PO Box 127, Rondebosch, 7701
+27768494864 | danielle@surfingsouthafrica.co.za
www.surfingsouthafrica.co.za

# 2027 ISA World Surfing Games - Team Selection Criteria

Surfing South Africa (SSA) is committed to transparent, fair, and performance-based selection of national teams. The following criteria will apply to the selection of the South African Open Male and Female Surfing Teams for the 2027 ISA World Surfing Games.

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

**2. 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.

**3. National Team Composition**
Team South Africa will consist of:

- 3 x Open Males
- 3 x Open Females

Total team size: 6 athletes **(Selections are made per division).**

**4. Selection Hierarchy — 2027 Male and Female Surfers**
Team selection will be based on the following hierarchy, applied separately for male and female surfers:

4.1 World Surf League (WSL) Championship Tour (CT)
The highest-placed South African surfer on the WSL Championship Tour (CT), based on official WSL ratings at the selection cut-off date, will be selected first.

Selection will proceed in descending order of CT ratings until available South African team slots are filled.

4.2 World Surf League Challenger Series (CS)
Should any South African team slots remain unfilled after CT selections, these positions will be filled by the highest-rated South African surfers on the WSL Challenger Series (CS).

Selection will be based on official WSL Challenger Series ratings at the selection cut-off date, in descending order.

4.3 World Surf League Qualifying Series (QS)
Should any South African team slots remain unfilled after CS selections, these positions will be filled by the highest-rated South African surfers on the WSL Qualifying Series (QS).

Selection will be based on official WSL Q Series ratings at the selection cut-off date, in descending order.

PO Box 127, Rondebosch, 7701
+27768494864 | danielle@surfingsouthafrica.co.za
www.surfingsouthafrica.co.za

**5. Transformation Representation**

Surfing South Africa (SSA) remains committed to transformation, inclusivity, and the long-term development of surfers from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

In the selection of teams for the 2027 ISA World Surfing Games, SSA will take into consideration eligible surfers from SSA's Transformation Process across the Open Male and Open Female divisions.

Where eligible Transformation surfers are available and competitive within the selection framework, SSA will seek to include such surfers in the national team, either through standard qualification or through discretionary selection.

The selection of surfers from SSA's transformation process will be guided by:

- Competitive performance and rankings within the selection hierarchy outlined in Section 4.
- Readiness to compete at international level.
- The overall composition and competitive strength of the team; and
- The availability of eligible athletes in each division.

Final decisions regarding transformation representation will remain at the discretion of the SSA Board of Directors, in alignment with SSA's transformation objectives, selection policies, and the best interests of South African surfing.

**6. Events Counting, Ranking Periods and Selection Cut-Off Date**

The 2027 ISA World Surfing Games will take place in El Salvador from **22–30 May 2027**.

Following publication of the relevant WSL calendars, Surfing South Africa will confirm and publicly announce the counting events, applicable ranking periods and selection cut-off date for the Championship Tour (CT), Challenger Series (CS) and Qualifying Series (QS), in accordance with the selection hierarchy in Section 4.

These details will be published as an official addendum to these criteria. The addendum will specify which season's rankings apply to each tour and the final event results to be included.

The selection cut-off date will take into account the ISA's team registration deadlines and the time required for finalising selections, athlete confirmation and travel arrangements.

Until this addendum is published, no specific event or cut-off date should be regarded as confirmed for selection purposes. SSA will publish the addendum as soon as reasonably practicable following release of the relevant WSL calendars and before final team selection.

**7. Team Management and Coaches**

The Team Manager and/or Coach will be appointed by Surfing South Africa.

The appointed Manager/Coach will be announced concurrently with the official team announcement.

PO Box 127, Rondebosch, 7701
+27768494864 | danielle@surfingsouthafrica.co.za
www.surfingsouthafrica.co.za

**8. 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 surfing and athlete development

**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).