



BSSF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION PROCESS

Date of Issue: 1/09/2025

Version: 2.2

1. Introduction. The IFSS and ICF recognise the BSSF as the National Body for Sleddog Sports in GB. As such, the BSSF is to be a fully paid and in-date affiliate Federation of the IFSS and/or ICF in order that athletes can compete at their respective World and Continental Championships. To represent the BSSF/GB at International (IFSS and ICF) Championships athletes will be subject to the following eligibility and selection process in order that the best, in form British Athletes and their sleddogs compete at these premier international events:

2. International Selection Eligibility

- a. An athlete is to be a fully paid up and in-date member of the BSSF (as per the BSSF constitution) prior to submission of expression of interest or selection.
- b. An athlete is to have completed at least one season achieving a national ranking in the top 10 in their canicross class or top 5 in their bikejor or scooter class in the previous 2 years of the National Championships to be considered for selection or to express an interest in competing for BSSF/GB in IFSS or ICF Championships.
- c. An athlete is to be a British citizen by birth (they were born in the UK or a British colony before 1983), or if they were born in the UK to a British citizen or someone with settled status. They shall also be a holder of a British passport.

3. ICF Criteria

a. Each year, National Federations request 'starts' to compete at the ICF Championships. As per ICF rules, planning for Championships is based on there being approximately 800 'starts'. ICF delegate responsibility to each Federation to determine the qualification criteria to compete at their World and European Championships. As a Federation, we are unaware of how many 'starts' we will be granted by ICF, but if a restrictive quota is set we will endeavour to send as many athletes as possible that show interest utilising the following process for each class/discipline:

- **Band One** – Individuals who ranked either 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the previous ICF competition in the discipline they wish to compete. (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class)
- **Band Two** – Individuals who ranked either 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the BSSF Championship in the discipline they wish to compete. (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class)
- **Band Three** – Individuals who ranked 4th to 10th at the previous ICF competition in the discipline they wish to compete. (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class).

- **Band Four** – Individuals who ranked 4th or 5th in the BSSF Championship in the discipline they wish to compete. (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class)
- **Band Five** – Individuals who have participated at a BSSF race as a member, in the year leading up to the competition (Oct) and obtained a top five placing in their chosen class/discipline in that race in the year leading up to the competition (Oct). Athletes will be selected in order after those athletes who achieved a National Ranking in that class/discipline.
- **Band Six** – Individuals who have achieved a top ten BSSF National Ranking within the previous 2 years in the discipline they wish to compete leading up to the competition (Oct).
- **Band Seven – Overseas athletes** – Individuals who qualify as per paras 2a and 2c and reside overseas are to provide evidence of performance in their chosen class/discipline in the year leading up to the competition (Oct) and evidence indicates that their performance (time, pace, position at races completed) would have placed them in the top ten of the BSSF Championships.

** Note that athletes are committed to pay the entry fee once ICF approve all requested starts or upon BSSF selection.

4. IFSS Dryland Criteria

- a. As a Federation, we are awarded three places per Senior (Elite) and Teams class at IFSS Championships. There are no eligibility or limitations for the Master classes in IFSS Masters.
- b. If a Master wishes to compete in the IFSS Championships then rankings will be based on overall timings. For example, if you have been racing in DCMM40+ all season, but wish to be considered for DCM at an IFSS Championship, all timings for male canicross will be put in to one list and the fastest three will be initially offered a place.
- c. In addition to being a fully paid up and in-date member of the BSSF (as per the BSSF constitution), athletes are to hold a valid IFSS Driver Identification (DID) to compete at IFSS Championships.
- d. Selection for Senior and Teams classes/disciplines will be as follows:
 - **Band One** – Individuals who ranked either 2nd or 3rd at the previous IFSS Dryland competition, in that discipline.
 - (Note: Champions from previous IFSS Dryland Championships are invited by the IFSS to defend their crown and is in addition to the BSSF allocation. This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class)
 - **Band Two** – Individuals who ranked either 1st, 2nd or 3rd in the BSSF Championship, in that discipline. (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class)

