



The British Championships is the ultimate Club individual Championships.

It has been agreed by the BJA Board that:

1. The Performance Strategy incorporates internationally recognised milestone events in the U15 and U17 age groups.

The 2009 British Championships (formerly the National Age Bands) has been aligned to these age groups and allows identification of emerging talent in the Home Countries. The selected players will be U14 and U16 in 2009, but in the competing year of 2010 they will be U15 and U17.

British Championships for 10 and 11 year players (pre-cadet) will continue to be held separately. The British U20 Trials will accommodate players aged 17, 18 and 19 years of age.

2. The BJA Areas (including the Home Countries) must hold trials to select the top 4 players from each Area in each weight and age category. All players competing in the trials must have been a member of said area for a minimum of 90 days.

3. The BJA Area must select the medal winners in each category, and the results must be sent to BJA head office within 48 hours. A BJA member of staff will be appointed to be the single point of contact for BJA Areas.

4. The trials are the final and only selection criteria, however if a player misses the trials through injury or illness (doctors note required) and a place is available, then they will be allowed to enter following approval from the BJA Area and BJA Performance Directorate. **THEY CANNOT TAKE THE PLACE THAT SOMEBODY HAS WON.** See Wild Card criteria in section 7 below.

5. BJA Areas will be under no obligation whatsoever to fund any player attending the British Championships. Travel, accommodation and entry fee is the responsibility of the player. If the Area/Home Country offers an option to accommodate these factors it is at the discretion of the player and players' parents if they take it.

6. On the day of the trials, the BJA Area will give successful players the entry form for them to submit. Forms will only be processed if the athlete's name corresponds to the result sheets; the player holds a valid BJA license and has proof of British Citizenship. The entry must be received by Monday 28th September 09

7. Wild Card applications must be in writing by the individual and not an Area/Home Country. Applications must be received by Monday 28th September 09. The BJA Performance Directorate will decide whether a player should receive a 'Wild Card'. The player will be notified in writing



by Monday 5th October 09 stating whether they have been successful in being awarded a 'Wild Card'. If a player is not given a 'Wild Card' they will be informed of the reason in writing. There is no appeal.  
Circumstances under which a Wild Card might be issued:

- a. International duty
- b. Injury to previous national champion or squad member (medical certificate required)
  - Exceptional personal circumstances (family illness, Educational Commitments)

About the trials: **MUST BE HELD NO EARLIER THAN 8 WEEKS BEFORE EVENT**

1. The event will follow a minimum of Level Three Technical Specifications
2. The event must be run on a pools basis
3. The trials must be held no earlier than 8 weeks prior to the British Championships
4. The eliminations/trials must cater for all age and weight categories, events will be allowed to merge weights on the day so long as no player is denied access to being in the top four in their chosen age/weight.

### **British Championships (formerly National Age Bands) entry to revert back to Area and Home Country qualification**

The BJA Board of Directors has announced that the British Championships (formerly National Age Bands) will revert back to the Area and Home Country Squad system for entry. This will be with effective from this year's event – taking place on the 10th & 11th October at iceSheffield.

The change means that players will not be able to enter the event automatically but will have to qualify through and be nominated by their respective Area or Home Country.

Each Area and Home Country will be running a trials tournament prior to the British Championships to determine the final team. Further details will be communicated by Area and Home Countries in due course.

Commenting Densign White said, "The BJA are reacting to a strong request from the Home Country Bodies and English Areas so we hope there will be wide spread support for this change.

"The Board also believe the change will invigorate the Area and Home Country squad systems. Each Area and Home Country should each be organising and managing an elite squad system and the British Championships will be the pinnacle milestone event for these squads".