



SELECTION POLICY 2019

Athlete Selection

Bouldering, Lead & Speed

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A. Preamble

1. Definitions

Athlete	A South African competition climber registered with the SANCF.
Age categories	Means Youth age categories through to Open, either male or female.
Days	Means calendar days.
Disciplines	Means Lead, Bouldering, Speed or Combined.
Hurdle point	A point along the climb indicated by a specific hold or holds on the route or problem that an athlete must reach or pass to be considered to be of an acceptable standard
International event	An International competition climbing event sanctioned by the IFSC or SASCOC where foreign athletes will compete. The event might be either in South Africa or outside of the South African borders. An International Event must designated as such by the SANCF would include the IFSC World Cup events, World Championship, the World Games, the Youth Olympics or the Olympic Games or an international friendly and provided all the SASCOC and IFSC requirements for participation have been met.
IFSC	International Federation of Sport Climbing; parent body of the SANCF.
National colours	Also referred to as Protea colours. These are colours awarded by SASCOC on the recommendation of the SANCF.
National Federation colours	Colours awarded by the SANCF in its own right. Also referred to as SANCF colours.
Objective criteria	Objective criteria means that the athlete has to reach or pass a hurdle point for Lead and Bouldering or time for Speed climbing in order to be selected. Although the assessment of the grading and setting of Lead Routes and Boulder Problems is subjective, the attainment of the demarcated hurdles is an objective measure.
Opens	For the purposes of this document means those men and women older than the Youth age category in the year of competition.
Performance Indicators	Is a database of scores measuring the athlete's performance over time, as input into the Selections Event. This will include, but not be

limited to, results from the combined provincial competitions, as well as the national competitions held within a 12 month period prior to the selection event.

Redress	Which is to rectify, remedy or set right an undesirable or unfair situation.
SANCF	South African National Climbing Federation.
SASCOC	South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee.
Selection Event	An event hosted by the SANCF where climbing routes/boulders are set to ascertain if the athlete can attain a hurdle point or better a certain time for the purpose of representing the SANCF and/or South Africa at an International event. The SANCF may combine the selection event with a National event at its discretion. This will not detract from the selection principles or methodology.
Subjective criteria	Subjective criteria are criteria where a yardstick is not involved or the yardstick is merely indicative, and where opinions as to style, technique, skills, strength, etc. also play a part.
Valid passport	A passport with an expiry date at least 6 months after the date of the applicable international event.
WADA	World Anti-Doping Agency.
Youth	A collective term for Boys and Girls for any age group under and including under 19, under 17 and under 15.

2. Introduction

- 2.1. The South African National Climbing Federation is the body which is responsible for administering competition climbing in South Africa and is a member of both the IFSC and SASCOC. As part of that responsibility the SANCF is tasked with selecting athletes to compete internationally.
- 2.2. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, colour, religion, sexual orientation, social standing, wealth, or culture.
- 2.3. This policy strives to ensure that the SANCF is not only acting in a fair and equitable manner but that it is seen to be doing so in a transparent fashion.
- 2.4. This Athlete Selection Policy strives to ensure that South African climbing standards are kept high and abreast of international standards, whilst also aiming to foster and support the talent amongst our younger ranks. SANCF recognizes that climbing is still a young sport in South Africa and we need to be cognizant of our developing athletes.
- 2.5. The general philosophy of this Selection Policy is that the selection of an athlete to represent the SANCF and/or South Africa is based on the athlete meeting the minimum requirements as set by the SANCF from time to time. These minimum requirements will, in the SANCF's opinion, afford the athlete at least a base level of performance at an international competition.

3. Purpose of this Policy

- 3.1. This document seeks to outline the underlying principles, qualifying standards and processes in order for an athlete to be selected for the National or National Federation Lead, Bouldering and Speed teams.
- 3.2. This policy also outlines the athlete's responsibilities post selection as well as the Appeals and Exemptions processes.
- 3.3. This policy will be applied to the selection of both Youth and Opens wishing to compete in any international competitions where they wish to represent the SANCF and/or South Africa.

The policy is currently based on the assumption that there is one official Selections Event as

opposed to many selections events throughout the year. However, in the event of an athlete being unable to participate at the Selections event, extenuating circumstances such as illness on the day or marginal decisions, their performance at the combined provincial events, their performance at any SANCF competitions and their performance at any International competitions that they participated in within a 12 month period prior to the Selection Event will be taken into account.

