

BSSA SELECTION CRITERIA FOR SWIMMERS

1. These criteria must be read in conjunction with any published BSSA Policies and General Rules.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1. Only athletes registered with and in good standing with BSSA will be considered for selection.
- 2.2. Only actively training and competition-ready swimmers will be considered for selection.
- 2.3. Definition of 'Actively Training': A swimmer is considered actively training if they follow a consistent, structured programme—aligned with the Botswana Long-Term Athlete Development Plan (BLTADP) and guided by a qualified coach—designed to maintain and improve performance throughout the year.
- 2.4. Performance expectations:
 - 2.4.1. Participate at the Botswana Nationals and in at least four (4) BSSA-sanctioned galas per year, except where a written valid reason is provided in advance and approved by the BSSA NEC. Participation is defined as competing in at least one event per gala (e.g, 50m Freestyle).
 - 2.4.2. Demonstrate time improvement through official race results submitted to BSSA, with regular coach updates and clear communication maintained.
- 2.5. Athletes must be available to travel to and compete at the said competition.
- 2.6. Selected athletes must be in possession of a valid Botswana passport National identity.

2.7. Members selected to the team must abide by the BSSA Code of Conduct as appended to the BSSA Constitution and agree to and sign the BSSA Athlete Agreement for the said competition.

2.8. The BSSA Executive reserve the right to amend these criteria and circulate such amended criteria.

3. EVENTS TIER

3.1. National team selection is based on the level and strategic importance of each competition and grouped into three tiers.

3.2. Tier 1 — Regional Representation & Entry-Level Exposure:

3.2.1. Africa Aquatics Zone IV Championships (*AA Zone IV*)

3.2.2. Regional National Championships (e.g. Zimbabwe, Zambia, Namibia Nationals)

3.3. Tier 2 — Continental Youth & Junior Elite Events:

3.3.1. All Africa Junior Swimming Championships (*AA Juniors*)

3.3.2. African Union Sports Council Region 5 Youth Games (*AUSC Region 5*)

3.3.3. All Africa Youth Games (*AAYG*)

3.3.4. World Aquatics Junior Championships (LC/SC) (*WA Junior Champs*)

3.3.5. Commonwealth Youth Games (*CYG*)

3.3.6. Youth Olympic Games (*YOG*)

3.4. Tier 3 — Senior Continental & Global Elite Representation:

3.4.1. All Africa Senior Swimming Championships (*AA Seniors*)

3.4.2. World Aquatics Championships (LC/SC) (*WA Champs*)

3.4.3. Commonwealth Games (*CWG*)

3.4.4. Olympic Games (*OG*)

4. CRITERIA

4.1. Selection is guided by the tier of the event, performance benchmarks, and holistic readiness.

4.2. Tier 2 & Tier 3 Events (Continental and Global Competitions)

4.2.1. Selection is based on a swimmer's best World Aquatics (WA) point score in a single event.

4.2.2. The highest WA point score across all eligible swimmers forms the primary ranking.

4.2.3. Performances must be achieved within 12 months prior to the team selection date.

4.3. Tier 1 Events (Development & Regional Representation)

4.3.1. The focus is on identifying swimmers with high potential, not just peak performance.

4.3.2. A composite approach is used for ranking:

4.3.2.1. Best 50m event (best stroke)

4.3.2.2. Best 200m event (best stroke)

4.3.2.3. 400m Freestyle

4.3.2.4. WA points from all three events are summed to produce a total score.

4.3.2.5. Rankings are based on the highest combined score, providing a balanced view of sprint, mid-distance, and aerobic capacity.

4.4. Additional Guidelines (All Tiers)

4.4.1. Achieving a qualifying time or criteria **makes an athlete eligible**, but **does not guarantee** selection.

4.4.2. Final selection will also consider training commitment and work ethic, physical readiness, team dynamics and compatibility

4.4.3. All athletes must be available for relay selection. Relay team composition may also be considered as part of final team selection, where relevant.

4.5. Long List and Monitoring:

4.5.1. The BSSA shall provide a long list at least three (3) months prior to a tour. During this period, BSSA will monitor the listed swimmers' preparedness against the prevailing performance framework (e.g., race times, training consistency, performance at camps etc). Final team selection will follow thereafter. Inclusion on the long list does not guarantee final selection.

5. BREAKING A TIE

5.1. If two or more swimmers tie for the final team position (same or different events), the tie will be resolved as follows:

5.2. Compare each swimmer's second-best event based on WA points. The swimmer with the higher ranking is selected.

5.3. If still tied, use the current WA points table to compare the best event. The swimmer with the higher point score is selected.

5.4. If still unresolved, the tie will be broken via random draw.

6. Removal

6.1. BSSA may remove a swimmer from eligibility or from the team for any of the following reasons:

6.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal by the swimmer (must be submitted in writing by the coach within 7 working days of selection).

6.1.2. Injury or illness, confirmed by a designated physician, likely to impair competition performance. Refusal to verify the condition may result in removal.

6.1.3. Violation of BSSA or team rules, including Codes of Conduct. In such cases, the swimmer may request an emergency hearing before the BSSA Appeal Committee.

6.1.4. If under investigation for an anti-doping violation, the swimmer remains on the team until: (i) Provisionally suspended; (ii) Declared ineligible after a hearing; (iii) Accepts suspension; (iv) Voluntarily withdraws.

6.1.5. If under investigation for a SafeSport violation, the swimmer remains eligible until: (i) Suspended; (ii) Declared ineligible after a hearing; (iii) Accepts suspension; (iv) Voluntarily withdraws.

6.2. Any swimmer subject to removal is entitled to a hearing in line with the BSSA Constitution.

7. Replacement

7.1. If a swimmer is removed, BSSA may replace them using the selection criteria outlined in Section 3.

8. Funding

BSSA will determine the funding eligibility. In some cases, participation will be partly or self-funded, as communicated on a case-by-case basis.