



Swim England Nomination Policy

Commonwealth Games 2026, Glasgow

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1. Introduction

Swim England is the National Governing Body for aquatics in England and is responsible for the delivery of the England performance pathway, in line with the Swim England vision **Great experiences in water. For all. For life.** A foundation goal of the *One Swim England* strategy is “Success on the World Stage” – this policy is written in line with this ambition.

The Swim England objectives for the Commonwealth Games 2026 are:

- Maximising performance & outcomes
- Supporting the pathway to Los Angeles 2028 & Brisbane 2032
- Unifying “One Team England”
- Enhancing strength & depth of the sport
- Investing in people – athletes, coaches, practitioners and team staff
- Increasing engagement in aquatics across the country

This nomination information applies to the Aquatics team for the **Commonwealth Games, Glasgow, 23rd July – 2nd August 2026**. This nomination policy intends to provide clarity regarding the process of selection, along with the performance factors that athletes will be considered against.

Amendments:

- Swim England reserves the absolute right to amend this policy if it deems it necessary considering the interests of all athletes and prevailing circumstances.
- Any amendments will be communicated via the Swim England website.

Version:

Version 1 - published July 2025

2. General Requirements

This section applies to selection for all preparation and competitions, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

- a) All athletes must be a current Club Compete Swim England member not currently suspended or sanctioned by Swim England throughout the nomination process and during the competition.
- b) All selected members of the team must sign and commit to Commonwealth Games England's Team Member Agreement.
- c) Selections will be made in accordance with World Aquatics and World Para Swimming regulations regarding men's and women's categories.
- d) Athletes must be eligible to represent England as per the Commonwealth Games Federation Constitution Byelaw 17.
- e) Depending on the number of eligible athletes, fewer or more athletes may be selected than stipulated
- f) Athletes selected will be required to comply with any requirements and/or additional conditions required by the Swim England Commonwealth Games Team from time to time including, but not limited to:
 - a. Committing to all aspects of the preparation and engaging with all activities, with activity taking priority unless prior agreement with the Team Leader
 - b. Ensuring that the Swim England Commonwealth Games Team are informed immediately of any illnesses or injuries and/or if the athlete is planning to leave the sport or Team.
 - c. Complying with the Swim England Handbook, Wavepower, Swim England Talent Code of Conduct, and all relevant Commonwealth Games England policies, including but not limited to any additional anti-doping education
 - d. Following any directions from the Commonwealth Games workforce.
 - e. Complying with any specific conditions or requirements of preparation or competition.
 - f. Making any required financial contributions that may be required for preparation and participation at the Games, such as assembly costs.
- g) When considering nomination of an athlete or coach, Swim England may consider their past performance, conduct and behaviour on any previous programme(s) and competition (s).
- h) Swim England may, in its absolute discretion, temporarily or permanently deselect any Athlete for reasons including but not limited to:
 - a. the athlete becoming ineligible to represent England or participate.
 - b. the athlete breaching any requirement within this selection policy or any direction by the Swim England Commonwealth Games Team.
 - c. lack of engagement.
 - d. the athlete engaging in conduct deemed likely by Swim England to bring the athlete, Commonwealth Games England or itself into disrepute.
 - e. Below expected performance standards and/or fitness levels expected of an athlete on the Competition squad.

3. General Nomination Principles

Athletes must meet both the General Requirements and Performance Criteria to be eligible for nomination.

The Swim England Selection Consultation Group will oversee the nomination process of athletes to Team England. The process requires Swim England to nominate athletes to Commonwealth Games England (CGE), following which CGE will confirm the final selection. For the avoidance of doubt athletes are selected by the Selection Panel for nomination to CGE. For information relating to the group such as Terms of Reference or the composition, please contact Richard Blackshaw as the Team Leader (Richard.blackshaw@swimming.org).

Team Size: The overall Aquatics team size is up to 43, with a split of up to 15 Para-athletes and 28 Olympic athletes

In accordance with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) statutes and Glasgow 2026 competition rules, each country may enter:

- Up to three athletes per individual event
- One relay team per relay event

In the event that CGE can allocate additional athlete places to Swim England, it is at the discretion of the Swim England Commonwealth Games Leadership Team whether to accept the places. If accepted, the additional athletes will be selected for nomination in line with this policy.