4. Related documents

- 4.1. This policy must be read in conjunction with the following SANCF documents:
 - 4.1.1. SANCF Selections Panel Policy, and
 - 4.1.2. The SANCF Constitution.
 - 4.1.3. The SANCF selections Frequently Asked Questions guide
 - 4.1.4. The SANCF policy regarding the demarcation of athletes and their provincial memberships.
 - 4.1.5. The code of conduct for travelling athletes and team management [still in process of being drafted].

General criteria

5. Guiding Principles

- 5.1. The following general guiding principles are adopted:
 - 5.1.1. The selection of athletes is predicated upon there being an international event or events.
 - 5.1.2. Athletes will be selected by employing Objective criteria at which athletes must demonstrate ability. Subjective opinions on an athlete's performance are not permissible. However, a small weighting will be given to the general attitude and commitment displayed by the athlete as well as to the results of the interview with the selection panel. The SANCF reserves the right to refuse an athlete's selection, notwithstanding their performance at the selection event, in cases of extreme attitudinal problems being displayed eg swearing, bad sportsmanship, passing derogatory comments to other climbers etc.
 - 5.1.3. Select those athletes most capable of achieving the best possible results in international events. The SANCF aims to select those athletes that have the best possible chance of achieving results in the top 90% of the field of athletes.
 - 5.1.4. It is however acknowledged that it is not always possible to select those athletes that are most capable of achieving results in international events through one selections event. Redress criteria are therefore permissible. Redress criteria should be used as sparingly as possible to limit conscious or unconscious bias. Performance indicators must form the basis of any redress discussion/application Redress should not include any subjective factors such as athlete potential.
 - 5.1.5. As far as is practically possible, athletes are made aware of the selection process and selection criteria.

6. General Eligibility

- 6.1. Eligibility to represent the SANCF and/or South Africa:
 - 6.1.1. Must be a South African Citizen with a valid passport at the time the Selections Event registration closes; AND
 - 6.1.2. Only SANCF registered athletes may compete; AND,
-

6.1.3. SANCF athletes must be in good standing with regards to the SANCF including all fees and other amounts owing.

6.1.4. The athlete must be drug free as per WADA regulations.

7. Selection Eligibility

- 7.1. Subject to the Appeals and special selections, only Youth and Open athletes that participate in the Selection events will be eligible for selection to represent SANCF and/or South Africa at an international event.
- 7.2. Any athlete that does not participate in the Selection Event due to injury or on compassionate grounds, or athletes who in their opinion performed below their historical performance and believes that they are deserving of consideration for selection to an international event may follow the Appeal process as set out in the clause Appeals below. The athlete's performance history as per the performance indicators must be used by the Selections Panel. Should the Selection panel wish to take any other factors into account they need to obtain a mandate from the SANCF Manco.
- 7.3. The selection of the provisional list of qualifying athletes is at the sole and utter discretion of the Selections Panel. The selection process followed as well as the athletes selected must be ratified by the SANCF Management Committee before the team can be finalized.
- 7.4. The athlete must not in the opinion of the Selections Panel or the SANCF Manco, have brought the SANCF into disrepute at the Selections event or at any other competition hosted by or sanctioned by the SANCF, IFSC or SASCO, including any other international events, unless sanction has already been served..
- 7.5. Any athlete that has been the subject of unfavourable ruling in terms of any disciplinary action conducted by the SANCF is not eligible for selection, unless sanction has already been served.
- 7.6. All pre-qualifying athletes will be required to attend a camp scheduled for the day after the conclusion of the selections event. Athletes will be assessed on their participation and general attitude at this camp. Potential athletes will also be required to undergo an interview with the selection panel.

