



TRIAL & SELECTION GUIDELINES

Selector & Assessor Guide

LONDON

MAVERICKS

TECHNICAL

TACTICAL

PHYSICAL

PSYCHOLOGICAL

2026–2027

Contents

Trial and selection criteria presented in a clear format for consistent assessor use.

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SECTION 01

Selection Framework

Four connected areas guide athlete observation and selection decisions.

Psychological Edge • Composure and decision-making under pressure, fatigue and changing momentum • Resilience after errors, turnovers or setbacks; quickly refocuses on the next action • Coachability and adaptability; listens, applies feedback and adjusts role or approach • Competitive intent, self-discipline and consistent effort on and off the ball • Positive communication, leadership and relationship-building with teammates, officials and staff • Emotional maturity and self-awareness appropriate to the athlete's age and stage of development	Tactical Superiority • Reads play early and anticipates the next phase, available space and likely opposition response • Understands positional role and team structures across centre pass, circle, through-court and defensive play • Creates, clears and uses space through effective timing, width, depth, screens, holds, rotations and resets • Recognises when to play forward, retain possession, reset or change tempo according to risk and opportunity • Adapts to teammates, opponents, scoreline, time and match momentum • Communicates and combines with units to create scoring opportunities, disrupt attack and win possession
Technical Excellence • Attacking • Defence • Transition	Physical Potential • Acceleration, deceleration, change of direction and change of pace to gain or deny space • Balance, body control, landing mechanics and elevation when receiving, contesting and releasing the ball • Repeat-effort capacity and work rate through sustained attack, defence and transition • Strength, stability and robustness to hold position, absorb contact and compete safely • Speed, reach, height and athletic qualities that can positively influence positional performance • Movement efficiency and long-term physical potential, considered in relation to age and maturation

Selectors consider the four areas together, using repeated observations to judge current performance, development potential and suitability for the programme.

SECTION 02

Technical Excellence

Behaviours to observe across attacking, defensive and transition phases.

ATTACKING

- Taking the ball as early as possible & securing possession
- Sighting forward options
- Early prep & effective movement to shift opponent
- Selection of appropriate pass
- Decision making that positively impacts retaining possession & scoring
- Plays with elements of disguise and surprise

DEFENCE

- Proactive defence, limiting opponent with effective marking
- Hard to beat 1v1
- Disrupting route to goal, delaying play & denying space
- Showing understanding of when to challenge or when to limit movement
- Working as a unit to create opportunity

TRANSITION

- Reacting quickly to a change in possession
- Understanding of individual role / responsibility
- Deny space and forward passes
- Recognising attacking opportunity / defensive dangers & responding quickly
- Working with team mates to dictate play and disrupt attacks.
- Retain possession and play proactively and positively

SECTION 03

Position-Specific Expectations

Key role priorities and the behaviours associated with exceptional performance.

POSITION	KEY PRIORITIES	EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES WILL...
GS	• Availability in the circle • Working with GA • Transition into defence	• Accelerate, CoD & elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • 80%+ accuracy & high volume on shots. Available as CC hits circle edge; knows when & where to exit circle. Sets up and reads opps from GA. • Understands when to implement rotating / holding / screens / pops within circle. Can recognise when to clear & when to offer. • Sets up effective goal line defence & continues to work until not effective. Always limits opp's attack. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.
GA	• Availability in attacking 1/3 & circle • Working with GS • Transition into defence	• Accelerate, CoD & elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • 80%+ accuracy on shots. Knows when & where to enter circle with GS to provide options; proactively sets up opps for GS. Always available on 1st or 2nd phase. • Understands when to implement rotating / holding / screens / pops within circle. Can recognise when to clear & when to offer. • Sets up effective defence & continues to work until not effective. Is proactive in defence, limiting GD's availability. Can win ball. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.

SECTION 03

Position-Specific Expectations

Key role priorities and the behaviours associated with exceptional performance.

