
National Team Eligibility & Selection Policy

1. Purpose

This policy establishes the eligibility requirements, selection processes, and obligations for athletes representing FootGolf South Africa (FGSA) at national, regional, and international competitions. It ensures that selection is merit-based, transparent, consistent, and aligned with FGSA's values of integrity, excellence, inclusivity, and professionalism.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all FGSA-registered competitive players seeking selection to:

- 2.1. The FGSA National Team
- 2.2. Provincial or Regional representative squads
- 2.3. International tours, championships, and sanctioned events

3. Mandatory Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for selection, a player must meet all of the following:

3.1. Citizenship

- 3.1.1. Must be a South African citizen at the time of nomination.

3.2. Affiliation

- 3.2.1. Must be affiliated to FGSA through a recognised Provincial Association.
- 3.2.2. Must hold a valid FGSA-ratified FIGG World Tour licence.

3.3. Membership Standing

- 3.3.1. Must be in good standing with FGSA, with all subscription, licence, and competition fees fully paid.

3.4. Tournament Participation

- 3.4.1. Must have competed in at least 40% of FGSA-sanctioned tournaments in the relevant calendar year, unless exempted under discretionary provisions.

3.5. Performance

3.5.1. Must demonstrate consistent performance in qualifying events, as measured by:

3.5.1.1. FGSA and FIFG official rankings

3.5.1.2. Tournament results

3.5.1.3. Performance assessments conducted by the National Selection Committee (NSC)

3.6. Conduct and Behaviour

3.6.1. Must demonstrate exemplary conduct, sportsmanship, and discipline on and off the field.

3.6.2. Must comply with the FGSA Code of Conduct and all FGSA governance policies.

3.7. Education Requirement

3.7.1. Must hold a valid Certificate of Completion for **“The FootGolfer Introductory Course”** issued by FGSA.

3.8. Compliance

3.8.1. Must comply with:

3.8.1.1. World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) regulations

3.8.1.2. FGSA Constitution (including Clauses 6.14 and 6.15)

3.8.1.3. All rules applicable to representative athletes

4. National Selection Committee (NSC)

4.1. The NSC is responsible for evaluating eligible players and making final selection decisions.

4.1.1. The Committee shall consist of:

4.1.1.1. Tournament Director or Head of Delegation

4.1.1.2. National Team Coach or High-Performance Director

4.1.1.3. One additional Executive Committee-appointed selector

4.2. The NSC must operate impartially, transparently, and in accordance with FGSA governance standards.

5. Conflict of Interest

5.1. Disclosure

5.1.1.1. Any NSC member with a potential conflict of interest must declare it immediately.

5.2. Recusal

5.2.1. The conflicted member must recuse themselves from all discussions and voting related to the affected athlete(s).

5.3. Provision of Information

5.3.1. A recused member (e.g., National Coach) may provide factual performance information if requested, provided:

5.3.1.1. It is delivered impartially

5.3.1.2. They do not participate in deliberations or voting

6. Selection Process

6.1. Evaluation

6.1.1. The NSC will assess eligible players using:

6.1.1.1. Ranking points

6.1.1.2. Tournament participation

6.1.1.3. Performance metrics

6.1.1.4. Behavioural and disciplinary records

6.1.1.5. Coachability, teamwork, and attitude

6.1.1.6. Availability and willingness to participate

6.2. Discretionary Selection

6.2.1. The NSC may select players who do not meet the participation threshold in exceptional circumstances, including:

6.2.1.1. Injury

6.2.1.2. Extraordinary performance

6.2.1.3. Unavoidable absence

6.2.1.4. Strategic team composition needs

6.2.2. All discretionary decisions must be justified and documented.

6.3. Transparency

6.3.1. FGSA will publish selection criteria, timelines, and updates before the start of each competitive season.

7. Post-Selection Obligations

7.1. Selected players must:

- 7.1.1. Attend all mandatory training camps, preparation events, and briefings
- 7.1.2. Participate in designated preparation tournaments
- 7.1.3. Wear official FGSA national team kit and comply with sponsorship protocols
- 7.1.4. Represent FGSA with professionalism at all times

7.2. Failure to meet these obligations may result in removal from the team.

8. Removal of Players

8.1. A selected player may be removed for:

- 8.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal
- 8.1.2. Injury or illness certified by a medical professional
- 8.1.3. Violation of the FGSA Code of Conduct
- 8.1.4. Breach of the FGSA Constitution
- 8.1.5. Failure to meet visa or immigration requirements for international travel
- 8.1.6. Behaviour detrimental to FGSA's reputation

9. Replacement of Players

- 9.1. Replacements will be selected from the original pool of evaluated athletes or reserves, based on NSC recommendations and team needs.

10. Appeals

- 10.1. A formal written appeal may be submitted within the prescribed timeframe after selection announcements.
- 10.2. Appeals will be reviewed by an independent FGSA panel.
- 10.3. The panel's decision is final.

11. Policy Review

- 11.1. This policy will be reviewed annually by the FGSA Executive Committee to ensure alignment with best practice, international standards, and FGSA's strategic objectives.