B. Athlete Selection criteria

8. Selection Criteria

- 8.1. To qualify for international competition, the athlete must demonstrate that they are capable of reaching or passing a hurdle point (Lead or Bouldering) or perform within a minimum time where Speed is concerned .
- 8.2. The Grades table attached as Addendum 1 is approximately what the athlete can expect the hurdle point to be at the Selections Event. No discussion of any nature will be entered into regarding any perceived grade differences between the attached table and the actual Selections routes/boulders climbed.
- 8.3. The hurdle point is not necessarily the same as attaining a top on the climb. It is however advantageous for the athlete to complete or top as many of the climbs or boulders as possible. In the speed climbing event the athlete must complete the climb in order for a time to be recorded.
- 8.4. The SANCF will make every attempt to ensure that the routes/problems are set at the grades as per the Annexure. To this end grade auditing will be conducted. Grade auditing means that, in addition to the Chief Routesetter, two (2) other experienced and well respected climbers will test the problem/route. All three (3) will agree to and sign off the final grade. No adjustment to the grade or hurdle points may be made once the competition has commenced unless recommended by the Chief Routesetter and ratified by the SANCF Manco.
- 8.5. Selections criteria are split between National colours and National Federation colours. These are more fully described below.

9. Selection Quotas

- 9.1. Where International events have a maximum number of competitors allotted per age category, the team selected will be limited to that number. A reserve may be selected.
- 9.2. It is not a requirement that all allotments/places be filled. The overriding test is that the climber demonstrates a minimum competence level.

- 9.3. Where there is a limitation on the number of team members and a selected athlete becomes ineligible to compete internationally for any reason (e.g. Illness, injury), the next ranking athlete may be chosen to replace that athlete, provided that the next ranking athlete, in the opinion of the Selections Panel, had attained the hurdle point in that discipline at the selections event.
- 9.4. Where an athlete has been selected to be part of any one of the teams e.g. lead, boulder or speed and the maximum quota in any one of the other disciplines has not been reached, the athlete may apply to the SANCF to participate in the latter event for experience. The decision by the SANCF will take into account *inter alia* the athlete's performance indicators for the latter event. The athlete must have attained the SANCF hurdle at the selection event to be considered for additional disciplines. The athlete wishing to be considered for this "spare place" must follow the procedure outlined under 'Appeals
- 9.5. With regard to the Open category and their participation in the World Cups, all qualifying athletes will be placed in a pool of eligible athletes who can then apply to participate in the World Cup events of their choosing. Where more athletes apply than the set quota available, the athletes that ranked higher at the Selections Event will be given preference to other athletes.

10. Selections categories

- 10.1. There are four categories of possible competition in international events: Lead, Bouldering, Speed and Combined.
- 10.2. This policy covers all of the three traditional categories, namely Lead, Bouldering, and Speed as well as Combined.
- 10.3. A Combined athlete is one who competes in all three disciplines and is ranked separately under a Combined category.
- 10.4. At an international event, an athlete may be entered into each of the categories Lead, Bouldering and Speed separately. The current IFSC methodology is that any athlete entered into all three of these categories for the same event will be ranked as combined athletes notwithstanding they have not been registered as such. Our policy will take into account the applicable IFSC format for each event and the quota for each event.
- 10.5. In addition to each of the three specialist categories, the SANCF may be entitled to enter

additional athletes specifically designated as combined athletes. The current IFSC rules provide that athletes registered as a combined athlete will not be ranked in the international competition should they not compete in any one or more of the separate disciplines.

C. Event Selection Criteria and Process

11. Classification of Events

- 11.1. Before the start of the international competition-climbing season the SANCF Management Committee will disclose those events considered to be Major competition climbing events as per Addendum 2 for which National Colours may be awarded. For all other events National Federation Colours may be awarded.
- 11.2. Major events are chosen using the following as a basis:
 - 11.2.1. A world championship event,
 - 11.2.2. A continental championships where at least 6 other countries are participating,
 - 11.2.3. Any international competition where there is the:
 - 11.2.3.1. Probability of a large number of countries attending,
 - 11.2.3.2. Probability of a large number of elite competition climbers attending.

12. Awarding of Colours

- 12.1. A participating athlete may be awarded National colours or National Federation Colours.
- 12.2. National Colours are awarded by SASCOC on the recommendation of SANCF. Although the SANCF, through its selection process, forwards athletes names to SASCOC for ratification, there is no guarantee that that an athlete will be granted National Colours by SASCOC.
- 12.3. For purposes of completeness the **SASCOC Eligibility rules and procedures** are reproduced here [para 12(1) to 13 (5)]:
 - 12(1) *National colours shall be awarded to members of national federations ("NF")
...[SANCF is the climbing national federation recognized by SASCOC]*
 - 12(2) *Subject to 12(1) above may only apply as such for sportsmen and sportswomen who*

represent South Africa in international competitions of the required nature and standard as recommended by the national federation and macro body and approved by the Commission [SASCOC].

