
TEAM ENGLAND SELECTION - POLICY AND PROCEDURE (2018 COMMONWEALTH GAMES)

(APRIL 2017)

1. Introduction and Context

- 1.1. Due to the unique nature of the Commonwealth Games, with both a singles and doubles competition, it is necessary through this policy to provide greater clarity regarding how decisions on selection will be made. As such, this policy must be read in conjunction with the overarching [Team England selection policy and procedure](#).
- 1.2. Due to the stipulations that have been put in place by the Gold Coast organising committee on accreditations, Commonwealth Games England have determined there are nine athlete places available to Squash.
- 1.3. In maximising opportunities for the strongest medal performances, priority will be given to the doubles events where it is felt; in the opinion of the selection panel there is the strongest medal prospect.
- 1.4. In previous years, England has looked to maximise coverage across all events which has meant in some instances players have played in three events (Singles, Mixed Doubles and Women's or Men's Doubles)
- 1.5. England Squash has been nominated as the selecting body by Commonwealth Games England. Therefore a player put forward by England Squash is not officially selected until such a point as their eligibility and selection has been ratified by Commonwealth Games England.

2. Commonwealth Games Objectives

- 2.1. *To select up to nine players that enable Team England to produce the strongest medal performances in the singles and doubles competition.*

3. Selection - Commonwealth Games

3.1. Commonwealth Games - Singles

- 3.1.1. England Squash will be looking to maximise opportunities to medal in the singles competition and as a result, will be seeking to take up all 6 available singles spots (3 Men / 3 Women)
- 3.1.2. As a consequence, when selecting the make up of the squad for the Commonwealth Games, England Squash will select the 6 singles players first.
- 3.1.3. Selection for a singles spot, will be based solely on PSA World Ranking, with the 3 highest ranked Men and Women players based on the PSA World Ranking as of the 1st January 2018 being guaranteed singles selection.
- 3.1.4. Selection will follow the same procedure as outlined in the *Team England selection policy and procedure* ([hyperlink](#)) with the exception that the British Athletes Commission will sit on the selection panel as an independent observer of the process.

3.2. Commonwealth Games - Doubles

- 3.2.1. Due to the absence of a World Doubles tour or official ranking system, selection for CWG Doubles is inherently difficult in a country where there is strength in depth.

Therefore it is necessary to try and bring as much clarity as possible to how decisions will be made, although it is accepted that when establishing and selecting a partnership, there is inevitably an element of subjectivity.

3.2.2. The national coaching team has therefore put in place an extensive programme of doubles preparation in order to give as many opportunities, as practically possible to see partnerships in practice. It is up to the discretion of the national coaching team as to how the partnerships will be configured in the preparation squads and subsequently for the World Doubles.

3.2.3. In contrast to the lead up to 2014, this preparation programme now includes hosting the World Doubles so there are competitive results at a world level for consideration.

3.2.4. With there already being 6 players selected for singles, there are a maximum of 3 additional spots for doubles specialists.

3.2.5. In contrast to singles selection, doubles selection will consider a range of factors. Although due consideration will be paid to the aspects set out in section 7 of the *Team England selection policy and procedure* ([hyperlink](#)) the following elements will take precedence when selecting players for doubles;

3.2.5.1. Doubles form, including performances in preparation squads, test matches and at the World Doubles

3.2.5.2. Physical robustness and ability to compete over an intensive period of time

3.2.5.3. Current singles form and results

3.2.5.4. Doubles pedigree at previous Commonwealth Games

3.3. World Doubles

3.3.1. As host nation, England has 2 x Men's Doubles, 2 x Women's Doubles and 2 x Mixed Doubles pairings in the World Doubles event. These spots will be prioritised for the following players;

3.3.1.1. Those who have been an active part of the doubles preparation squads

3.3.1.2. Members of the England Performance Programme

3.3.2. If there are still spots available after priority players have been given the opportunity, then and only then will the national coaching team invite partnerships that do not fulfill one of the above to apply for entry.

3.3.3. As the World Doubles is a representative England event, the selection procedure and eligibility requirements will follow exactly the same procedure as stipulated in the *Team England selection policy and procedure* ([hyperlink](#))

4. Selection Timeline

Key Date	Detail
1 st May 2017	Selection Policy and Timeline Published
19 th - 21 st June 2017	Doubles Preparation Squad
27 th - 29 th June 2017	Doubles Preparation Squad
11 th - 13 th July 2017	Doubles Preparation Squad

26th - 28th July 2017	Doubles Preparation Squad
27th July 2017	World Doubles Selection Panel Meeting
1st - 5th August 2017	World Doubles - Manchester
15th - 17th August 2017	Doubles Preparation Squad
1st January 2018	PSA World Rankings Published for Selection
W/C 8th January 2018	Commonwealth Games Selection Panel Meeting
W/C 15th January 2018	Selected and non-selected players notified under embargo subject to appeals
W/C 5th February 2018	Selections announced by Commonwealth Games England