



UK SPORTS ASSOCIATION
FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITY

GB SELECTION POLICY

TO 2008 INAS-FID EUROPEAN TABLE
TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

PUBLISHED POLICY

20TH to 26th October 2008
Ontinyent, Valencia, Spain

2008 INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championships 20th to 26th October 2008

SELECTION POLICY

Definitions of Terms used within this Policy:

Programmed/Scheduled Championship events

The events being held at the 2008 INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championships

Selection Policy

The guidelines by which UKSA will select the staff and athletes to the Great Britain Team.

Recognised Competitions

A recognised competition is one that is endorsed by Scottish Disability Sport, WSAPLD, Disability Sport Northern Ireland or Mencap or endorsed by the relevant Sports Governing Body in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or England. The event must have fully qualified referees and officials and have published results available.

UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability

UKSA is the official member of INAS-FID and the organisation that will make the final decision on selection to the Great Britain Team to INAS-FID competition. UKSA manages the GB Team.

Mencap Sport

Mencap Sport is the England member of the UK Sports Association. Mencap Sport is the organisation that arranges England training weekends and who recommends to UKSA players who should be considered for the Great Britain Team.

England Training Weekends

Training weekends arranged by Mencap Sport for players in England to be considered for nomination to UKSA for a Great Britain Team to international competition.

Other Countries

There are separate organisations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. They have their own programmes and manage the sport in their own country.

2008 INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championships 20th to 26th October 2008

SELECTION POLICY

1. Minimum Standards and Consideration for Selection

- a) To qualify to be *considered* for selection to the GB Team, each athlete will be required to have competed in *at a least three* recognised major competition events during the period 1st January 2007 to 1st September 2008 and be placed in the British Top 10 player rankings.
- b) A recognised major event is one that is endorsed by Scottish Disability Sport, WSAPLD, Disability Sport Northern Ireland or Mencap or endorsed by the relevant Sports Governing Body in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or England. The event must have fully qualified referees and officials and have published results available.
- c) Athletes should be able to demonstrate appropriate level of ability in the events in which they wish to compete.
- d) All athletes should also meet the criteria set by their own Home Country Organisation.
- e) For players in England, the following applies
 - i) Must attend all England training weekends
 - ii) Must compete in at least 3 recognised competitions during a year
 - iii) Expected to train regularly and play in as many leagues as they are able to.

2. Registration

- a) Each athlete must have a full "April 2005", INAS-FID Registration number by the selection date to be considered for selection to the 2008 INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championships.

3) Illness and Injury

- a) If an athlete is unable to compete in the preparation and lead up to the event due to illness or injury and wishes UKSA to keep their place on the GB Team, that athlete will be required to submit a valid, original medical certificate to UKSA for consideration.

UKSA, at their discretion will consider the athlete's likely health and fitness levels and make their decision. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

- b) It is the responsibility of the athlete to inform the GB Head Coach of any illness/injury as described in 3 (a).
- c) It is the responsibility of the GB Head Coach to immediately inform the UKSA office of any illness/injury as described in 3 (a) and (b), making recommendation on a way forward.
- d) It is the responsibility of the UKSA office to facilitate discussion on the recommendations made and to inform the Head Coach of any decision taken.

4) Other Selection Criteria & Considerations

- a) Athletes must be in current training and retain an appropriate level of training commensurate to European International performance and continue in that training through to the European Championships.
- b) It is advisable and preferred, that athletes do not take holidays immediately prior to the Championships, which might, in the opinion of UKSA and/or the Team Manager and/or GB Head Coach, be detrimental to their performance at the European Championships. Athletes should seek the advice of the UKSA GB Head Coach before booking a holiday in the period between selection and the Championships.
- c) Athletes must keep in regular contact with the UKSA GB Head Coach from selection through to the Championships to ensure their preparation is at the right level and on track. There is equal responsibility on both Head Coach and the athlete to maintain this contact.
- d) If, in the reasonable opinion of UKSA and/or the GB Team Manager/Head Coach, an athlete is not at an appropriate fitness, training or competitive level to appropriately represent Great Britain at the European Championships, then that athlete may be de-selected by UKSA from the Team.

5) GB Team Staff

- a) The Core Staff positions shall consist of Team Manager, Head Coach and other Coaches (1:4 ratios).
- b) Additional Staff may be selected once the full support needs of the Team have been identified.
- c) UKSA will select staff on the following basis, taking into account the need to have a balanced Coaching Team to meet the performance and pastoral requirements of the Team.