Applicable conditions

Fair selection process

13(1) *Provided that national trials and an approved selection process were held or conducted in order to select such national teams and that fair and equal opportunities were provided for every participant that qualified, to participate in such trials. (own underlining)*

13(2) *A selection process shall be deemed unfair and inequitable if:*

- I. qualifying players are excluded from such national team on the basis of them not being able to finance their participation in the national team;*
- II. qualifying players are excluded from such national team(s) on the ground of their religion, colour or creed.*

Participation as requirement

13(3) *Colours will be awarded specifically to the players or athletes who actually play or participate as a member of a representative team and to the official reserves, if merited and as determined by the technical rules and regulations of the NF concerned and its international federation.*

Authority to award national colours and duty of protection

13(4) *The authority to award national colours to any individual vests with the National Colours Board, acting on recommendation from the national federations concerned.*

13(5) *Notwithstanding 13(4) above, all national federations have a duty to ensure the prestige of national colours and to protect them against abuse.*

- 12.4. In order to be awarded National colours an athlete must participate in the selections event.
- 12.5. Nominations for National Colours will be made by the Selections Panel of those athletes most capable of achieving the best possible results in international events using objective criteria and subject to redress.
- 12.6. Where the athlete, in the opinion of the Selections Panel, is not at the level for National colours but is very near to this standard and is deserving of international exposure, National

Federation colours may be awarded using the following criteria:

- 12.6.1. Should be relatively new to the sport but has shown potential in a short space of time;
or
 - 12.6.2. Is improving rapidly; and
 - 12.6.3. In the opinion of the Selections Panel will attain a National Colours standard in the near future.
 - 12.6.4. Any other criteria that the Selections Panel feel should be considered, and such factors are ratified by Manco.
- 12.7. The intention of awarding National Federation Colours is to give deserving athletes the opportunity to gain experience internationally. Athletes meeting the National Federation qualifying criteria but not the National qualifying criteria will be awarded National Federation Colours. An appropriate International event or events will be sought for these athletes to participate in.
- 12.8. Only those athletes that attain the National qualifying criteria will be eligible to attend the World cup and World Championship events.

13. Selection Process

- 13.1. It is the responsibility of the members (Provinces) to submit the athletes whom, in their opinion, qualify to participate in the Selections event based on the hurdle criteria.
- 13.2. The maximum number of Youth athletes per age category per individual discipline is limited to five (5) per category. The maximum number of Open athletes per discipline per gender will be twenty (20). In this context Open athletes follows the IFSC definition of any athlete that turns 16 in the relevant calendar year.
- 13.3. Notwithstanding the fact that the selections event may be combined with a Nationals event, the podium winners may not necessarily be selected for any international event. While it is envisaged that a similar scoring mechanism for nationals and the Selection Event will be used, the factors that may preclude the podium athletes from being selected will include; attainment of the hurdle point in any of the qualifying climbs, the feedback from the selection panel regarding the athletes performance at the one day camp for the Youth Selections as well as the results of the interview with the Selection Panel.

- 13.4. The selection panel will select for each of the disciplines Speed, Lead and Boulder separately by selecting the strongest climbers in each of those disciplines per age category, and if it is an available discipline for a particular competition, will select them as a combined athlete.
- 13.5. Specific information that pertains to that particular selection competition will be detailed in the Information Booklet communicated for that event.
- 13.6. In the case of the Youth, a provisional team will be decided upon by the Selection Panel at the conclusion of the Selection event and announced at the Selection event. All pre-selected athletes will be required to participate in the additional one day camp that will be held on the day following the conclusion of the selection event. The final youth team will be decided on within (two) 2 days of the compulsory camp held after the Selection Event and ratified by the SANCF Management Committee within two (2) days after the Selections panel have made their recommendation. Athletes will be notified within one (1) day of the ratification thereof by SANCF Manco.
- 13.7. Athletes wishing to appeal the results of the selection event must do so within three (3) days of the announcement of the provisional team.
- 13.8. Where an Appeal is pending, an announcement will be made notifying the age group that the age group is under Appeal and therefore final selections of that age group cannot yet be finalized.
- 13.9. If an athlete is selected for the Youth World Championships, they will have five (5) business days within which to accept the SANCF's offer to participate in the international event and to pay any financial stipulation to confirm their participation in the international event. Failure to do so might mean they forfeit their position on the team. This deposit may be up to 50% of the budgeted cost of the international event.

