

## ***ATHLETE SELECTION POLICY AND PROVINCIAL COLOURS AWARDS***

### *1. Purpose*

To in so far as possible select the best athletes to represent Gauteng at the SANCF National Lead, Boulder and Speed events, the National Junior Championships, the annual SANCF Selection event and the Africa cup.

To set out the criteria for the award of Gauteng Sport Colours.

### *2. Requirements*

#### *2.1 General requirements*

Any climber wishing to be eligible for selection to represent Gauteng Climbing at any of the above-mentioned SANCF National Events will have to:

1. Belong to a registered club.
2. Have registered with Gauteng Climbing
3. Have paid their Gauteng Climbing and SANCF fees.
4. Compete at the relevant Gauteng Climbing provincial competitions as detailed below; or
5. Comply with the criteria listed under “Redress” below.

#### *2.2 Specific requirements by discipline*

##### *2.2.1 Boulder*

Athletes wishing to be selected for the Gauteng Boulder team must comply with the following:

- 1) Have participated in the boulder league held at any one of the participating gyms and have met the minimum requirements to be selected to be one of the gyms finalists. The NBL format and rules was circulated to all clubs and participating gyms prior to the start of the boulder league.
- 2) The respective gyms will advise Gauteng Climbing of their list of finalists (as above).
- 3) These finalists will be invited to participate in the Provincial Boulder final held annually.
- 4) From the Provincial Boulder final a maximum of 5 athletes per age category may be selected for the Gauteng Boulder team. In cases where SANCF change the number

of allowable entrants per category per event, Gauteng Climbing will adjust the number of athletes selected accordingly.

- 5) The selection panel will make the selection to the Gauteng Boulder team.
- 6) The selection criteria to be applied will include:
  - a. Position/ranking at the Provincial Boulder final provided that the athlete's climbing performance is considered to be at a level of "competent".
  - b. Climbing performance: an athlete will not be selected by default simply because there may be insufficient competitors in their age group. An athlete must demonstrate that they can perform competently at a minimum level. This minimum level is largely dependent on the grades at which the problems have been set. This minimum level will be determined per competition and is set by reference to the top performing athlete or "benchmark" athlete in that age category.<sup>1</sup> These criteria are not intended to be hard and fast rules merely an indication of where the athletes should be striving to achieve.
  - c. Past performance over a period of up to 12 months prior to the Provincial Final may be considered where applicable.
  - d. Whether the athlete will be a good ambassador for Gauteng Climbing. Factors such as competition temperament, ability to perform under pressure and commitment to the sport are factors that will be considered.
  - e. Any successful motivation for inclusion in the Gauteng team, notwithstanding that the athlete did not compete in any of the above required events. See the appeals and redress sections<sup>2</sup>.

### *2.2.2 Lead*

Athletes wishing to be selected for the Gauteng Lead team must follow the following process:

- 1) Participate in the lead league at any one of the participating gyms and meet the minimum requirements to be selected to be one of the gyms finalists. The league format and rules will be circulated to all clubs and participating gyms prior to the start of the boulder league.
- 2) If an athlete has competed at more than 1 participating gym they must nominate which gym is to count their score and inform the other gym accordingly.
- 3) The respective gyms will advise Gauteng Climbing of their list of finalists. Where an athlete is unable to participate in the provincial final, the gym may "drop-down" to the next ranked competitor provided their score is not materially different from the fifth placed competitor.
- 4) These finalists will be invited to participate in the Provincial Lead final held annually.
- 5) From the Provincial Lead final a maximum of 5 athletes per age category may be selected for the Gauteng Lead team. In cases where SANCF change the number of allowable entrants per category per event, Gauteng Climbing will adjust the number of athletes selected accordingly.
- 6) The selection panel will make the selection to the Gauteng Lead team.
- 7) The selection criteria to be applied will include:

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<sup>1</sup> The benchmark athlete will generally be the athlete that has consistently performed at the top of their age group over a number of competitions.

<sup>2</sup> Refer Sections 3 and 4 below.