- i) Qualifications

- Team Manager*

- Recent relevant experience, plus knowledge of international table tennis rules and regulations.

Head Coach

Ideally Level 3 qualified, but at least level 2 with appropriate and recent relevant experience. In depth knowledge of international table tennis rules and regulations.

Other Coaches

Must be at least level 2 qualified with appropriate and recent relevant experience.

Physiotherapist

Minimum qualifications as determined by professional body in order to hold oneself out as “qualified physiotherapist” with sports injury knowledge and experience.

Team Support Officer

Must have experience of working with athletes with learning disability; be a good communicator and team player and be able to provide pastoral support as directed.

Each staff member appointed will, as normal, take on a pastoral support role as part of their overall appointment. UKSA reserve the right to revise the staffing structure if deemed necessary taking into account the experiences etc of nominees in other positions.

Escorts will only be invited by UKSA to join the Team if it is agreed by UKSA that the needs of a specific athlete mean a 1:1 escort is needed.

Criminal Record Bureau Checks

In order to be nominated to the SSC, it was agreed that any nominee must already have a valid CRB (Enhanced) Disclosure through their Home Country Association or Sports Governing Body that is not more than 18 months old on the day after the group returns OR have already submitted a CRB (Enhanced) disclosure application to their Home Country Association or Sports Governing Body. *Details of the current status must be declared with their nomination.*

ii) Additional Factors considered

- Staff must have the ability and skills to meet the support and pastoral care needs of the Team.
- Medical staff must have the ability and skills to provide medical and/or physiotherapy support to the Team.
- Staff will be required to undertake a number of varying tasks to support the needs of the Team and must have proven ability to work on their own initiative in an elite environment under extreme pressure.
- Staff may be required to demonstrate other disability awareness eg. deaf awareness or be willing to undergo appropriate training.
- Staff should be available to travel between 19th and 27th October 2008.
- Staff are expected to remain with the GB Team from departure to arrival back in the UK to fulfil full support role with the GB Team.

UKSA reserve the right to remove positions from the staffing structure if deemed necessary taking into account athlete numbers and experience of nominees for consideration.

6. General – Athletes and Staff

The conditions relevant to either athlete or staff member, outlined below must be met to be considered for selection:

- a) Only athletes eligible to represent Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the INAS-FID European Table Tennis Championships will be selected.
- b) It is advisable that athletes are registered with a recognised club and play in as many leagues as they are able to.
- c) Athletes must be in regular training in their respective Home Country at a national level and must be known to the national Team Head Coach. Athletes must have come through their Home Country pathway to be considered for selection.
- d) Athletes must hold a current valid April 2005 INAS-FID Registration and no later than at the point of selection.
- e) UKSA will also consider each athlete's overall personal background and ability to fit the GB Team profile, including the athletes pastoral needs, past history and facts known to UKSA at the time of selection.
- f) Athletes and staff will be required to attend any pre Championship training camps or meetings designated by UKSA and/or Team Manager/Head Coach for this event.
- g) If INAS-FID withdraws an event from the programme after the final entry date an athlete may be de-selected from the Team. This may affect Team numbers and therefore UKSA reserves the right to restructure the staffing needs, including invited escorts, which may result in staff or escorts being deselected also.
- h) All Team members, including Escorts will be required to sign and comply with any UKSA policy and codes relevant to the competition i.e. doping controls, child and vulnerable adult protection policies, Code of Conduct etc.
- i) Athletes and staff must have met the requirements of their own Home Country's National Team.
- j) Athletes will be required to either raise funds to meet the costs of their travel and entry to this event, or have the means to source the funds in another way – for example, sponsorship applications, personal funds etc.

7. Schedule – Final Selection (Athletes & Staff)

- a) Early Pre-selection for this event will be carried out by UKSA on Monday 31st March 2008.
- b) Final Selection for this team will be made on 2nd September 2008 after which at the earliest opportunity, the confirmed team will be announced. An athlete will only be confirmed on the GB Team if they have continued training and performing at an appropriate level and have attended at least 3 major events.
- c) Selection schedule is as follows:

31 st March 2008	Pre-selection of Athletes and Staff
2 nd September 2008	Final Selection of Athletes and Staff
- d) Any appeals against selection and de-selections in relation to this 2008 European Championships Selection Policy must be made in accordance with the UKSA Appeals procedure. A copy of the Policy is available on request from UKSA.