14. Special Exemption

- 14.1. In the event that an athlete is incapacitated or for any other serious reason the athlete is unable to participate in the selection event, the athlete or their parent/guardian may apply for Special Exemption prior to the Selection Event.
- 14.2. Where the Special exemption relates to a South African Climber abroad, the process outlined in clause 15 must be followed.

14.3. Special Exemptions applications:

14.3.1. Must be made before the official commencement of the event.

14.3.2. Exemptions or notifications under this category must be forwarded to the SANCF secretary at secretarial@sancf.org and to the event organizer.

14.3.3. Appropriate evidence or motivation shall accompany the application.
Appropriate evidence shall include:

- A reason for the application,
- Medical evidence if applicable,
- Performance history,
- Any other evidence that is thought to be applicable,
- The selection panel or the SANCF Manco may call for any other evidence that they feel is necessary for them to make a decision.

14.4. A fee of R200.00 shall apply to all Special Exemption applications made. The SANCF Management Committee, at its sole discretion, may waive the fee. The fee is refundable if the athlete is selected to be part of the National or National Federation team. Proof of payment of this fee must accompany the application.

14.5. The application will be considered at the same time that the Selections Panel conduct their deliberations.

14.6. The SANCF Manco must ratify the decision of the selection panel.

14.7. The result of the Special Exemption will be made known at the same time the respective team(s) are announced.

15. South African Climbers abroad

15.1. Where an SANCF registered South African competition climber is residing abroad permanently or on a long term contract/secondment, and they wish to compete in an international event they may apply via the process below:

15.1.1. Their application must be forwarded to the SANCF secretary at secretarial@sancf.org and will be adjudicated by the Selections Panel under the below criteria:

15.1.1.1. Only eligible athletes may apply.

15.1.1.2. The athlete must demonstrate that they are able to climb the grades/times

as stipulated in Addendum 1, by a Curriculum Vitae or any other relevant evidence. Those athletes for which there are current performance indicators will be given preference.

- 15.2. The application is to be submitted at two (2) weeks prior to the selection event.
 - 15.3. A fee of R200.00 shall apply to all applications made. The SANCF Management Committee, at its sole discretion, may waive the fee. The fee is refundable if the athlete is selected to be part of the National or National Federation team. Proof of payment of this fee must accompany the application.
 - 15.4. The application will be considered at the same time that the Selections Panel conduct their deliberations.
 - 15.5. The SANCF Manco must ratify the decision of the selection panel.
 - 15.6. The result of the application will be made known at the same time the respective team(s) are announced.
 - 15.7. Quotas as stipulated by the IFSC may apply.
16. Only those athletes that participate in the selection event or apply in terms of sections 14, 15 or 17 of this policy will be eligible to participate at an International event.

D. Other

17. Appeals

- 17.1. Appeals pertaining to matters arising at the Selections Event itself must be made to the Jury President at the Selection Event in accordance with the competition rules.
- 17.2. Appeals that relate to the provisional selection results (for either a National athlete or a National Federation athlete),
 - 17.2.1. Must:
 - 17.2.1.1. Be made within three (3) days following the announcement of the provisional selections.
 - 17.2.1.2. Appeals under this category must be forwarded to the SANCF secretary on secretarial@sancf.org.
 - 17.2.1.3. The result of the appeal shall be announced no more than three (3) days

post the receipt of the appeal.

17.2.1.4. Provide appropriate evidence/documentation and may include:

- A reason for the appeal,
- Medical evidence if applicable,
- Performance history,
- Any other evidence that is thought to be applicable,
- The selection panel or the SANCF Manco may call for any other evidence that they feel is necessary for them to make a decision.

