

ENGLAND DEAF GOLF SELECTION & APPEALS POLICY

SCOPE

This policy applies to the selection for and/or recruitment to England Deaf Golf (EDG) teams.

PURPOSE

This policy aims to establish a clear, transparent, and accountable system of selection for and /or recruitment to EDG teams that is, as far as possible, objective and understood by players, parents/persons with parental responsibility, managers, coaches and interested parties.

This policy also aims to:

- Identify the objectives of the EDG Selection Committee.
- Identify the selection process, criteria, and key timescales for selection for EDG teams for major championships.
- Identify the appeals process should an individual(s) believe that this policy has not been implemented with regards to the selection or the recruitment to an EDG team.
- Identify the general qualification process and individual eligibility to represent EDG teams (appendix 1 & 2)

SELECTION COMMITTEE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the EDG Selection Committees are to:

- Select England Deaf Golf Teams at Men's, Women's, Boys' and Girls' levels for major Deaf championships;
- Ensure all players considered for any given EDG Team are provided with feedback from the Chairman of the relevant Selection Committee on why they have or have not been selected. This may also include feedback to parents or guardians when players are performing at U18 or U16 level;
- Recognise the importance of players remaining in education and not to penalise players unwittingly when educational/examination needs prevent them from playing in certain events;
- Obtain as much information as possible about players from club, county or regional matches and championships; using coaches, managers, captains or other personnel as appropriate.

ENGLAND GOLF SELECTIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

England Deaf Golf Teams

The EDG Selection Committee will select what in its reasonable judgement is the team or individual, who is available to compete with distinction at a specific venue or in a specific style of competition (i.e. match or stroke play) taking into account the following selection tools (in no particular order):

- EDG Order of Merit (OOM);
- Performances in relevant events; (See appendix 2)
- Stroke averages;
- Golf based statistics;
- Performances in recent years in major events/championships; (See Appendix 2)
- Performances in recent years in major international teams;
- World Deaf Golf Ranking (WAGR);
- The potential of players to represent EDG with distinction;
- The willingness of players to commit to Home Internationals, European Championships, World Championships;
- The experience players will gain from playing in the event; and/or
- Compliance with the general eligibility criteria set out in Appendix 1.

Note

- Should any player(s) who qualifies and who subsequently doesn't play in the event, the replacement player(s) making up the total number of players required for the team will be selected by the selection committee.

APPEALS PROCESS

In the event that an individual believes that this policy has not been implemented during the selection for or recruitment to an England Deaf Golf Team, the individual concerned has the right to appeal against any such decision. Leave to appeal can only be sought on one or more of the following grounds:

- the decision was based on error of fact or could not have been reasonably reached by a selection committee when faced with the evidence before it;
- serious procedural or other irregularity in the proceedings;
- significant and relevant new evidence has become available which was not available before the selection committee but which could have been available at the time of the decision, and, had it been available, may have caused the selection committee to reach a materially different decision; and/or
- the decision was manifestly unreasonable in the light of the facts before the selection committee.

The party seeking leave to appeal (the 'Appellant') shall serve a Notice of Appeal in writing to the EDG Chair within three working days following their notification of a missed team selection or the announcement of the team/squad selection against which the appeal is being made or, in the event of significant and relevant new evidence, within 10 working days of that coming to light.

The Notice of Appeal shall state the date and decision against which the appeal is lodged; state the grounds of appeal relied upon; set out the statement of facts upon which the appeal is based; and include any supporting documentation upon which the Appellant will rely.

Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the EDG Chair will consider the matter and decide if the Notice of Appeal shows that grounds are made out for the appeal to be determined. If the EDG Chair is satisfied that there are grounds to do so he/she shall refer the Appeal to the Appeals Panel. The appeal shall be dealt with in accordance with the appeals process under the England Deaf Golf Disciplinary & Appeal Regulations and the Appeals Panel may reject the appeal; partially uphold the appeal; or fully uphold the appeal. In the event that the Appeals Panel partially or fully upholds the appeal, it shall also specify what action should then take place which may include reconvening the selection committee.

POLICY ENFORCEMENT

This policy will be enforced by the Committee of England Deaf Golf.

REVIEW

This policy will be subject to regular review and amendment.