- **Band Three** – Individuals who ranked 4th to 10th at the previous IFSS dryland competition in that discipline.
 - (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class).
- **Band Four** – Individuals who ranked 4th to 10th in canicross or 4th to 5th in wheel disciplines in the previous BSSF Championship in the discipline of their choosing.
 - (Note: This is not applicable for athletes with a previous junior ranking, moving in to an adult class).
- **Band Five – Overseas athletes** – Individuals who qualify as per para 2 and reside overseas are to provide evidence of performance in their chosen class/discipline in the year leading up to the competition (Oct) and evidence indicates that their performance (time, pace, position at races completed) would have placed them in the top ten in canicross or top 5 in wheel disciplines of the BSSF Championships.
- If not selected but you are eligible as per para 2 and sub-para 4d and still interested in entering an IFSS Championship in a Senior (Elite) or Teams class that no longer has spaces left, there may be an opportunity to apply for an additional entry. These may become available once all entries have been submitted to and approved by IFSS and they are 200% of the original class entry fee.

5. IFSS On-Snow Criteria

- a. As a Federation, we don't have the ability for people to qualify for On-Snow and therefore applications will be decided at the discretion of the Council.
- b. Anyone that has been a member of the BSSF for at least 6 months prior to the competition is able to apply for a place at an On-Snow competition. You will be obligated to submit a CV of past experience and ability before a decision will be made.
- c. If you are still interested in entering an IFSS Championship in a Senior (Elite) or Teams class that no longer has spaces left, there may be an opportunity to apply for an additional entry. These may become available once all entries have been submitted to and approved by IFSS and they are 200% of the original class entry fee.

6. Championships Relay Selection Guidelines

This selection policy sets out the selection process for the teams to represent Great Britain at Championships in canicross and mixed discipline relays. These guidelines have been drawn up to provide clear and fair criteria for selection for the relay events, and have been drafted with the intention that team decisions can be made at the most appropriate time, allowing team members to prepare and liaise with their teammates, and importantly prevent any last minute problems occurring; whilst optimising Great Britain's athletes the best opportunity for medal success.

AIM
BSSF's aim for these championships is to optimise medal success.

Selections

Selections will be based on the aim of the policy and subject to the maximum number of entries permitted by the race organiser, as follows:

1. Three men from the same country starting from all age categories (see Eligibility Criteria pt 4 below), who participate in the Championship in an individual category (canicross, bike-joëring, scooter). Mixed discipline male
 2. Three women from the same country starting from all age categories, who participate in the Championship in an individual category (canicross, bike-joëring, scooter). Mixed discipline female
 3. Three men from the same country starting from the same category, who participate in the Championship in canicross. Male canicross
 4. Three women from the same country starting from the same category, who participate in the Championship in canicross. Female canicross
 5. Mixed discipline relay, required combination of mixed gender athletes, from the same country, who participate in the Championship in an individual category (canicross, bike-joëring, scooter). Mixed discipline mixed gender
 6. All humans and dogs must have competed at the Championships already (in canicross, bike-joëring or scooter). They cannot just register for the Relay event
 7. The dog is only allowed to race twice (one main discipline + the relay). That is the dog cannot run in both relays
 8. Athletes must be competing at the championships in the same category as they wish to compete in a relay team, unless required to change to make up a team to allow GB to compete, at selection panels discretion
 9. In the case of a second relay class for an individual, a dog from the same immediate family is acceptable and at the discretion of the selection panel
- Eligibility criteria
1. Athlete and dog must have competed in the relevant Championships
 2. Athlete may only compete in the relay in the event in which they represented GB in relevant Championships
 3. All athletes completing both days racing are eligible for the relay team
 4. Age categories are determined by the Championship organiser