17.2.2. Appeals will be considered for, inter alia, the following reasons:

17.2.2.1. Any illness or injury that excluded the athlete from attending the Selection event and the special exemption application procedure below has been complied with,

17.2.2.2. Any injury that occurred at the Selection event,

17.2.2.3. Non-attendance on compassionate grounds,

17.2.2.4. In the opinion of the Selections Panel, any other valid reason.

17.3. A fee of R200.00 shall apply to all Appeals made. The SANCF Management Committee, at its sole discretion, may waive the fee. The fee is refundable if the appeal is successful. The appellant must ensure that a proof of receipt is obtained to their appeal documentation. No appeal will be heard without payment of this fee.

17.4. The appeal will be heard by the Selections Panel.

17.5. The SANCF Manco must ratify the decision of the selection panel. Once the SANCF Manco has communicated the decision, the results of the appeal shall be final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

18. Training Events

18.1. Those athletes selected to a South African Team are expected to be committed and dedicated in all aspects of training. It is up to the athlete to remain motivated and to make the necessary sacrifices to compete on an international stage.

18.2. To represent one's country internationally is an honour and comes with responsibilities. Athletes are ambassadors for the sport, the SANCF as well as for our country.

- 18.3. Once Youth climbers have been selected to represent the SANCF and/or South Africa they should attend those training events and/or competitions proposed by the Head Coach.

19. Athlete Training

- 19.1. Athletes are expected to maintain a high level of training in preparation for international events. Over the period of preparation for an international event, it is expected that the climbing performance of the athlete is to increase.
- 19.2. The Head Coach may request to review the athletes training programs.
- 19.3. The Head Coach may request an athlete to be tested for climbing fitness and performance.
- 19.4. In the event that the athlete's training and climbing performance is found to have taken a marked decrease, the athlete will be given a warning and a time period within which to rectify the situation.
- 19.5. If at the end of rectification period it is found that the athlete has not improved their climbing performance, the athlete may be reported to the Selection Panel for possible loss of selection, which decision is to be ratified by the SANCF Management Committee.

20. Documentation

- 20.1. All athletes will be required to comply with SANCF documentation requirements.
- 20.2. Failure to comply with these requirements will mean the automatic suspension of the athlete's selected status.

Addendum 1

National and National Federation Qualifying Criteria

A. National Federation qualifying criteria (SANCF Colours)

Note: The speed times indicated are for the standard IFSC competition wall. If the speed wall used for the selection event is shorter, the times will be adjusted down accordingly.

Category	Approximate SA Bouldering grade	Approximate SA Lead Grade	Approximate SA Speed Time
Youth B Female (U15)	6a	24	19
Youth B Male (U15)	6b	25	14
Youth A Female (U17)	6b	25	16.5
Youth A Male (U17)	6c	26	12.5
Junior Female (U19)	6c	26	16.5
Junior Male (U19)	7a	27	12.5
Open Female	7a	27	15.5
Open Male	7a+	28	10.5

It is noted that the youngest age category allowed to compete at an IFSC International Event is Youth B, hence no qualifying grade has been proposed for Youth C.

B. National qualifying criteria (Protea Colours)

Note: The speed times indicated are for the standard IFSC competition wall. If the speed wall used for the selection event is shorter, the times will be adjusted down accordingly.

Category	Approximate SA Bouldering grade	Approximate SA Lead Grade	Approximate SA Speed Time
Youth B Female (U15)	6b	25	17 seconds
Youth B Male (U15)	6c	26	13 seconds
Youth A Female (U17)	6c	26	15 seconds
Youth A Male (U17)	7a	27	11 seconds
Junior Female (U19)	7a	27	15 seconds
Junior Male (U19)	7b	28	10 seconds
Open Female	7b	28	13 seconds
Open Male	7b+	29	9.5 seconds

** It is noted that the youngest age category allowed to compete at an IFSC International Event is Youth B, hence no qualifying grade has been proposed for Youth C.*

21. Addendum 2

Major events

As per paragraph 12.1 above the following international climbing events are deemed to be major events:

Junior

- Youth Olympic Games (IFSC, IOC & SASCOC qualifying criteria)
- Youth World Championship

Senior

- Olympics (IFSC, IOC & SASCOC qualifying criteria)
- ANOC (IFSC, IOC & SASCOC qualifying criteria)
- World Championships
- The following World Cup events
 - Chamonix
 - Briancon
 - Munich
 - Arco
 - Villars
 - Meiringen
 - Moscow
 - Other events that fulfill the Criteria in paragraph 12.1, which may vary from year to year.