



Selection update

8 July 2025

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Refreshed panel structure; why?



Over the past year the Selection Strategy Committee has reviewed the existing panel structures to ensure they are fit for purpose.

- The panel structure has not been reviewed since the expansion of the EHL
- The 'star' panels became confused – B* was originally a fitness test signifier
- An opportunity to reset. Over time, panels have become top heavy with more promotion than demotion.
- Remove the pressure of one-off 'pass or fail' assessments (e.g. A Star to prem)
- Sometimes progression was based more on length of service and past performance, rather than form and application of the key characteristics.
- The current structure is very linear and offers limited flexibility for those who develop at different speeds

What is changing?

A structure closely aligned to the structure of the EHL, with more relevant names

- National 1, 2, 3 and 4

A specific talent pathway for those identified as high potential

More fluidity between panels, both up and down

- An umpire's panel will be based on current form, not past reputation
- Review of panels immediately after fitness testing window closes

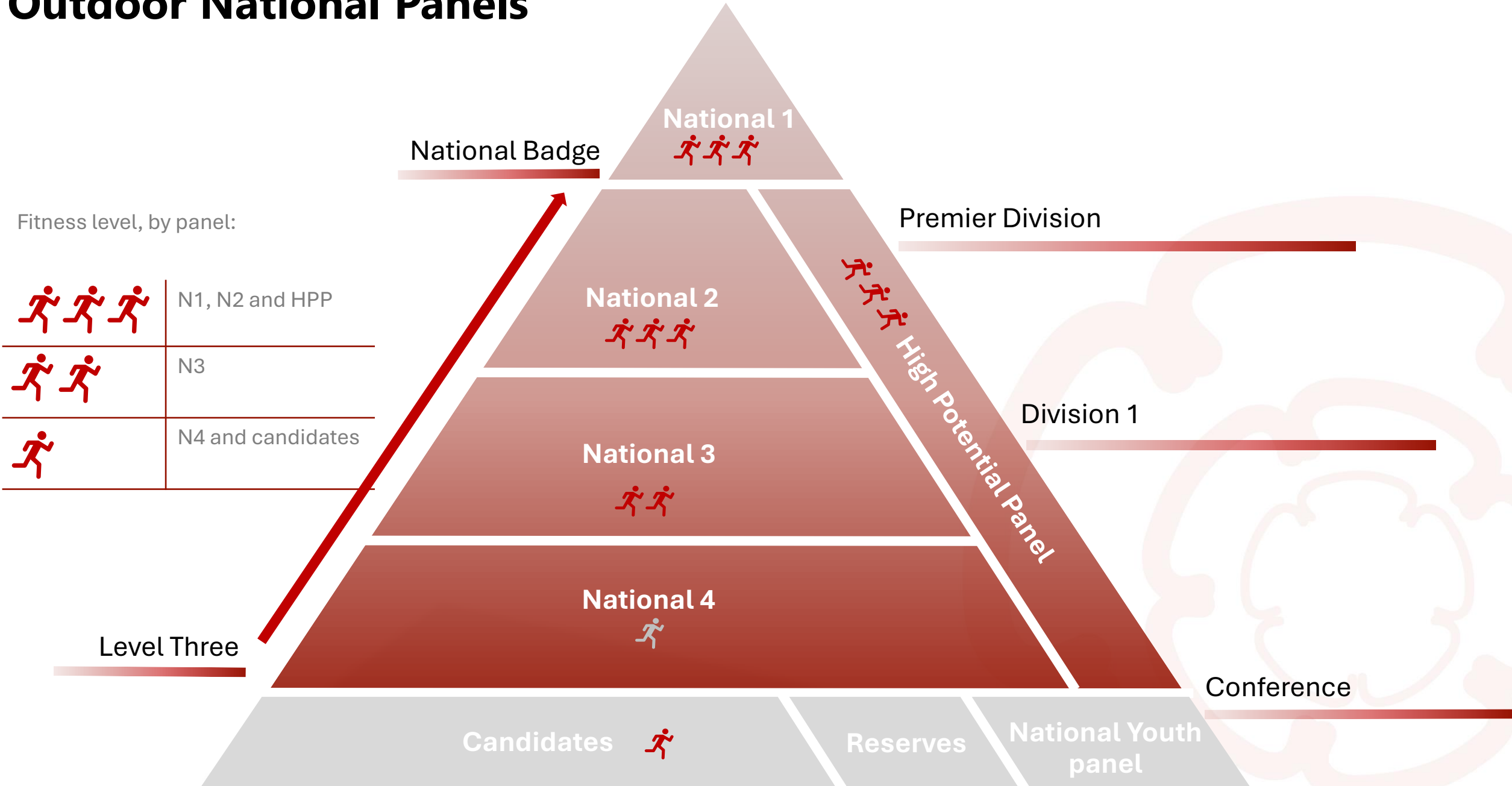
Lesser reliance on individual marks

- One mark of 9 does not guarantee a promotion

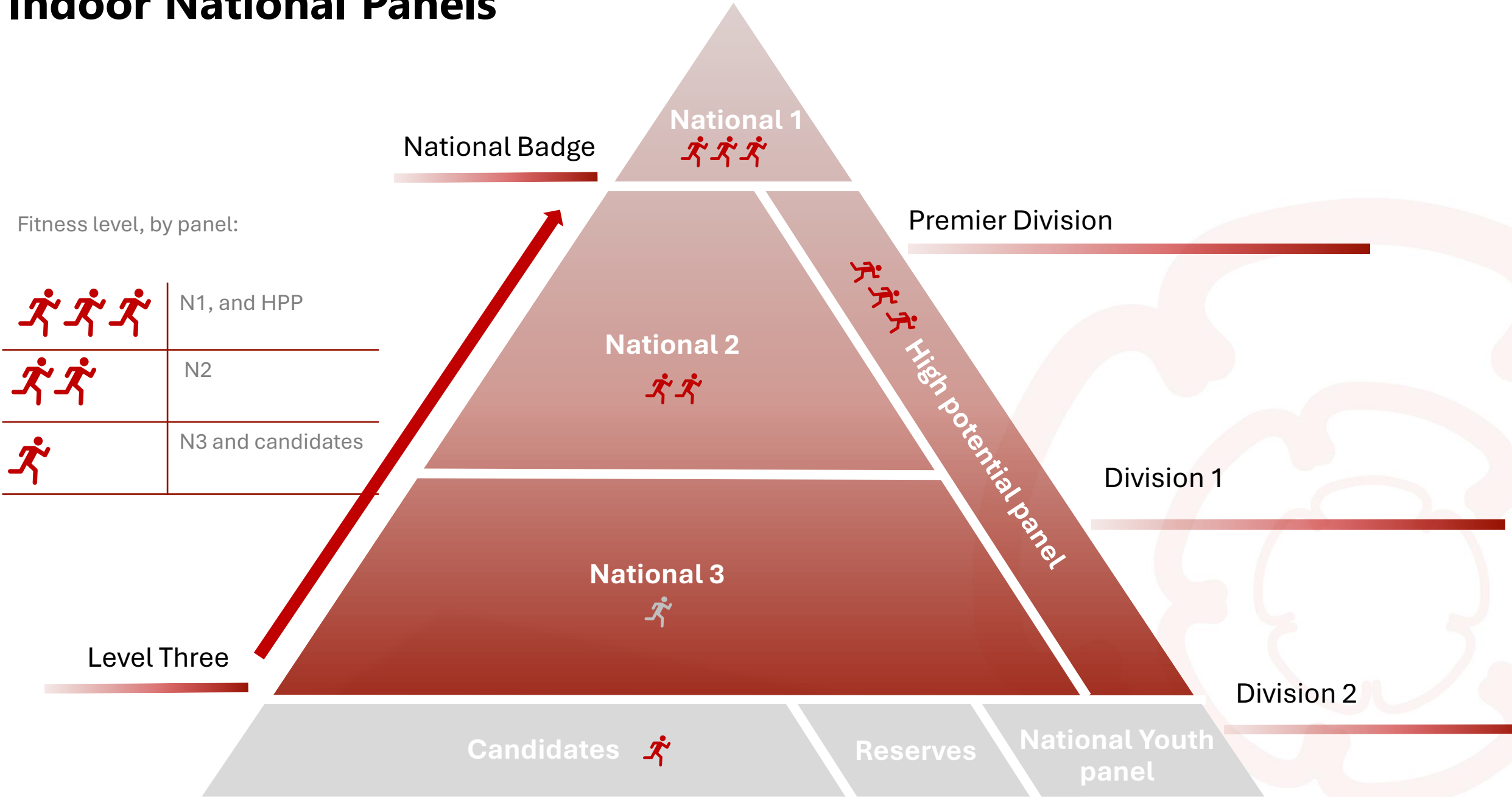
Whilst not necessarily a one-up and one-down approach, we should avoid becoming top heavy again