- a. Position/ranking at the Provincial lead final provided that the athlete's climbing performance is considered to be at a level of "competent".
- b. Climbing performance: the athlete will not be selected by default simply because there may be insufficient competitors in their age group. An athlete must demonstrate that they can perform competently at a minimum level. This minimum level is largely dependent on the grades at which the routes have been set. This minimum level will be determined per competition and is set by reference to the top performing athlete or "benchmark" athlete in that age category.<sup>3</sup>  
These criteria are not intended to be hard and fast rules but an indication of what the athletes should be striving to achieve.
- c. Past performance over a period of up to 12 months prior to the Provincial Final indicators may be considered where applicable.
- d. Whether the athlete will be a good ambassador for Gauteng Climbing. Factors such as competition temperament, ability to perform under pressure and commitment to the sport are factors that will be considered..
- e. Any successful motivation for inclusion in the Gauteng team, notwithstanding that the athlete did not compete in any of the above required events. See the appeals and redress sections below.

### 2.2.3 Speed

- 1) A Speed selection event will be held from which the speed team will be selected.
- 2) Speed selection will only be for athletes competing in the age categories of Youth B and older. The details for this event and the qualifying criteria will be distributed to clubs and gyms in advance of the event.
- 3) The selection panel will make the selection to the Gauteng Speed team.
- 4) The selection criteria to be applied will include:
  - a. Position/ranking at the speed selection event, provided that the athlete's climbing performance is considered to be at a level of "competent".
  - b. Climbing performance: the athlete will not be selected by default simply because there may be insufficient competitors in their age group. An athlete must demonstrate that they can perform competently at a minimum level. This minimum level will be determined per competition and is set by reference to the top performing athlete or "benchmark" athlete in that age category.<sup>4</sup>  
These criteria are not intended to be hard and fast rules but an indication of what the athletes should be striving to achieve.
  - c. Past performance over a period of up to 12 months prior to the Provincial Final indicators may be considered where applicable.
  - d. Whether the athlete will be a good ambassador for Gauteng Climbing. Factors such as competition temperament, ability to perform under pressure and commitment to the sport are factors that will be considered..
- 5) Any successful motivation for inclusion in the Gauteng team, notwithstanding that the athlete did not compete in any of the above required events. See the appeals and redress sections below.

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<sup>3</sup> The benchmark athlete will generally be the athlete that has consistently performed at the top of their age group over a number of competitions.

<sup>4</sup> The benchmark athlete will generally be the athlete that has consistently performed at the top of their age group over a number of competitions.

### 2.2.4 Top Rope

Athletes wishing to be selected for the Gauteng Top Rope team must follow the following process:

- 1) Participation in a minimum number of top rope competitions. These will be published annually.
- 2) As per the published rules, a certain minimum number of scores will be considered in determining those athletes will form part of the top rope team.
- 3) Based on the performance at the top rope competitions a maximum of 5 athletes per age category may be selected for the Gauteng Top Rope team. In cases where SANCF change the number of allowable entrants per category per event, Gauteng Climbing will adjust the number of athletes selected accordingly.
- 4) The selection panel will make the selection to the Gauteng Top Rope team. (Refer below).
- 5) Selection will be based on *inter alia* the following factors:
  - a. Weighted average (as determined using the formula prescribed by the IFSC) of the athletes best 2 qualifying scores. Preference will be given to those athletes that place in the top 4 provided their climbing performance is at a level of “competent”.
  - b. Climbing performance: an athlete will not be selected by default simply because there may be insufficient competitors in their age group. An athlete must demonstrate that they can perform competently at a minimum level.
  - c. Past performance indicators may be considered where applicable.
  - d. Whether the athlete will be a good ambassador for Gauteng Climbing. Factors such as competition temperament, ability to perform under pressure and commitment to the sport will be factors in this regard.
- 6) Any successful motivation for inclusion in the Gauteng team, notwithstanding that the athlete did not compete in any of the above required events. See the appeals and redress sections below.

### 2.3. Selections event

In compliance with the National Colours Regulations issued by SASCO<sup>5</sup> the SANCF are required to hold a selections event to select those athletes that will be eligible to form part of the national team either to represent South Africa at the Youth World Championships or at any other World Championships or World Cups.

In terms of these regulations only athletes that qualify to participate will be eligible to participate in the annual selections event. The qualifying criteria are determined by SANCF on an annual basis and communicated to the various Provinces to determine their athletes that meet the qualifying criteria. This is only applicable for the Youth B age category and older.

