



TEAM SELECTION PHILOSOPHY/GUIDELINES FOR WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES

The selection of a representative athlete or team is always attached to a high level of emotion from the athlete involved, the coach, the friends and anybody that think they know better.

When the selection process is based on subjective criteria e.g. I like the athlete, the athlete's performance "looks" good, the attitude of the athlete is "good", the athlete had a transplant and I feel sorry for him/her or the athlete's relationship with the selectors is "good", the selection process will be left open for severe criticism. If the selection process is based on subjective criteria, the criticism from whoever might probably be justified.

1. THE SELECTION PROCESS

1.1 WHY SELECTION

Before any form of selection can take place, the objective of what must be achieved should be identified. It may be:

- To win individual medals at the WTG
- For the social value of team or spirit building exercise
- To encourage an individual to perform better

Specific objective: The most common specific objective for the selection of a member onto the team is the expectation that the member will do well while representing the country.

General objective: The most common general objective for the selection of a member onto the team is the expectation that the team will represent the demographics of the country.

In both forms of selection, the social value of a member representing the country is important, and the selection process should aim to strengthen the association of the athlete with the team and our country.

The task of the selector is made easier when information regarding the athlete's performance level is available. **The more information available, the more objective the selection process will be.**

It is fair to assume that if an athlete produces a performance at a specific level, that the athlete will be able to produce the performance again, provided that the date between the last performance and the date of the World Transplant Games are not too far apart.

1.2 WHEN MUST SELECTORS MEET

The selection process requires the collecting and evaluation of several performances indicators.

After the National Transplant Games, another opportunity for athletes who performed within 10% of qualification standard and the extra opportunity to qualify for athletes who could not attend the NTG (Qualifying Period 1), the selectors should be in the possession of a preliminary team. The requalification (Qualifying Period 2) should serve as verification of the selection.

This form of verification of the final team allows the Selectors to finalize the final team much sooner and reduces the pressure on the administration process that will follow once the team is selected.

1.3 WHEN MUST A SELECTED TEAM BE ANNOUNCED

The date that a team for the WTG is announced will have a direct impact on the capacity of the selected athlete to produce the required top performance.

The following factors will determine when the team will be announced:

- The capacity of the administrators to present (final preparation) a team
- The final date that athletes can register for the WTG

1.4 AN OBJECTIVE SELECTION PROCESS

A selection process is objective when the product of the selection process compares favourably with credible norms of previous performances under similar circumstances.

1.4.1 To win individual medals at the WTG

- If an athlete can achieve a performance equal or better than the standard, it is likely that the athlete will in similar circumstances, repeat this performance at the WTG.
- The standard gives a reasonable guarantee that the athlete will reach the final at the WTG.
- It is an acceptable assumption that any athlete in the final can win a medal.

1.4.2. To select a demographically correct team

Our members/athletes consist of men, women and children of all races. If a team is to be selected to represent our country, the team should represent the demographics of our members.

2. SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee will consist of five members, of which one will be from the Executive Committee, one member nominated by GTSA, one from WCTSA, one from ECTSA and one from KZNTSA. The Selection Committee will make recommendations to the Management Committee regarding the selection of the team. This is to be done in a consultative, fair, transparent and equitable manner, and is to be aligned to the strategy of SATSA.

3. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

Athletes must provide the following to the Selection Committee:

- Proof of membership to a sports club or part of school sports
- Proof that he/she is actively participating in sports events
- Evaluation by a recognised sports official that he/she has reached the qualifying standards at another event other than the NTG

Criteria for selection for the SA Team:

- Reached the qualification standard
- Past performances and medallists at previous WTG
- Active participation in selected sporting events

World Transplant Games criteria for participation in the World transplant Games:

Entry is open to recipients, aged between 4 and 80 plus, of life-supporting allografts and haemopoietic cell transplants from other individuals or species which require or have required the use of immunosuppressive drug therapies.

Competitors must have been transplanted for at least 1 year, with **stable graft function**, be medically fit and have trained for the events in which they have entered. If a potential competitor has been transplanted for at least 6 months, with stable graft function, has been training, and has permission from their own doctor, their entry may be considered by the WTGF Medical Committee and be allowed to enter.

4. CRITERIA TO STAY SELECTED ON THE TEAM

- When selected into a squad, athletes must attend all training camps when notified of these by SATSA. Failure to attend could result in the removing the player from the team.
- An athlete can be removed from the team/squad at any time, if in reasonable view of SATSA if they have displayed any of the following:
 - i. Inappropriate behaviour or conduct
 - ii. A lack of form
 - iii. An unsatisfactory attitude
 - iv. A lack of commitment
 - v. Non-compliance with training requirements

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