

Team Scotland - Selection Criteria

Introduction to the Team Scotland Selection Process

This document outlines the proposed selection criteria for Team Scotland coaches, specifically for Eurobowl XVI, Home Nations, and other national squad invitationals as appropriate.

The goal is to identify coaches who will represent Scotland with the highest standards of skill, sportsmanship, and community spirit.

It should be kept in mind that no 'one' metric of performance trumps another, and a coach's metrics need to be considered based on the likely race(s) they declare their preference for and how that compares and contrasts contextually to other coaches that have applied for the squad and how these races relate to the meta of the Eurobowl ruleset.

So, whilst performance metrics can potentially indicate the strongest twelve coaches for the squad, the decision ultimately will be one of nuance rather than being based on the blunt instrument of raw numbers. This is on the understanding that the numbers don't necessarily tell the whole story.

Likewise there is often not enough quality data that allow for apples with apples comparison that means selection can't just be left to data to determine selection without being sense-checked and investigated beyond cursory analysis.

Wider Picture: Key Considerations Before Data Analysis

Before diving into the raw numbers, the Selection Committee will consider broader qualities that are vital for representing Scotland:

- **Community Representation:** Is the coach someone who will represent the Scottish Blood Bowl community in the spirit that we embody, with the highest standards of sportsmanship and friendship to their teammates and coaches across the board
- **Team Harmony:** Will the coach bring positive energy, contributing to a collaborative and supportive team dynamic? Do they have the interpersonal skills to work effectively with fellow coaches and the selection committee, and will they help the team stay focused and united throughout the preparation process and at Eurobowl
- **Growth Mindset:** Does the coach demonstrate a willingness to evolve, challenge themselves, and seek improvement through both in-person and online play. Are they engaged with the broader Blood Bowl community and actively demonstrating the pursuit of new challenges by meeting the best coaches where they play.

The Metrics that Matter

Selection decisions will be informed by performance data from the past 12 and 24 months, viewed through the lens of:

- **Results against Coaches with an Elo of 200+**
- **Race-Specific Performance for the Coach's Declared Race(s)**
- **Overall Performance Across All Competitions**

Furthermore there will be more weight and confidence given to data gathered from longer tournament formats where at least four games are played, but more typically five or six rounds in Swiss format.

The Selection Committee will work with the open NAF dataset to ensure the latest and most accurate information is being analysed. Coaches will be benchmarked against top performers in the Scottish community and the wider community internationally. The following metrics will be analysed:

- **Loss Rate:** The percentage of games lost relative to total games played.
- **Win Rate:** A combination of wins and draws, showing the coach's ability to secure positive results.
- **Year High Coach Elo:** A snapshot of a coach's form in comparison to historical performance across all races.
- **Race Grid Analysis:** A coach's performance with their declared race(s) in the context of Eurobowl's meta.
- **Average Number of TDs Conceded per Game:** A measure of defensive stability.

Key Metrics Explained:

- **Loss Rate:** In team events like Eurobowl, reducing losses is critical. Ideally, a coach's loss rate should be below 15%. A lower loss rate contributes to the team's overall success, as it increases the likelihood of securing round wins through draws and wins.
- **Win Rate:** This is the most straightforward metric, reflecting a coach's success in individual matches. A high win rate (above 70%) over a large number of games is considered exceptional, and consistency is key.
- **Year High Elo:** This metric, sourced from [Denmark's Coach Rating system](#), compares a coach's performance over the last 12 months across all races. A coach with an Elo above 240 is considered to be performing at a high level.
- **Race Grid Analysis:** This looks at how well a coach performs with their preferred race(s) against the likely Eurobowl on-meta races. It will help assess how well they can handle expected match-ups.
- **Average TDs Conceded:** Coaches who concede fewer touchdowns are less likely to lose and are more likely to draw or win. The closer this number is to zero, the better.

Qualitative Factors Beyond the Numbers

In addition to the quantitative metrics, qualitative factors will play a crucial role in the selection process:

- **Application Form Responses:** The coach's application answers will be evaluated for their commitment, mindset, and alignment with Team Scotland's values.
- **Race Specialisation:** Coaches who specialise in a race likely to be competitive in the current Eurobowl meta will be given consideration. Versatility can be a strength, but too much variability may make it harder to assess their true value to the team.
- **Tournament Results:** Consistent performance at major UK tournaments (e.g., Mulligan's, Waterbowl, NAFC) will be considered. Top finishes (e.g., top 20) in these events are indicators of a coach's ability to perform under pressure.
- **Team Tournament Experience:** Experience in team-based tournaments and a coach's ability to contribute to overall team success will also be factored in. Success in team tournaments reflects a coach's potential to collaborate and contribute to our success.
- **International Experience:** While not a requirement, experience at international tournaments (e.g., Eurobowl, Bilbali) will be viewed positively, as it demonstrates a broader understanding and experience gained of competitive Blood Bowl across Europe.

The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee responsible for evaluating applications will consist of:

- **Team Scotland Captain** (Chair)
- **Team Scotland Vice Captain**
- **Scottish Blood Bowl Committee Officer** (as nominated by the SBBC Chairman)
- **Advisory Committee Member** from the Scottish Alumni

Outcome of the Selection Process

Once selections are made, the Selection Committee intends to publish the raw data and provide detailed contextual analysis of the metrics that informed the decisions.

Each applicant will receive feedback on their application, including recommendations for areas of improvement to help them advance their chances for future selection.

Team Scotland as a Squad

The final squad of twelve coaches will represent Scotland in both the Bowl and Open tournaments. The specific allocation between these events will be determined later in the season, allowing for maximum preparation time.

Conclusion

The Team Scotland Captain, Vice Captain, and the Selection Committee are committed to a rigorous and transparent selection process to assemble the strongest squad for Eurobowl XVI in Hungary.

All applicants will receive constructive feedback to support their development for future opportunities, thereby helping to nurture the growth of the Scottish Blood Bowl community. There is an open invitation to any Scottish Coach to have an informal conversation with the Captain about applying for the Team Scotland Squad for Eurobowl XVI and to talk about their Blood Bowl journeys in general.

We eagerly await the applications from all Scottish coaches who are interested in representing Scotland in Hungary in October 2025.

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