Event Entries

Once confirmed by CGE, athletes may be entered into additional events beyond those in which they achieved a Consideration Time or Qualification, provided:

- Event quotas allow (e.g., fewer than three athletes from the nation are entered)
- Their primary focus remains on the event they achieved the Consideration time in
- Swim England and CGE agree it benefits the team

Following consultation with athletes and coaches, such entries are at the sole discretion of the Team Leader, in consultation with the Head Coach.

4. Selection Panel

A Selection Panel will be appointed by the Swim England Selection Consultation Group, to select the final nomination list of athletes. Careful consideration will be given to forming a panel that adheres to the principles and objectives outlined in this nomination policy.

The Selection Panel will be made up of the following people:

Voting Members:

- Chair - Jonathan Murt
- Team Leader - Richard Blackshaw
- Head Coach - Andi Manley

Non-Voting Members (optional)

- Swim England Commonwealth Games Selection Consultation Group Member/s
- Sport Science and Medicine Practitioners
- Note taker

Representatives from Commonwealth Games England and/or Aquatics GB may be invited to observe the selections.

Any non-voting members may provide expertise for the selection discussion but will have no voting rights.

In the event the panel cannot come to an agreement, the Swim England Team Leader (or any replacement as required by the chair) shall have the casting vote.

Conflicts of Interest:

All Selection and Appeals Panel members are required to declare any conflicts of interest at the beginning of a meeting. Depending on the nature of the conflict, the member may be required to abstain from the selection discussion and decision of the specific athlete, the Panel Chair will confirm at the beginning of the meeting if this is required.

5. Para Swimming Nomination Process

Athletes must meet the Para Swimming G2026 Eligibility Criteria in [Appendix 2](#) and the General Requirements in this policy.

Athletes who have qualified for the Commonwealth Games will be identified by World Para Swimming (WPS) and the CGF. Following confirmation of the qualified athletes, the Selection Panel will select, from the qualified athletes, who will be nominated to CGE.

There are two stages for the nomination process for the Para Swimming events:

- Stage 1 – Long List Nomination
- Stage 2 – Qualification - WPS Commonwealth Ranking List and Bipartite Invitation

5.1. Stage 1 – Long List Nomination

Swim England are required to provide Commonwealth Games England with a long list of potential athletes and workforce, of which the final nominated team will be selected from.

Athletes will be added to the long list from July 2025 up to the CGE deadline (tbc).

Please note that inclusion on the long list does not guarantee selection for the nomination list.

5.2. Stage 2 – Qualification

There are two routes to gain Qualification from the WPS and CGF:

- WPS Commonwealth Ranking List
- Bipartite Invitation

5.2.1. WPS Commonwealth Ranking List

The qualification period for the WPS Commonwealth Ranking List is **1st January 2025 – 28th February 2026**

Any English Athlete(s) named in the top seven ranked athletes on the WPS Commonwealth adjusted three per nation Ranking List and allocated a slot by CGF will be considered for nomination by Swim England to CGE.

In the event that there are more than 15 English qualified para-swimmers allocated a slot by CGF, nominations will be prioritised by medal winning potential. This will be based on, but not limited to:

- Performance aims of Team England
- The WPS Commonwealth Rankings
- Recent international performances
- Classification competitiveness
- Evidence of progression.

Final nomination decisions will be made at the sole discretion of the Selection Panel.

All qualification slots will be awarded to an athlete by name and therefore are non-transferable. Should a qualification slot become available, it will be reallocated to the next highest ranked athlete on the WPS Commonwealth Ranking list, not otherwise qualified, respecting the maximum of 3 athletes per nation per event.

Qualification Slots will be allocated by WPS & CGF on the 21st March 2026, with seven days to confirm acceptance.

Any English Athlete(s) invited through the reallocation process may be nominated by Swim England to CGE at the absolute discretion of the Selection Panel.

WPS Commonwealth Games Ranking List is established from:

- Only results achieved by athletes at WPS recognised competitions within the qualification period are eligible for the WPS Commonwealth Ranking List:
Competition Schedule - Calendar of Events
- In the case of Great Britain, Crown Dependencies and British Overseas Territories, results attained by British athletes at WPS recognised competitions shall be attributed to their eligible home nation for the purposes of the rankings.

