



**SQUAD AND COMPETITION SELECTION  
POLICY**

## **Squad Selection**

Wye Gymnastics and Galaxy Cheer (WGGC) has developed this selection policy to allow for transparency and clarity around the process by which athletes are selected for competitive squads this has been agreed by the board of trustees.

### **Aims of the policy:**

- To ensure that all members, coaches, and volunteers understand the criteria for selection into squads within WGGC
- To set out a clear framework which highlights the squad structure and selection criteria within the Club
- To clearly identify the process by which coaches and support staff will select squad athletes

### **Policy:**

WGGC provide the opportunity to compete in a variety of different gymnastic disciplines. To compete on behalf of WGGC the athlete must be a member of a competitive squad. Selection for a squad is based on the Talent Identification process in place within recreational classes.

### **Talent Identification:**

During each recreational class delivered by WGGC there will be a nominated 'Talent ID Coach' who is responsible for identifying potential squad athletes. However, all coaches play a role in spotting and nominating athletes who they feel show potential to join squad.

There is a minimum level of skill acquisition needed to join a squad, once the potential athlete has been identified they will be assessed against the necessary skills needed for the specific discipline.

### **For more detail on minimum skill acquisition for squads please see the Talent ID Skills Matrix (Appendix 1)**

Once the athlete has completed the squad selection. The offer is sent to the parent/guardian via email and the athlete is entitled to a two-week trial period to ensure they're happy & comfortable within their new session.

### **Reasonable Adjustments within squad selection:**

WGGC recognise that reasonable adjustments may need to be made either to the Talent Identification process or to the delivery of squad sessions for some athletes with specific support needs.

Reasonable Adjustments can come in any form that help reduce barriers to an athlete participating in a squad where it is safe and appropriate to do so and is at the discretion of lead coaches at WGGC.

Where an athlete is identified as a potential squad athlete where reasonable adjustments may need to be put in place the lead coach for that discipline will discuss any specific support needs with the athlete and their parent/carer.

For more information on specific support needs please refer to the Care and Support Policy.

### **Competition Selection**

For each individual competition, regardless of discipline, selection will be made to the competition team or individual competition from the appropriate squad.

Selection to competition will be based on the following criteria

- Performance at previous competitions
- Attendance at training
- Availability for the competition
- Performance during training sessions
- Attitude towards competitions
- Whether the athlete meets the eligibility criteria for the competition
- The athlete has current membership and is not outstanding with monthly fees or competition fees

Selection will be made by the lead coach for the session in conjunction with their assistant coaches and support staff.

Athletes will be given notice with regards to competition dates as soon as this information is made available to the club. It is then the Lead Coaches' responsibility to give an appropriate amount of notice of their intention to select an athlete to compete.

If an athlete knows that they are unavailable for competitions, they should let the coach know as soon as possible so that this information can be factored into the selection.

### **Considerations for Disabled Athletes**

Where a disabled athlete is entering a competition with non-disabled athletes/participants selection will not be linked to their impairment (they will not be selected solely because they have an impairment, and they will not be overlooked for selection because they have an impairment), but in their ability to perform the skills required to perform at the competition.

As per the guidelines in the care and support policy, it is WGGC policy that the club would not be able to meet specialised needs. Therefore, these needs will need to be met by the individual that requires them. The club does not employ staff, volunteers or leaders based on their ability to provide specific specialised support to individuals.

It is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that the specialised support they would receive on a day-to-day basis is also available within a competition environment. WGGC will give the athlete enough notice as possible to ensure appropriate support for competition can be sourced.

### **Competition Venue Accessibility**

It is WGGC's responsibility to find out whether the venue which is hosting the competition/event is accessible for all athletes attending, and that there are accessible amenities for both athletes and coaches (i.e., toilets, changing facilities, showers, refreshments).

If an athlete is selected for competition with specific accessibility requirements it is the responsibility of the lead coach to ensure that the venue is fully accessible for their needs.

If the venue is not accessible this should be raised at the earliest opportunity, the Club should raise this officially with the event organisers.

- If there is time to change the venue so that the full team can be selected without issues relating to accessibility, then WGGC will request the venue ~~should be~~ is altered.

If it is not possible for the venue to be altered due to time, availability of other facilities, or accessibility of other facilities WGGC should work in conjunction with the individual and their support network to try and establish adjustments which would enable the involvement and therefore selection of that athlete. A formal complaint should be raised to the event organiser to ensure that future venues selected are not discriminatory towards any athletes.

### **Disability Specific Competition**

If the competition is only open to athletes with a specific impairment the Club will only select individuals who meet impairment criteria set out by the competition organiser.

It may be that (with the guidance of Disability Sport Wales, Welsh/British Gymnastics or Sport Cheer UK) an athlete who doesn't have a formal diagnosis may be selected to attend an event based on the coach's understanding of their impairment.

- An open discussion will be held with the athlete, and their parent/carer prior to the competition to identify whether the conditions for entry into the event are fully understood, and it is acknowledged that (in the worst-case scenario) the athlete/participant may travel to the competition but not be able to compete.

The Club will ensure that it is fully aware of the specific requirements for disability competition set by the competition organiser and this is clearly communicated to the squad/team/individual.

### **Other Competition arrangements:**

All athletes will be expected to wear team kit when representing the Club, this can be discussed with the lead coach. It is WGGC's policy that any barriers athletes face to purchasing team kit should be reviewed and overcome where appropriate.

Athletes will be expected to make their own way to competitions unless other arrangements have been made by the club.