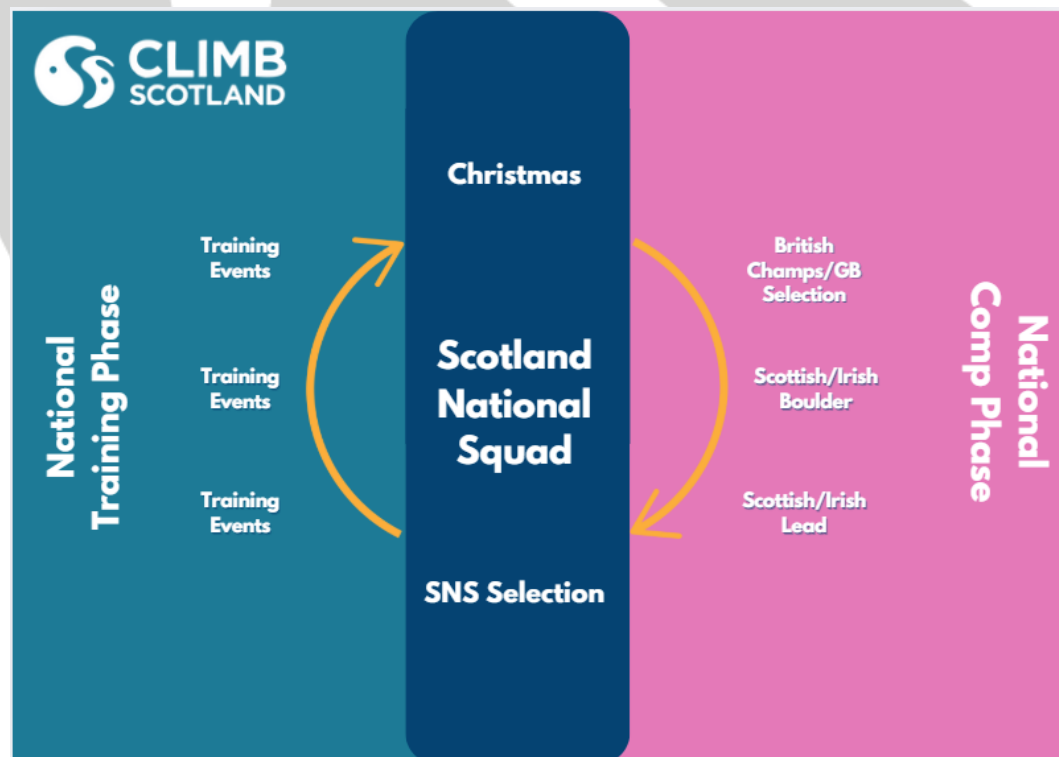
- The application process previously used was intended to provide further meaningful information for the panels, but in practice this was hard to make proper use of in a fair and transparent manner.

### **New Selection Timeline**

- National Squad selection will now take place in August/September (with exact dates being confirmed alongside the competition calendar).
- This change better support the National Squads performance focus, especially for the climbers targeting the BG Climbing Squad/Team.

### **Why the Change?**

- Moving selection to the summer allows for a more coherent programme, with academy events being better placed to support squad members training in the lead up to the core National level competition calendar, and the GB Selection events (which take place in January/February).
- It also helps reduce clashes with other busy periods, allowing for more consistent attendance and a more balanced staff workload.



## Transition Plan for 2026

To support the move to the new August/September selection timeframe:

- Two National Squad selections will happen in 2026:
  - February/March 2026 – after the British Championships
  - August/September 2026 – after the main National competition season
- Points earned during the 2025 season will count for both 2026 selections.

- Current National Squad members will remain in place until the August/September 2026 selection panels. At that point, they'll need to meet the new policy criteria to continue – unless they have already been reselected in the February/March selection.
- Anyone selected in either round will stay in the squad until August/September 2027.

### **Upper U15s**

- Given that part of the aim of the change to the selection timeline is to help support climbers in their preparation for the GB Selection events and British Championships (which take place in January/February), we are choosing to include the upper half of the U15s age category.
- When January/February comes around this group of climbers will move into the U17s age category and will be eligible to compete at these events for the first time, and so we also want to be able to offer support for their preparation towards these events.
- This group of climbers will not be selected until the August/September 2026 selection panels.

CLIMB