5.2.2. Bipartite Invitation

One Bipartite Invitation slot per medal event will be issued by 'The Bipartite Commission' (CGF Director of Sport and the Head of WPS or their appointed designates).

Any English Athlete(s) invited through the Bipartite Invitation process will be nominated by Swim England to CGE at the sole discretion of the Selection Panel.

All Bipartite Invitation slots are awarded to an athlete by name and therefore, are non-transferable.

5.3. Para Swimming Timelines

Detail	Date
WPS Qualification window:	1 st January 2025 – 28 th February 2026
Stage 1 - Long List Nomination	30 th June 2025 – CGE deadline
Stage 2- WPS Qualification Slots allocated:	21 st March 2026
Selection Panel Meeting	TBC March 2026
Stage 2 - CGF allocation of Bipartite Invitations:	30 th March 2026
Nomination List to be submitted to CGE:	May 2026 (TBC)
Selection confirmation by CGE:	TBC

Selected athletes will receive an email notification within three days after the Selection Panel meeting.

Please note both nominations and confirmed selections are confidential until such a point that Swim England and CGE have confirmed the announcement.

6. Swimming Nomination Process

There will be four stages to consider athletes for nomination to CGE:

- Stage 1: Long List Nomination
- Stage 2: Pre-Selection – World Aquatics Swimming Championships, Singapore, 2025
- Stage 3: Trials – Aquatics GB Championships, London Aquatics Centre, 2026
- Stage 4: Discretionary Nominations

6.1. Stage 1 - Long List Nomination

Swim England are required to provide CGE with a long list of potential athletes and workforce, of which the final nominated team will be selected from. Only athletes included within the long list can be considered for final nomination to CGE.

Athletes will be added to the long list from July 2025 up until the CGE deadline (tbc).

Please note that inclusion on the long list does not guarantee selection.

6.2. Stage 2 Pre-Selection

Individual medalists at the World Aquatics Swimming Championships, Singapore, 2025 will be **considered** for nomination for this event for the 2026 Commonwealth Games Team, at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

The Selection Panel will confirm any athletes pre-selected for nomination, via email, by the end of September 2025.

Once the nomination is ratified by CGE, any pre-selected athletes will be announced.

Any pre-selected athletes for nomination are required to compete at the Trials at the Aquatics GB Championships, 2026 and are subject to maintaining the expected fitness and performance levels in line with the General Requirements.

6.3. Stage 3 Trials – Aquatics GB Swimming Championships, 14 - 19 April 2026

Up to 20 athletes will be nominated based on their performances achieved in all Finals, with priority given to times achieved in the A Final, at the Aquatics GB Championships, 2026 based on the following:

- Equaling or bettering an individual Consideration Time in [Appendix 3](#)
- Equaling or bettering a combined relay Consideration Time in [Appendix 3](#)
 - o **Freestyle Relay Times:** The fastest four in all Finals, with priority given to times achieved in the A Finals, of the men's and women's 100m and 200m freestyle events will be ranked as a relay team on the basis of their combined Finals time against the time in [Appendix 3](#). If the combined time is within the relay consideration time in [Appendix 3](#), these athletes will be included within the rankings for consideration.
 - o **Medley Relay Times:** The fastest English swimmer in the A Final of the men's and women's 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle will be ranked as a medley relay team on the basis of

their combined open finals time against the relay Consideration time in [Appendix 3](#). If the combined time is within the relay consideration time in [Appendix 3](#) these athletes' will be included within the rankings for consideration.

Athletes will be selected for nomination based on their ranking, using percentage inside the Consideration Time ([Appendix 3](#)). In the event of a tie, the final nomination will be at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

Relay Team Selection: Any athlete selected for the Aquatics team is eligible for selection to the relay teams at the Games.

The CWG 2026 Head Coach will be responsible for selecting the athletes and the swim order to maximise team performance in the relay events at the Games.

6.4. Stage 4 Discretionary Nominations

For any remaining places or additional places accepted from CGE, the Selection Panel may consider athletes for nomination. Nomination will be based on, but not limited to, the following (in no particular order):

- Medal Potential
- Times achieved at Stage 2 relative to the Consideration Times in [Appendix 3](#)
- Relay Contribution
- Ability to achieve the Swim England objectives for the Commonwealth Games 2026
- Number of Consideration Times achieved
- Commonwealth Ranking (based on 3 per nation)

Final decisions are at the discretion of the Selection Panel.

