

**SOUTH AFRICAN SPORTS CONFEDERATION
AND OLYMPIC COMMITTEE**



**POLICY AND GENERAL ELIGIBILITY AND
SELECTION CRITERIA FOR
MULTI-CODED GAMES (2013 – 2016)**

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POLICY AND GENERAL ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA FOR MULTI-CODED GAMES (2013 – 2016)

PREAMBLE

Recently, the national and international debate has been on SASCOC's stringent criteria for athletes and teams to be eligible for selection to the various international multi-coded events. These criteria however, have proven that results can be delivered with lesser number of athletes. The debate, however still remains that certain athletes left out of these Games may have increased the medal tally for South Africa.

To address the various grievances raised by various member NFs, SASCOC engaged the Presidents of the NFs in establishing a Generic Selection Policy which will be applicable to all multi-coded events being delivered in the next quadrennial (2013 to 2016). The first discussion took place in May 2011 with the following key overarching principles resolved by the Presidents Council and ratified by the General Meeting of August 2011:

Presidents Council Resolutions

1. There will be a Generic Team Selection Policy for all multi-coded events binding all SASCOC member NFs, including winter sports and sports for the disabled;
2. SASCOC will consider Continental Qualification for major events, taking into consideration international ranking, number of countries participating, and the presence of stronger countries at the CQT.
3. Sport-specific selection policies shall consider technical issues and the performance pathway and history of each athlete/ team;
4. The age group competitions shall be used for exposure to international participation, without losing sight of performance;
5. The policy cycle shall be for eight years, with evaluation of every quadrennial;
6. The Generic Selection Policy for 2016 shall be in place by December 2012.

The Games being considered under this general selection criteria and policy are:

- 2014 Commonwealth Games
- 2014 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games
- 2014 Zone VI Games
- 2014 Youth Olympic Games
- 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games
- 2015 All Africa Games
- 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games
- 2016 Zone VI Games

For age-group Games such as the Commonwealth Youth and Youth Olympic Games (Summer and Winter), the conditions as set out by the IOC and CGF shall be observed by SASCOC. These shall be used as a platform for ensuring our junior and youth athletes are nurtured for international senior performances.

1. ELIGIBILITY

For National Federations (NFs), athletes and officials to be eligible for selection to the various Games, they should meet specific minimum criteria.

1.1 ELIGIBILITY OF NFs

For National Federations to be eligible for consideration for the Games from 2013 to 2016, the NF shall satisfy the following:

- 1.1.1 The NF shall be in good standing with SASCOC and SRSA
- 1.1.2 The NF shall be affiliated to and in good standing with the relevant International Federation (IF) recognised by the IOC, IPC, CGF, IWGA and ANOCA.
- 1.1.3 The NF shall be affiliated to and recognised by SASCOC;
- 1.1.4 The NF shall not be under any dispute or administration during the selection period.
- 1.1.5 The NF shall comply and uphold the Rules and Code of Conduct of the relevant international Macro sports bodies, that is, the IOC, IPC, CGF and IWGA.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY OF ATHLETES

For athletes to be eligible for selection for the various Games delivered by SASCOC, the athletes shall satisfy the following:

- 1.2.1 The athlete shall be a South African Citizen with a valid RSA passport;
- 1.2.2 The athlete shall be a member in good standing with the NF affiliated to SASCOC, and is also a member in good standing with SASCOC;
- 1.2.3 The athlete shall not be under suspension for any offence (including but not limited to doping) during the selection period;
- 1.2.4 The athlete shall not have competed for another country within a three year period prior to being considered for selection for international multi-coded events delivered by SASCOC;
- 1.2.5 The athlete shall comply with and uphold the Rules and Code of Conduct of the relevant international macro sports bodies, that is, the IOC, IPC, CGF and IWGA;
- 1.2.6 The athlete shall comply with and uphold SASCOC's Articles of Association, Rules and Regulations of their NF and those of the IF;
- 1.2.7 The athlete shall have competed at the NF's National Championships in the three years leading to the major multi-coded Games.

1.3 ELIGIBILITY OF OFFICIALS

For officials to be eligible as coaches or team leaders/ code managers, for the various Games delivered by SASCOC, they shall satisfy the following criteria:

- 1.3.1 The official shall be a member in good standing with the relevant NF;
- 1.3.2 The official shall not be under suspension for any offence during the selection period;

- 1.3.3 The official shall have a proven track record in the position they are recommended for, and shall have demonstrated a level of competence acceptable to SASCOC. Where there is no track record, the NF shall motivate to SASCOC for such official to be considered.
- 1.3.4 The official shall comply and uphold the Rules and Code of Conduct of the relevant international Macro sports bodies, that is, the IOC, IPC, CGF and IWGA.
- 1.3.5 The official shall comply with and uphold SASCOC's Articles of Association, Rules and Regulations of their NF and those of the IF.

2. NATIONALITY

- 2.1 All athletes eligible for selection for the Games shall be South African Citizens.
- 2.2 In case of coaches, SASCOC shall consider foreign coaches based on the value add to the NF and the proven track record the coach has in delivering results at international events. The NF however, shall have to show a skills transfer and succession plan for the development of South African Coaches.
- 2.3 For athletes holding dual citizenship, the athlete shall be considered if they did not attempt to qualify for another country for the same Games. This shall be monitored and reported by the NFs on all entries for various selection trials of other countries
- 2.4 For athletes who have competed for other countries at international events, the athletes shall observe the 3 year "cool-off" period prescribed by the IOC and IPC. This rule shall also apply to the Commonwealth Games, World Games and All Africa Games.