APPENDIX 1 – ELIGIBILITY TO REPRESENT ENGLAND GOLF

Players to be considered and selected for England Deaf Golf Teams must meet the following general criteria and satisfy the individual eligibility criteria as follows:

General Eligibility

- Comply with the Rules of Golf, R & A Rules Ltd.;
- Comply with anti-doping rules laid down by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). This includes the need to be available for in competition and out of competition drugs tests.

Players must ensure they advise England Deaf Golf of any medication they are currently taking;

- Enter a standard player contract with England Deaf Golf on the conditions set out in that Agreement;
- Sign and abide by the relevant England Deaf Golf Code(s) of Conduct
- Comply with England Deaf Golf regulations, policies and rules in force at any time and accept the jurisdiction of England Deaf Golf; and
- Comply with accepted standards of behaviour at all times.
- Not to be the subject of any welfare, criminal or legal investigation/concern from which selection would present a risk of harm to any Player or the reputation of England Deaf Golf.
- They must have an average hearing loss of 55dB in the better ear. Audiogram regulations and forms are available on the England Deaf Golf website.

Individual Eligibility

Players are eligible to play for England Deaf Golf if they meet one of the following criteria:

- They were born in England;
- One of their parents was born in England;
- One of their grandparents was born in England;
- They were born outside England but have been domiciled in England and have a UK passport and they must not have played for another country for two years before playing for England.

APPENDIX 2 – AUTOMATIC SQUAD QUALIFICATION (2025 – 2028)

This appendix sets out the procedures for players to be automatically selected for the England squad by competing with distinction at the annual English Deaf Open Championships in their respective categories (Men (0-12hc), Women (0-22hc), Senior Men (0-16hc), Senior Women (0-22 hc), Boys and Girls). This route to qualification will start from the 2025 English Deaf Open and reviewed after the conclusion of the 2028 World Deaf Golf Championships.

EDG Open 2025 for the 2026 WDGC

- (a) Players who compete with distinction and finish in the top **THREE** places of their respective categories will be offered an automatic place in the England Squad for the **2026 World Deaf Golf Championships**.
- (b) Other squad players will be selected for each category by the Selection Committee after the 2025 Open and before the WDGC competition entry deadline by using the selection tools.
- (c) The final Team of five squad players to count towards the 2026 Team Championships in each category will be decided up to 24 hours before the start of said event. The remaining squad players will compete in the individual World Championship.

EDG Open 2026 for the 2027 EDGC

- (a) Players who compete with distinction and finish in the top **THREE** places of their respective categories, will be offered an automatic place in the England squad for the **2027 European Deaf Golf Championships**
- (b) Other squad players will be selected for each category by the Selection Committee after the 2026 Open and before the EDGC competition entry deadline by using the selection tools.
- (c) All selected players must have competed in either the 2025 or 2026 EDG Open.
- (d) The final Teams to count towards the 2027 European Team Championships will be decided up to 24 hours before the start of said event. Two teams of four players from each category can be selected for the European Championships and the top three qualifiers from the EDG Open 2026 may form part of team A or team B in their division.
- (e) The 2026 Open will also have a Stableford category over three days with the top **FIVE** players selected to compete in the European Stableford Cup 2027

EDG Open 2027 for the 2028 WDGC

- (a) Players who compete with distinction and finish in the top three places of their respective categories will be offered an automatic place in the England Squad for the **2028 World Deaf Golf Championships**.
- (b) Other squad players will be selected from each division by the Selection Committee after the 2027 EDG Open and before the closing date of the 2028 WDGC using the selection tools.
- (c) All selected players must have competed in either the 2026 or 2027 EDG Opens,
- (d) The final Team of five squad players to count towards the 2028 World Team Championships will be decided up to 24 hours before the start of said event. The remaining squad players will compete in the Individual World Championship.

Note for Appendix 2

Should any player(s) who qualifies and who subsequently doesn't play in the international event, the replacement player(s) making up the total number of players required for the team will be selected by the selection committee.

Note to EDG Committee

Related documents required:

- EDG Standard Player Contract when representing EDG.
- EDG Code of Conduct
- EDG Disciplinary & Appeal Regulations

Accuracies:

Individual Eligibility (Appendix 1) – Bullet point four (two years) To be checked against ICSD / WDFG regulations

Policy Updated:

27th November 2024.