6.5. Swimming Timelines

Detail	Date
Stage 1 - Long List Nomination:	30 th June – CGE deadline
Stage 2 – Pre-Selection, World Championships	11 th July – 3 rd August 2025
Stage 3 – Trials, Aquatics GB Championships	14 th – 19 th April 2026
Swimming Selection Meeting:	TBC April 2026
Nomination List to be submitted to CGE:	TBC May 2026
Selection confirmation by CGE:	TBC

Selected athletes will receive an email notification within three days after the Selection Panel meeting.

Please note both nominations and confirmed selections are confidential until such a point that Swim England and CGE have confirmed the announcement.

7. Team Coach Nomination Process



Following completion of the athlete Nomination process in April 2026, the Team Coaches will be appointed through an expression of interest and in consultation with the Team Leader and the Head Coach.

Appointed coaches will be expected to actively contribute to the team's preparation as outlined by Swim England's Commonwealth Games Leadership Group.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Coaches working outside England will not be considered.
- Must be a member of Swim England in good standing.
- Hold a UK Level 3 Coaching Qualification or equivalent.
- Have a current Swim England Safeguarding Certification
- Possess a current Enhanced DBS.
- Must have completed the UK Anti-Doping (UKAD) Certification – Coach Clean.

The number of coaches appointed will be subject to the number of accreditations provided by CGE.

There will be no appeal process applicable for Team Coach appointments.

8. Deselection Process

There may be circumstances where it becomes necessary to remove an athlete from consideration or selection. While deselection is at CGE and Swim England's discretion, we will ensure that any athlete who may be deselected will be treated fairly and under a set process, as detailed below.

Deselection prior to selection ratification by CGE will be at the sole discretion of Swim England. Once selection has been ratified by CGE, any decision to deselect an athlete will be at the discretion of CGE, in consultation with Swim England.

Any de-selection decision made by CGE and/or Swim England will be final.

Replacements: any replacement of an athlete withdrawn from the nominations or team will be considered at the complete discretion of the Team Leader in consultation with the Head Coach, in the best interest of the overall team performance.

8.1. Eligibility

If Swim England is made aware that an athlete selected was or subsequently has become ineligible, the athlete will be temporarily or permanently deselected with immediate effect. In the event that the athlete later becomes eligible again, Swim England and CGE will consider whether it is appropriate to re-nominate the athlete. Please see the General Requirements and any other relevant eligibility criteria detailed throughout the policy.

There is no right of appeal against deselection for ineligibility.

8.2. Code of Conduct

Deselection for any breach of the CGE Policies, Agreements and Swim England Talent Code of Conduct will be made in accordance with the procedure stated within the Swim England Talent Code of Conduct and any relevant process detailed by CGE.

8.3. Performance

Athletes may be deselected in accordance with General Requirement 2 (h). Performance and rate of development will relate to the relevant Consideration Times and qualification requirements.

Process

Any athlete being considered for deselection due to performance will undergo a review meeting with the Team Leader and Head Coach and any other relevant member of the workforce such as a sport science and medicine practitioner, where the areas of concern will be posed to the athlete. The athlete will be invited to comment on the concerns at the meeting and may follow up in writing within two days of the meeting.

If it is considered that further improvement is required, the athlete will be informed of a review date, where a decision will be made in conjunction with CGE based on the needs of the team.

8.4. Injury and Illness

Athletes who suffer an illness or injury may be required, at the discretion of the Swim England Commonwealth Games Team or CGE, to undertake a fitness or medical assessment to demonstrate that they are fit to participate. If the Team Leader determines that an ill or injured athlete poses a risk to themselves, other athletes or team staff, or would be unfit to compete in a competition, they may at their sole discretion prevent the athlete from participating in programme activities or competition.

8.5. Re-Classification

If a para-swimmer classification changes after nomination but before the Commonwealth Games or following the allocation of Para Swimming qualification slots their eligibility may be affected. This may mean the swimmer no longer meets the qualification criteria or becomes eligible for a different event. In such cases, the nomination will be automatically reviewed.