Selection Process

1. A team shall be selected for each of the aforementioned relay disciplines subject to the following:
 - a. The relay team's shall be based primarily on the performance from Saturday's race event when the results are finalised
 - a. The selection process will prioritise the optimum chance of securing the highest place finish results possible
 - a. The relay teams will be decided by a BSSF Selection Panel, the panel will be published and announced prior to the ICF World Championships taking place
2. Each primary relay team must, in the Selection Panel's opinion, have the best
 - a. potential to achieve a medal at the 2023 World Championships (taking into account the event timetable, athletes selected in individual events and/or other relay events). For clarification, the Selection Panel may choose to prioritise one relay team over another i.e. the mixed discipline relay team above the men's or women's canicross relay team, to maximise the chance of medal success at the Championships. Athletes will be selected in this round based on the discretion of the Selection Panel following the Selection Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria. The criteria below are not listed in any priority order, may be given unequal weight and/or may be disregarded:

- . • Engagement with the BSSF race programme(s) in 2022 and 2023;
- . • Current form (Saturday's performance);
- . • International relay experience;
- . • Head-to-heads within the qualification period;
- . • Previous major competition history;
- . • Injury/illness status;
- . • Impact of individual event selection on ability to perform optimally in the relay;
- . • Potential to become a key relay runner at future major global championships; and
- . • Any other factors the Selection Panel deem relevant.

3. In making their selection decisions, the Selection Panel may give what they consider to be appropriate weight to any of the factors in the previous paragraph

Reserves

The Selection Panel may select and enter one additional reserve for any event, at the end of the meeting, provided any such reserve athletes have achieved the criteria outlined above. If more athletes satisfy the criteria than there are places available, reserve athletes will be named based on the Selection Panel's consideration of the above Selection Process Criteria.

SELECTION PANEL

The Selection Panel shall comprise as follows:

a. Voting members:

i. BSSF President;

ii. BSSF vice President;

iii. BSSF Championship Team Leader, and;

iv. An event specialist as nominated by the President. Event specialists will include representatives sprints and relays with previous international race experience and success but not participating in the current

Championships

The BSSF President will confirm the Selection Panel at least 7 days prior to the Championships.

In the event of an actual, potential or possible conflict relating to any selector, the actual, potential or possible conflict shall be reported to the Chairperson of the selection meeting who shall determine whether the selector in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). The Chairperson may appoint an alternative selector if necessary.

If any of the aforementioned Selection Panel Voting Members have an intention to be selected for the relay team, then they must inform in writing the BSSF President and remove themselves from the Selection Panel. The BSSF President will select, at their discretion, a suitable person to take this voting position on the panel.

Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority of the Selection Panel. The President shall have a casting vote, if required. If the President is unable to vote due to a conflict, the event group lead shall have a casting vote, if required.

Athletes who want to double up at the Championships in the relay events must be able to provide a dog that meets the aforementioned criteria. In order to best fulfil the aims of the policy, the Selection Panel will decide, in its sole discretion, whether athletes may compete in more than one relay event in the Championships. Requests to double-up should be made to the Team Leader in advance of the Championships.

DE-SELECTION

Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Selection Panel in the event of:

a. the athlete ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection

- Policy, or other strategy document communicated by BSSF;
- b. any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension;
 - c. any serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct;
 - d. a breach of any BSSF policy including but not limited to the Relay Plan;
 - e. BSSF reasonably considering that the athlete will be unable to perform at the level required or expected due to any reason including loss of form or failure to recover fully or as expected from injury or illness; or
 - f. failure to opt-in to team meetings or discussions.

In the event of de-selection, the Selection Panel will meet again to decide on a replacement athlete. In the event there is not time for the Selection Panel to meet, the decision will be taken by the President and relevant Team Leader, with the decision of the President being final in the event of disagreement.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Appeals

Athletes may appeal their non-selection, but only after the relevant final selection date and time. This is done by directly appealing to the selection panel. Details for which will be published along with the team selection.