Over and above the mentioned eligibility criteria, all officials and athletes shall:

- Respect the spirit of fair play and non-violence, and behave accordingly; and
- Respect and comply in all aspects with the World Anti- Doping Code.

3. SELECTION CRITERIA

Over and above the eligibility conditions set above, the following selection criteria shall be used to select athletes for participation at the various multi-coded Games mentioned above.

3.1. Continental Qualification

It is believed that South African athletes have previously demonstrated they can obtain direct qualification for the various Games. This therefore, implies that SASCOC may consider continental qualification on a case by case basis. Continental qualification shall be considered taking the following into effect:

- 3.1.1 Number of countries actively participating in that particular sport
- 3.1.2 Competitiveness of the various countries participating in the sport
- 3.1.3 Mainly for junior and youth athletes being groomed for future performances

3.2 Ranking

Ranking shall be used as the main criteria for selection of athletes for the various Games. It shall however, be used in combination with other factors such as past performance history, medical, and scientific data. Medical and scientific data shall be mainly sport-specific and shall prove that the athlete is medically and physically fit to compete at the Games. All athletes eligible for selection shall first undergo full medical screening using the Period Health Evaluation (PHE). Performance history shall also be sport-specific and shall be within the quadrennial, that is, from the last major Games to the Games the athlete is seeking selection for (e.g. for Commonwealth Games, performance history shall be the athletes performance from the various international events in 2011 to May 2014. The 2010 CG performances shall be used mainly as a reference point).

3.3 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games

- 3.3.1 All individual athletes and Team Sports eligible for the Commonwealth Games shall be ranked in the top 5 in the Commonwealth to be considered for final selection;
- 3.3.2 There shall be no continental qualification considered for the Commonwealth Games, unless it is for talented Junior and Youth athletes making transition to senior events.

3.4 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games

- 3.4.1 All athletes eligible for participation at the Winter Olympic Games shall be considered in line with the sport-specific selection policy as shall be agreed upon with the NF;
- 3.4.2 SASCOC, as the NOC shall modify the said policy to be signed-off with the NF;
- 3.4.3 All athletes shall have participated at national and international events as shall be prescribed by the NF.

3.5 2014 Sochi Winter Paralympic Games

- 3.5.1 All athletes eligible for participation at the Winter Paralympic Games shall be considered in line with the sport-specific selection policy as shall be agreed upon with the NF;
- 3.5.2 SASCOC, as the NPC shall modify the said policy to be signed-off with the NF;
- 3.5.3 All athletes shall have participated at national and international events as shall be prescribed by the NF.

3.6 2015 Congo (Brazzaville) All Africa Games

- 3.6.1 All athletes eligible for the All Africa Games shall be ranked in the top 3 and Team Sports shall be ranked in the top 5 in Africa to be eligible for final selection;
- 3.6.2 Ranking outside the top 3 shall be considered for Junior and Youth athletes being earmarked for transition to senior events;
- 3.6.3 All athletes shall have participated at the various sport specific continental events.

3.7 2016 Rio Olympic Games

- 3.7.1 All athletes eligible for participation at the Olympic Games shall be considered in line with the sport-specific selection policy as shall be agreed upon with the NF;
- 3.7.2 SASCOC, as the NOC shall modify the said policy to be signed off with the NF;
- 3.7.3 Athletes shall have participated at the relevant multi-coded events delivered by SASCOC, such as the Commonwealth Games and All Africa Games.

3.8 2016 Rio Paralympic Games

- 3.8.1 All athletes eligible for participation at the Paralympic Games shall be considered in line with the Sport specific selection policy as shall be agreed upon with the NF;
- 3.8.2 SASCOC, as the NPC shall modify the said policy to be signed off with the NF;
- 3.8.3 Athletes shall have participated at the relevant multi-coded events delivered by SASCOC, such as the Commonwealth Games and All Africa Games.

4. AUTHORITY FOR DELIVERY OF TEAM SA

SASCOC, as the NOC, NPC and CGA is recognised by the various international macro sports bodies as the only authority in South Africa responsible for delivering Team SA to the multi-coded events. As such, SASCOC has the following authority in line with these international rules:

Rule 27-Mission and Role of NOC's

Paragraph 3:

The NOCs have the exclusive authority for the representation of their respective countries at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronized by the IOC. In addition, each NOC is obliged to participate in the Games of the Olympiad by sending athletes. The IPC, CGF are organizations recognized and patronized by the IOC.

Bye –Law to Rules 27 and 28

2. NOC's task:

The NOC's perform the following tasks:

- 2.1 They constitute, organize and lead their respective delegations at the Olympic Games and at the regional, continental or world multi-sports competitions patronized by the IOC. They decide upon the entry of athletes proposed by

their respective national federations. Such selection shall be based not only on the sports performance of an athlete but also on his ability to serve as an example to the sporting youth of his country. The NOCs must ensure that the entries proposed by the national federations comply in all respects with the provisions of the Olympic Charter.

ARTICLE 26 of the CGF Constitution

26B(1) A Commonwealth Games Team is the exclusive property of the Affiliated CGA of its territory and that Affiliated CGA owns all rights concerning its organisation and exploitation by any means whatsoever.

5 CONCLUSION

Over and above this Policy and General eligibility and selection criteria for multi-coded games (2013 – 2016), SASCOC shall, together with the NFs, establish sport-specific selection criteria for the various Games. The sport specific selection policies shall not divert from this General Policy. This Policy shall be considered to be effective upon ratification by the SASCOC Annual General Meeting. Amendments to the policy shall only be done if made within the prescripts of the Articles of Association. Each President of the NF shall be expected to sign this policy to confirm his/her acceptance of the contents and as a policy in place until 2016.