Outdoor National Panels



Indoor National Panels



NB: Area reserve panels as nominated by Areas annually Classified : Unrestricted

When does it take effect?

The new panel structure is effective immediately .

For outdoor umpires, the OPC (i.e. Panel Selectors) were engaged with identifying the most appropriate panel for each umpire.

Panel leads will be in contact with some members in the coming days.

The new panel list will be published on the NPUA website on 10th July.

If you have any queries, please speak to your current Panel Selector or Chair of OPC (Liz or Dawn).

The same process will take place for the Indoor panels in the coming weeks.



Updated fitness test policy



The NPUA Executive Committee has updated the fitness testing policy to align to the new panel structure.

- **Simplified**; previous policy was confusing with too many variables
- **Corrected**; entry level for indoor was higher than outdoor
- **Aligned**; discrepancy between cooper difficulty versus beep and yo-yo
- **Enhanced**; watched test for N1, N2 and HPP must be during the first window

Outdoor fitness testing windows:

- 12 July 2025 to 25 August 2025
 - For all umpires; a test must be required to umpire in the EHL
 - N1, N2 and HPP must be a watched test
- 1st December 2025 to 18th January 2026
 - N1, N2 and HPP only; may be a Strava test

Selection update – July 2025

Updated fitness test policy



Female umpires

Test type	Outdoor Panel	Indoor Panel	Age < 45	Age 45 & over
Beep	N1, N2 & HPP	N1 & HPP	Level 8	Level 7
	N3	N2	Level 7	Level 6
	N4 & Candidates	N3 & Candidates	Level 6.5	Level 5.5
Yo-Yo	N1, N2 & HPP	N1 & HPP	1,120m	1,000m
	N3	N2	1,000m	880m
	N4 & Candidates	N3 & Candidates	880m	760m
Cooper	N1, N2 & HPP	N1 & HPP	2,000m	1,850m
	N3	N2	1,800m	1,650m
	N4 & Candidates	N3 & Candidates	1,700m	1,550m

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Male umpires

Test type	Outdoor Panel	Indoor Panel	Age < 45	Age 45 & over
Beep	N1, N2 & HPP	N1 & HPP	Level 9	Level 8
	N3	N2	Level 8	Level 7
	N4 & Candidates	N3 & Candidates	Level 7.5	Level 6.5
Yo-Yo	N1, N2 & HPP	N1 & HPP	1,640m	1,280m
	N3	N2	1,240m	1,040m
	N4 & Candidates	N3 & Candidates	1,000m	920m
Cooper	N1, N2 & HPP	N1 & HPP	2,200m	2,000m
	N3	N2	2,000m	1,800m
	N4 & Candidates	N3 & Candidates	1,900m	1,700m

Next steps

10th July - New panels communicated on NPUA website (www.npua.co.uk)

12th July – First fitness test window opens

26th August – Outdoor panel review by OPC

- Insufficient fitness test for panel – moved to appropriate panel
- No fitness test – moved to reserve panel

30th & 31st August – NPUA Conference

- Follow up session on new panel structure and marking scheme

6th September (or before) – first batch of EHL appointments published



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