POSITION	KEY PRIORITIES	EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES WILL...
WA	• Availability on 1st & 2nd phase CP • Accurate & varied feed to circle • Transition into defence	• Accelerate, uses CoP & CoD & can elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • Available on 1st & 2nd phase of CP; loses defence to arrive on circle edge free. Repositions effectively on circle edge after pass / receipt; recognises best position to take for pass / swing. Available for in/out pass to shooters. Communicates well with team on CPA. • 100% accuracy of feed delivery – has good vision of options and timing of shooters to ball. Can recognise an offer v a draw. • Sets up effective defence & continues to work until not effective. Is proactive in defence, limiting WD's availability & restricts back up option. Can win ball. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.
C	• Availability through court linking attack & defence • Accurate & varied feed to circle • Defence through court	• Accelerate, uses CoP & CoD & can elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • 100% accurate delivery of CP to forward & back options. Recognises and moves to most appropriate space. Loses defence to arrive on circle edge free. Repositions effectively on circle edge after pass / receipt; recognises best position to take for pass / swing. Available for in/out pass to shooters. Provides a consistent link between defence & attack. • 100% accuracy of feed delivery – has good vision of options and timing of shooters to ball. Can recognise an offer v a draw. • Dictates space & movement of opponent, limits possession, wins ball & forces errors. Works effectively with WD & GD to limit 1st phase of CP. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.

SECTION 03

Position-Specific Expectations

Key role priorities and the behaviours associated with exceptional performance.

POSITION	KEY PRIORITIES	EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES WILL...
WD	• 1v1 defence of CP, 1st & 2nd phase • Working with C to defend 2v1 • Availability on through court attack	• Accelerate, uses CoP & CoD & can elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • Wins ball on 1v1 CP, or forces opponent to receive high & wide. Limits movement & space of WA to create turnover opportunities. Wins ball from own opponent and others. Communicates well on CPD. • Recognises other's space, and repositions well. Does not get in the way. • Quick transition from defence to attack, provides option to ball, or finds space for next pass. Always offers and is available as a back up pass; repositions effectively. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.
GD	• Restrict possession by GA on CP & attacking 1/3 • Work with GK to restrict circle and shooting opportunities • Defence of shot • Availability on through court attack	• Accelerate, uses CoP & CoD & can elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • Dictates movement of GA to ball and in relation to GS. Wins ball from own opponent and others. Works with GK to limit both shooters in circle. Wins ball on 1v1 CP, or forces opponent to receive high & wide. • Excellent elevation on jumps; strong hands over ball to limit attack & shots. • Quick transition from defence to attack, provides option to ball, or finds space for next pass. Always offers and is available as a back up pass; repositions effectively. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.

SECTION 03

Position-Specific Expectations

Key role priorities and the behaviours associated with exceptional performance.

POSITION	KEY PRIORITIES	EXCEPTIONAL ATHLETES WILL...
GK	• Restrict shooting opportunities for GS • Work with GD to restrict circle and shooting opps • Delivery of effective back line pass	• Accelerate, uses CoP & CoD & can elevate from movement. Lands balanced, turns to goal, delivers accurate pass. Catches under pressure and recovers to deliver passes. • Dictates availability for shooters and confuses space for feeders. Effective 1v1 marking. Takes intercepts in & out of circle. Does not give away unnecessary contact or obstruction calls. • Excellent elevation on jumps; strong hands over ball to limit attack & shots. • 100% accurate delivery of back line passes. Quick transition from defence to attack; continues to provide options in goal 1/3 and is always available as a reset. • Consistently have low error rates. Positive & supportive on court.

SECTION 04

Assessment & Recording

How assessors identify, score and record athlete performance during trials.

1

Score every player

All players are scored on the scale of 0–4 by all assessors.

2

Record several observations

In each rotation, assessors should record several scores for each time they watch or assess a player. This will mean that you have several numbers for each player, and these will / may be varied.

3

Track errors and shooting stats

One assessor will record players' errors and shooting stats. Other assessors can do this, but it is not a priority.