If an athlete's classification changes prior to their selection confirmation by CGE, it will be at the discretion of WPS, the CGF, the Swim England Team Leader, and the Head Coach, to determine whether the athlete retains their allocated slot. If an athlete's classification changes post confirmation of their selection by CGE, it will be at the discretion of WPS, the CGF and CGE, in consultation with the Swim England Team Leader, and the Head Coach to determine whether the athlete retains their allocated slot.

9. Appeals

Athletes have the right to appeal to Swim England against the process of the final nomination to CGE, in line with Swim England's Appeal Policy. There is no right to appeal against not being included on the long list.

Appeals shall be addressed in line with the details within the policy which can be found here: [Swim England Policy Documents | Member Resources](#)

Please note any decision by Swim England whether to appeal against any decision of CGE not to ratify an athlete's nomination is at the sole discretion of Swim England and will be managed in line with CGE's relevant process.

Appendix 1 – Para Swimming G2026 Athlete Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to represent in the Para Swimming competition of G2026 an athlete must:

- Be internationally classified with a confirmed sport class status or review with a fixed review date of 2027 or later at the sport entries deadline of 23 June 2026.
- Hold an active WPS Licence for the 2026 season.
- Be not currently disqualified or suspended by the CGF, their CGA, WPS or under the World Anti-Doping Code.
- Have complied with all applicable rules and regulations of the CGF, WPS and the World Anti- Doping Code as may be modified and applied by the CGF to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.
- Have met the CGF's eligibility regulations in accordance with the CGF Constitution.
- Have complied with the minimum age regulations, as stipulated by WPS.

Appendix 2 - Para Swimming Events and Eligible Classifications:

Men's Events	Eligible Classification	Women's Events	Eligible Classification
S7 50m Freestyle	S7 & S6	SB8 100m Breaststroke	SB8 & S7
SB9 100m Breaststroke	SB9 & SB8	S9 100m Freestyle	S9 & S8
S9 100m Backstroke	S9 & S8	S9 100m Backstroke	S9 & S8
S10 100m Butterfly	S10 & S9	SM10 200m IM	SM10 & SM9
S13 50m Freestyle	S13, S12 & S11	S13 50m Freestyle	S13, S12 & S11
S13 100m Freestyle	S13, S12 & S11	S13 100m Freestyle	S13, S12 & S11
S14 200m Freestyle	S14	S14 200m Freestyle	S14

WPS and CGF Bipartite Invitation:

To be considered for an invitation athletes must have competed in a WPS recognised competition within the qualification period. Invitations will be issued at the absolute discretion of WPS and CGF and will consider the following factors, including but not limited to:

- Eligible athletes who have successfully participated in the CGF development programme (GAPS), that have demonstrated previous levels of performance commensurate to participate in the Commonwealth games
- Regional representation
- Depth of field and strength of competition
- Demonstrated previous levels of performance commensurate to participation in the Commonwealth Games; and/or
- Any extenuating circumstances that may have resulted in an eligible athlete being unable to achieve a valid result at a WPS recognised competition within the ranking period.

The CGF will confirm any allocated invitations to CGE by 30th March 2026.

All invitations will be awarded to an athlete by name and therefore are non-transferable.

Appendix 3– Swimming Events Consideration Times

Male	Event	Female
00:21.95	50m Freestyle	00:25.09
00:48.13	100m Freestyle	00:54.05
01:46.12	200m Freestyle	01:57.08
03:48.34	400m Freestyle	04:08.82
07:56.81	800m Freestyle	08:36.96
15:19.33	1500m Freestyle	16:26.99
00:25.22	50m Backstroke	00:28.22
00:53.77	100m Backstroke	00:59.88
01:57.62	200m Backstroke	02:10.17
00:27.64	50m Breaststroke	00:30.90
01:00.10	100m Breaststroke	01:07.22
02:12.21	200m Breaststroke	02:24.49
00:23.44	50m Butterfly	00:26.36
00:51.66	100m Butterfly	00:58.14
01:56.81	200m Butterfly	02:10.00
01:58.61	200m Individual Medley	02:10.99
04:15.40	400m Individual Medley	04:40.32
03:17.29	4 x 100m Freestyle Relay	03:41.81
07:12:14	4 x 200m Freestyle Relay	08:03.75
03:37.93	4 x 100m Medley Relay	04:01.13