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<sup>5</sup> The South African Sports Confederation and Committee

The selection of these athletes will be based on performance at the most recent Provincial Final or where there has not been a Provincial final will be based on past performance in a period of up to the past 12 months.

Where there is no current performance history eg in the case of an athlete that may not have competed in the last 12 months the climber may have to undergo an assessment session held by the selection panel which will include coaches or other suitably qualified representatives to assess whether the climber qualifies to participate in the Selection Event based on the criteria published by the SANCF.

If any athlete is not selected by Gauteng Climbing to participate in the selection event a motivation and request to participate can be made directly to SANCF Manco for permission. This submission can be made either by a coach on behalf of an athlete or by the athlete themselves. The deadlines and timing for such an application will be determined by the SANCF.

### *3. Redress*

Any athlete who has been unable to attend any of the qualifying events eg the league rounds or the Provincial final may make a detailed submission and motivation to the selection panel, either directly to Gauteng Climbing or through their club, for consideration to:

- Participate in any of the SANCF National competitions
- Be nominated to compete as a Gauteng athlete in the SANCF Selections event for selection to the Youth World Championships or any of the IFSC World Cup events (see further requirements below). The athlete may also approach SANCF directly for consideration. The relevant requirements will be outlined in the SANCF selection policy.

Where possible these submissions are to reach Gauteng Climbing at least 7 days before the deadline for entry into such competition.

The following circumstances will be considered:

#### 3.1. Injury or illness

In the event of a climber not being able to take part in the Provincial Competition due to an injury or illness, the climber will need to present the selection panel with the following (where applicable):

- Letters, reports or other such documentation from attending doctors/specialists regarding their injury.
- Rankings/Podiums from the last year's Provincial and SANCF Competitions.
- Ranking at the previous year's SANCF South African Selections (if applicable).
- Any other indoor climbing performance such as performance at prior Youth World Championship events.
- The climber may have to undergo an assessment session prior to the National Event and this will be decided upon by the selection panel, depending on the injury report and doctor's recommendation of rest period.

### 3.2. Personal Circumstances

In the event of a climber not being able to take part in the Provincial Competition due to a personal circumstance, such as a death in the family, a family crisis or the fact that the climber may be participating in an International climbing competition, the climber will need to present the selection panel with the following (where applicable):

- An email, letter or similar communication from the climber or their parent regarding the family crisis or death in the family.
- Letter from SANCF confirming their participation in an international climbing event.
- Rankings/Podiums from the previous year's Provincial, SANCF and IFSC Competitions.
- Ranking at the previous year's SANCF South African Selections (if applicable).
- Any other indoor climbing performance such as performance at prior youth world championship events and non-selection events such as Rock Masters.
- The climber may have to undergo an assessment session prior to the National Event and this will be decided upon by selection panel.

No consideration will be given to athletes that do not attend due to any other reason such as a personal holiday or other event unless the absence of the athlete is caused by Gauteng Climbing for e.g. a last minute change of competition date.

An exception to this will be athletes attending events of an equal or higher status to the event being missed.

## *4. Appeals*

The selection panel will announce the teams within 10 days of the respective Provincial Finals. Appeals must be lodged within 5 days of this announcement at a cost of R200 per appeal. The result of any appeal will be final. In the case of successful appeals the amount paid will be refunded.

This is not applicable to the selection of athletes to participate in the SANCF selections event. Athletes not selected may make application directly to SANCF to participate.

## *5. Selection panel*

The selection panel will comprise the current Gauteng Climbing Committee, the Jury President selected to preside over each of the provincial events as well as provincial coaches by invitation.

Where an athlete is being discussed and that athlete is related to a committee member or competes in the same age group as a committee member or a committee member's child, such committee member will recuse his/herself from the decision around that particular athlete.

## *6. Provincial colours awards*

Any athlete selected to represent Gauteng at a National Climbing competition will be recommended to Gauteng Sports Council for provincial colours. The athlete must actually compete in the national event to be awarded colours. If these recommendations are accepted by Gauteng Sports Council successful athletes will be awarded their Provincial colours at a ceremony to be held in October / November each year.

Athletes selected to participate in the selection event are not awarded colours for participation. However, athletes selected to be part of the National Team may be eligible for Junior Protea Colours based on the Selection Policy issued by the SANCF.