

**2026 European Aquatics
Open Water (Marathon) Swimming Championships
SELECTION POLICY**

1. POLICY

PURPOSE

- 1.1. This selection policy outlines the process of selecting the team to represent Great Britain at the 2026 European Aquatics Open Water (Marathon) Championships (EMC26), 4th-8th August 2026, in Paris, France.

2. PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. The objectives for this event are:

- 2.1.1 To maximise medal opportunities in Olympic events.
- 2.1.2 To provide a positive competitive opportunity in the long-term development of British swimmers towards podium success at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games and beyond.

3. SELECTION RACE

- 3.1. Selections for the 10km event at the EMC26 will be made from performances at the 'selection race' which is the World Aquatics Open Water Cup 2026 event (10km) at Golfo Aranci, Sardinia, 1st -2nd May 2026.
- 3.2. An Aquatics GB squad of up to six (6) athletes will be selected to compete at the selection race at the complete discretion of the Marathon Swimming Lead (MSL) in consultation with the Performance Director (PD) and GB Head Coach (GBHC). There is no obligation on Aquatics GB to select six (6) athletes, and the total team size will be determined by the PD at his complete discretion.
- 3.3. Other British athletes not selected for the squad may apply to Aquatics GB to attend on a self-funded basis by emailing nathan.hilton@aquaticsgb.com by 10am on 19th April 2026. Any athlete applying to attend must have achieved the time specified in Table 1 within the specified window. There is no obligation to accept any applications.

4. TEAM SIZE

- 4.1. Up to a maximum of six (6) athletes will be selected for the EMC26. There is no obligation on Aquatics GB to select six (6) athletes, and the total team size will be determined by the PD at his complete discretion.
- 4.2. Up to a maximum of three (3) athletes per individual event and one relay team per event can be selected.

5. SELECTION PROCESS

- 5.1. The top two British male and top two British female finishers at the selection race (as per clause 3.1) will be selected, subject to clause 5.2 overleaf.

5.2. Selection under 5.1 is subject to all athletes having:

- 5.2.1 Achieved a time equal to or faster than the Aquatics GB Marathon Pool consideration standards (see Table 1 below) for either the 400m, 800m, or 1500m Freestyle (long course - 50m) within the stated qualifying window (19th July 2025 to 19th April 2026).
- 5.2.2 Finish in the top 12 (2 per nation) positions in the selection race, **OR** finish within 30 seconds of the 3rd placed swimmer in the selection race.
- 5.2.3 Competed in at least one European Aquatics or World Aquatics OW 10km event in the previous two years.

5.3. All remaining places in the 10km event at the EMC26 will be determined by the MSL in consultation with the PD and GBHC at their discretion pursuant to clause 2.1 above.

5.4. Any additional selections for the 5km, relays, or 3km knockout events at the EMC26 will be determined at the discretion of the MSL in consultation with the PD and GBHC up to the maximum team size pursuant to clause 2.1 above,

6. SELECTION NOTIFICATIONS

- 6.1. All athletes selected for the EMC26, to be held from August 4th to 8th, 2026, will be notified by email on or before Friday, 8th May 2026.
- 6.2. If the selection race (10km selection) is cancelled, all swimmers will be selected at the complete discretion of the MSL in consultation with the PD and GBHC in accordance with clause 2.1 above.

Table 1 – Aquatics GB Marathon Pool consideration standards (50m)

Male	Female		
400m Freestyle	3:52.50	400m Freestyle	4:13.00
800m Freestyle	8:03.20	800m Freestyle	8:40.00
1500m Freestyle	15:24.90	1500m Freestyle	16:35.00

Times to be achieved between 19th July 2025 to 19th April 2026, and published on

www.swimmingresults.org

SELECTION POLICY GENERAL CONDITIONS

ELIGIBILITY

Swimmers must:

- G1 Be a British citizen and eligible to represent Great Britain as per the World Aquatics rule GR2.
- G2 Have completed a Selection Acceptance Form to confirm they will be available to participate by the deadline to be imposed by Aquatics GB. Failure to do so will be interpreted as non-availability by Aquatics GB. Selection Acceptance Forms will be provided by Aquatics GB to qualifying team members.
- G3 Be available to fulfil all team commitments from the time of selection through to the Championships.
- G4 Comply with any other World Aquatics eligibility criteria from time to time, including in respect of nationality and/or anti-doping.

TEAM COMMITMENTS

All Team members will be required to:

- G5 Comply with the Aquatics GB Code of Conduct. A breach of the Aquatics GB Code of Conduct may result in de-selection from the team.
- G6 Adhere to all prescribed travel arrangements which might involve different travel dates to other members of the team.
- G7 Abide by media protocols of the Aquatics GB Programme. Athletes must only speak to the media about their own performances and group coaches must only comment on performances of swimmers in their group. The Team Leader/GB Head Coach and Performance Director may discuss the performances of the entire team. Swimmers must not publicise any information in relation selection-related matters until authorised to do so by the Team Leader.
- G8 Not to take holidays or attend overseas camps and/or competitions between the selection trials and the meet for which they have been selected without prior written approval from the Performance Director.
- G9 Make themselves available for all team activities designated by the Team Leader/GB Head Coach (including but not limited to preparation camps and staging camps). No team member will be allowed to leave a national team camp or undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the team camp programme; this includes any external media, sponsor or social activities. Failure to attend the required activities could result in withdrawal from the team. Under exceptional circumstances, written approval to be excluded from activities may be given by the Performance Director.
- G10 Comply with Aquatics GB and World Aquatics swimwear regulations whilst competing at the EMC26.

WITHDRAWALS AND REPLACEMENTS

- G11 If for any reason a swimmer is unable or unwilling to fully comply with the Team Commitments (G5 to G10) they may be withdrawn from the team.
- G12 Swimmers becoming unfit due to illness or injury (physical or mental) at any time following their selection must notify Aquatics GB immediately and will be required to undertake a full medical examination which may result in the swimmer being de-selected from the team at the complete discretion of the Team Leader/GB Head Coach. In the event of injury or illness athletes may be deselected if they pose a risk to themselves, other athletes or team staff as determined by the Aquatics GB Chief Medical Officer or her designate.

REPLACEMENTS

G13 Replacement of swimmers withdrawn from the team will be considered at the complete discretion of the Team Leader/GB Head Coach in the best interest of the overall team performance.

OTHER

G14 The World Class Leadership Team may amend selection policies, within reason at its discretion.

G15 The Performance Director and GB Head Coach will exercise their authority to ensure that the final selections for the EMC26 team are in line with this policy and will result in the best possible achievements at the EMC26.

APPEALS

G16 Any appeals against non-selection must be made to Aquatics GB in accordance with the Aquatics GB Team Selection Appeals Procedures, available online at <https://www.britishswimming.org/performance/swimming/selection-policies/team-selection-appeals/> or by request from Adam Clarke, Performance Strategy and Operations Director via email at adam.clarke@aquaticsgb.com Athletes should be aware of the time limits contained in the Procedures, which are designed with the intention of resolving issues expeditiously and fairly.