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2027 ISA World Junior Surfing Championships - Team Selection Criteria

1. Objectives

- To select the strongest and most competitively ready junior athletes to represent South Africa at the ISA World Junior Surfing Championships.
- To provide a clear and transparent selection framework for athletes working toward National Colours.
- To recognise performance, participation, and progression within the South African Surf Tour (SAST) junior high-performance pathway.

2. National Selection Panel

Selections for the 2027 South African Junior National Team will be made by four appointed members of the SSA Board of Directors, serving as the National Selection Panel.

3. Eligibility for National Team Selection

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- Be a South African citizen and hold a valid South African passport.
- Be a registered and fully compliant member of Surfing South Africa.
- Comply with the ISA International Representation Eligibility Criteria (Attached)
- Comply fully with the WADA Anti-Doping Code and have no sanction issued by SAIDS.

4. National Junior Team Composition

Team South Africa will consist of:

- 3 x U18 Boys
- 3 x U18 Girls
- 3 x U16 Boys
- 3 x U16 Girls

Total team size: 12 athletes **(Selections are made per division).**

5. Selection Basis — 2027 Ranking Dataset

Selections will be based primarily on results and performance within the SAST Junior Series, supplemented where appropriate by SSA-recognised supporting performance evidence.

5.1 Carry-Forward of Unused 2026 Events

Two SAST events from the 2026 season were not included in the 2026 Junior Team selection process.
In order to preserve fairness, ranking continuity, and pathway integrity:

- Those two events will automatically carry forward and form part of the 2027 selection dataset.
- They will be treated as valid qualifying results within the 2027 selection cycle.

5.2 2027 Selection Cut-Off Timing

The selection cut-off date for the 2027 ISA World Junior Surfing Championships will be:

- Two (2) months prior to the start date of the ISA Junior World Surfing Championships.
- Only results achieved on or before the cut-off date will count toward 2027 team selection.

The confirmed cut-off date will be published once ISA announces the official event dates.

Late-notice event date provision

If the ISA announces the official event dates with less than two (2) months' notice before the start of the ISA World Junior Surfing Championships, the selection cut-off date will take effect **immediately upon announcement of the official dates**.

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5.3 Post–Cut-Off Events Rolling Forward

Any SAST events that take place after the 2027 selection cut-off date will:

- Not form part of the 2027 team selection, and
- Will instead be carried forward into the following (2028) selection cycle.

The ranking methodology applied to carried-forward results will be confirmed and communicated at the start of the next selection cycle.

6. Division Selection Approach

Within each division of three athletes:

- Primary selection will be based on SAST rankings at the cut-off date, using the SSA-approved ranking model for 2027, and
- Supporting performance evidence may be considered where appropriate, including:
  - SA Junior Championships (where timing allows)
  - SA Open Championships junior performances
  - SSA-approved trial outcomes (if implemented)

Where athletes are age-eligible for multiple divisions:

- Athletes will be selected in their current age division, and
- The next in-line athlete on the SAST rankings will be considered for the higher division.

7. Transformation Representation (Case-by-Case Application)

Surfing South Africa remains committed to meaningful transformation, equitable opportunity, and sustainable development within the junior high-performance pathway.

Transformation representation:

- is not applied as a fixed allocation or quota, and
- is considered across the full team of 12 athletes, taking into account:
  - demonstrated competitive performance and progression
  - consistency of participation within the national pathway
  - athlete readiness to compete at international level
  - availability of eligible surfers from SSA's Transformation Process in that division
  - overall competitive balance and team composition

Where appropriate, these athletes may be included through:

- ranking-based qualification, and/or
- motivated discretionary selection aligned with SSA transformation objectives.

In addition to SAST ranking performance, the Selection Panel may — **where applicable and appropriate** — also consider results achieved by eligible Transformation Process athletes at:

- **2026 SA Junior Championships**, and
- **2026 SA Open Championships**

These events may be used as **supporting indicators of readiness, progression, and competitive capability**, particularly in circumstances where full participation across the SAST season may not have been financially or logistically attainable.

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Such considerations:

- apply **only to eligible athletes within SSA's Transformation Process**
- do **not replace SAST rankings**, and
- may be applied in marginal or discretionary selection decisions where athletes are otherwise comparable.

Where an athlete part of SSA's Transformation Process is unavailable, declines selection, or is assessed as not competitively ready, SSA may proceed with the next eligible SAST-ranked athlete.
Final decisions regarding Transformation consideration remain at the discretion of the SSA Board of Directors.

8. Selection Scenarios Linked to ISA Event Timing
Final timelines will be confirmed when ISA announces the official dates and venue.

Two operating scenarios apply.

Scenario A — ISA Junior World Surfing Championships Held before June 2027
Under this scenario, the ranking dataset will include:
- carried-forward 2026 events not used in prior selection, plus
- early-season 2027 SAST events completed prior to the cut-off

Selections will be confirmed as early as reasonably practical following the cut-off.

Scenario B — ISA Junior World Surfing Championships Held in the Second Half of 2027
Under this scenario:
- a broader 2027 ranking window may apply prior to the two-month cut-off
- the same dataset, carry-forward, and post-cut-off principles remain in effect

9. Team Management & Coaches
The Team Manager and Coaches will be:
- appointed by Surfing South Africa, and
- approved by the SSA Board

Appointments will be announced together with the official team.

10. Final Authority
All selections are subject to:
- approval of the SSA Board of Directors
- alignment with SSA selection and transformation policy
- compliance with ISA event regulations
- the best interests of South African junior surfing and athlete development

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ISA International Representation Eligibility (Refer to ISA Regulations)
(Applies to Both the SA Junior and SA National Teams)

Eligibility to represent South Africa at ISA-sanctioned events is governed by the International Surfing Association (ISA) international representation and Change-of-Nation regulations:

- Athletes may only represent South Africa where they hold valid South African citizenship and/or a South African passport in accordance with ISA nationality rules.
- Where an athlete has previously represented another country at ISA-sanctioned events (including ISA World Games, ISA-recognised continental events, or Olympic qualification events), eligibility to represent South Africa is not determined by Surfing South Africa and is instead subject to ISA approval.
- In such cases, representation may only proceed where a formal Change-of-Nation request is submitted through Surfing South Africa (as the Member Federation) and is approved by the ISA in line with their regulations.
- In terms of ISA rules, a standard waiting period (generally 18 months from the athlete's last representation for their previous nation) may apply unless otherwise reviewed or waived by the ISA Executive Committee.
- Once an athlete has completed an approved Change-of-Nation and has represented a new country at an ISA-sanctioned event, the change is deemed permanent and may not be reversed under ISA policy.
- All matters relating to nationality status, previous representation, transfer requests, waiting periods, or eligibility determinations fall under the authority of the International Surfing Association (ISA).