4

Use evidence-based comments

Assessors can also write comments on athletes, which can help selectors differentiate between them when taking decisions. Please relate comments to skills / playing ability mentioned above.

5

Average each rotation

At the end of each trial rotation, assessors average their scores for that player in that rotation.

SECTION 04

Example Assessment Record

Illustrative trial scoring, comments, errors and overall scores.

EXAMPLE ASSESSMENT RECORD

Trialist No	1st Pos	2nd Pos	Trialist Scores	Comments	Errors noted	Overall Score
555	C	WA	2,2,3,1,2,2	Rushes to pass, doesn't turn and look downcourt. Does not hit circle edge consistently.	BP, BP, C	2
444	C	WA	3,3,2,3,3	Good vision on feed, uses 3rd sec pass well. Could restrict opp better in transition. Can be contact	C, C, O, O	3
333	WD	GD	3,3,4,3,4,3	Outstanding – tall, rangy. Arms over & can tip ball on jump. Sticks to player like glue on 1v1. Dictates in circle, comms with GK excellent	O	4
222	GA	WA	1,2,1,2,2,	No awareness of GS, takes her space. Shoots when could reset & misses. No defence on CP		1

SECTION 05

Scoring & Observation Guidance

Use the same scoring language and observation categories throughout the selection process.

Basic Skills Athlete scored on a scale of 0–4, where: 0 No demonstration of skill 1 Poor demonstration of skill 2 Some evidence of skill, but inconsistent 3 Strong evidence of skill, above average player 4 Consistently demonstrates skill, exceptional player	Errors Assessors record errors in trial, e.g.: • Bad passes (responsibility of ball carrier to deliver ball) • Ball handling (was the pass delivered accurately but player failed to receive) • Footwork, breaking, offside • Contact & obstruction in attack • Missed shots • Failed circle assists.	Physical Attributes Assessors to note: • Exceptional height • Exceptional speed, CoD, movement.
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SECTION 06

What Does Talent / Potential Look Like?

Age-appropriate skills and advanced skills used to recognise developing potential.

AGE GROUP	SKILLS	ADVANCED SKILLS
At U11		
	• Able to catch two handed and deliver an accurate pass • Can land balanced, and understands which is landing foot • Understands principles of game	• Can pass accurately from both shoulder and two handed pass • Can land balanced and catch on the move and on extension without footwork • Can identify space / intercept opportunities
At U13		
	• Able to catch on extension and on the move and control the ball without error • Makes good decisions on ball delivery; can identify the best option • Is developing a court position or area, and understands principles of that role in that area	• Can use both hands to control ball • Transitions effectively from attack to defence in match play • Uses space effectively to give options to ball and balance court • Tall, exceptional speed or athleticism

SECTION 06

What Does Talent / Potential Look Like?

Age-appropriate skills and advanced skills used to recognise developing potential.

AGE GROUP	SKILLS	ADVANCED SKILLS
At U15		
	• Able to catch with right and left hand and turn on outside and inside to deliver ball. • Has a core position and understands the roles and principles of that position. Transitions from attack to defence as needed. • Can deliver ball using a range of passes • Uses CoD and CoP to be available to ball carrier • Works in partnership with other players and understands structures.	• Can receive, catch and control difficult passes, and will deliver effective passes afterwards • Uses right and left hands to deliver passes • Dictates space and availability of opponent to maximise opportunity for self and team • Sees opportunity to challenge and win ball. • Always turns fully to goal; can turn in air • Tall, exceptional speed or athleticism
At U19		
	• Fully understands their role on court; knows when to be an option and when to keep away • Effective and accurate passes, even under fatigue. Uses a variety of passes effectively. • Wins ball or restricts opponent from being an option. • Works hard off ball to be available; preparation ahead of movement, and does not rely on speed / height	• Understands and implements structures to promote team mates – when to be a draw, screen, when they are not an option etc. • Technical aspect of role delivered with few errors (high shooting stats, high accuracy on assists / CP, few attacking contacts etc.) • Communicates well with partner / team mates • Tall, exceptional speed or athleticism