

# 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships

7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026, Germany

## SELECTION POLICY (Swimming)



### Introduction

*This Policy provides three avenues by which an athlete can be selected to the Ireland National Team ("Ireland National Team") for the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships. In all circumstances, an athlete is selected to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships and not selected to a specific event. These avenues ("Selection Stages") are described in further detail below*

*This Policy will only apply if:*

- 1. The 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships are held on the existing dates of 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2026*
- 2. The 2026 Irish Open Championships are held on the existing dates of 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

*This Policy sets out the Swim Ireland process for selecting athletes, additional coaches and/or team managers to:*

- (a) be considered eligible for nomination for selection which involves meeting the 'Eligibility Criteria' in Section 2 and the achievement of Consideration Times and requirements set out in the 'Selection Stages' below;*
- (b) be nominated for selection and;*
- (c) be selected to the Ireland National Team for swimming at the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships in Germany*

*Athletes, additional coaches, sports science/sports medicine practitioners and team managers must satisfy certain criteria to be considered eligible for nomination for selection. For those athletes selected to one or more National Team/s in the 2025-2026 season, the following priority tiering system will be intrinsic to athletes and home programme coach planning, preparation and focus with regard to summer international benchmark meet status:*

- 1. 2026 European Aquatics Swimming Championships (50m) for ROI athletes or 2026 Commonwealth Games for NI athletes*
- 2. 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships*

*Where an athlete is selected to more than one National Team from within those listed above, the priority tiering status should be considered in terms of preparation and focus*

*The role of the National Performance Director is to compile the names of athletes, additional coaches, sports science/sports medicine practitioners and team managers who meet the criteria for nomination for selection and to make recommendations to the National Selection Panel (athletes) and the Performance Senior Leadership Team (additional coaches, sports science/sports medicine practitioners and team managers)*

*The National Selection Panel is the expert panel, as defined in the 'Swim Ireland Selection Panel Terms of Reference' which selects athletes to the Ireland National Team*

*The Performance Senior Leadership Team comprises of the National Performance Director, the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, the Head of Sports Science & Sports Medicine, the Performance Manager and the three National Centre Head Coaches, and is the expert group which selects additional coaches, team managers and sports science/sports medicine practitioners to the Ireland National Team. The selection of additional coaches, team managers, and sport science/sports medicine practitioners will be overseen by an external observer*

*European Aquatics is the European federation/governing body for aquatic sports. World Aquatics is the international federation/governing body administering international competition in aquatic sports. European Aquatics is affiliated to World Aquatics*

### 1. Nomination for Selection

- i. The National Performance Director will nominate athletes to the National Selection Panel for selection to individual and/or relay events for the Ireland National Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the relevant Selection Stages as described below*
- ii. Individual Events*

*To be considered eligible for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via an individual event/s, athletes must:*

  - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Section 4 (Selection Stage 1) or 6 (Selection Stage 3) below; and*

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b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below

iii. Relay Events

To be considered eligible for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via a relay event/s, athletes must:

a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Section 5 (Selection Stage 2) below; and

b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below

iv. Nomination Trials

The Nomination Trials will be the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m) and performances achieved in all rounds of competition in individual events will be considered by the National Performance Director when making nominations to the National Selection Panel

### 2. Ireland National Team

- i. The National Selection Panel agrees to notify Swim Ireland of its selection or its refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after the National Selection Panel receives the National Performance Director's nominations after the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m)
- ii. There are seventeen individual events per gender in the European Aquatics Junior Championships programme for swimming. Up to a maximum of four athletes per individual event can be nominated by the National Performance Director for selection by the National Selection Panel
- iii. There are three relay events per gender and two mixed gender relay events in the European Aquatics Junior Championships programme for swimming. Athletes may be selected to the Ireland National Team via the Olympic relay events only. Up to a maximum of one relay team per relay event can be nominated by the National Performance Director for selection by the National Selection Panel

### 3. Athlete Eligibility

At the time that the National Performance Director is nominating athletes for selection to the National Selection Panel, athletes must meet the following criteria to be considered eligible for nomination:

- i. Be an Irish citizen and hold an Irish passport by the conclusion of the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m);
- ii. Be eligible to represent Ireland as per 'World Aquatics Competition Regulation No.3 - Sport Nationality' by the conclusion of the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m);
- iii. Comply with any European Aquatics and/or World Aquatics eligibility criteria and/or requirements. Swim Ireland, in consultation with European Aquatics, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by Swim Ireland, European Aquatics and World Aquatics) with the Swim Ireland decision being final
- iv. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2025-2026 season;
- v. Be available to fulfil all of the Ireland National Team obligations;
- vi. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have accepted their place on the National Programme in September 2025 (if offered);
- vii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and their registered Swim Ireland club, specifically by:
  - a. demonstrating behaviours, standards and expectations consistent with the Swim Ireland Performance Team Charter, and aligned with the aims and aspirations of the Swim Ireland Performance Plan 2024-2028; and
  - b. refraining from any conduct that has, or could reasonably be considered to have, brought themselves, Swim Ireland, and or the sport into disrepute; and
  - c. not being the subject of, or serving a sanction for, any anti-doping rule violation and/or a pending doping violation

### 4. Selection Stage 1 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1, athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 at the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m)
- ii. Under European Aquatics rules, a maximum of four athletes per individual event may be nominated for selection

### 5. Selection Stage 2 (Athlete Relay Events Only)

- i. In Selection Stage 2, athletes may be selected to the Ireland National Team via Olympic relay events only
- ii. Relays and additional athletes for relay events can be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team in Selection Stage 3 at the National Performance Director's professional discretion

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- iii. There is no obligation on the National Performance Director to nominate relays or additional athletes for relays to the National Selection Panel

### 6. Selection Stage 3 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

- i. In Selection Stage 3, additional athletes may be nominated for selection to the Ireland National team via an individual event at the professional discretion of the National Performance Director where an athlete has been unable to compete at Nomination Trials B for medical reasons (which are fully and professionally validated/documentated by an approved member of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Sports Institute Medical Team only). All costs pertaining to such a medical assessment will be borne in full by the athlete. There is no obligation on the National Performance Director to nominate an athlete(s) for selection to the National Selection Panel via Selection Stage 3 nor is there an obligation on the National Performance Director to accept the reasons provided by an athlete or Medical Team via Selection Stage 3
- ii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, to be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 3, athletes must record a time in a 50m pool in a meet recognised and approved by the National Performance Director equal to or better than the individual event Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 and record such a time in the period 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025 to 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- iii. In addition to Section 6ii, the athlete may be required to prove Competitive Readiness (Section 15) via a controlled performance such as a competition or an observed test or a time trial (Section 15v) prior to selections being confirmed

Table 1

Consideration Time Born 2008-2009	MALE	Event	FEMALE	Consideration Time Born 2008-2009
	Consideration Time Born 2010-2012		Consideration Time Born 2010-2012	
23.01	23.01	50m Freestyle	26.00	26.00
50.60	52.11	100m Freestyle	57.20	56.39
1:51.08	1:54.41	200m Freestyle	2:04.23	2:02.48
3:57.56	4:04.66	400m Freestyle	4:23.63	4:19.91
8:15.55	8:30.37	800m Freestyle	9:05.51	8:57.82
15:55.12	16:23.68	1500m Freestyle	17:23.31	17:08.60
26.26	26.26	50m Backstroke	29.38	29.38
56.65	58.34	100m Backstroke	1:03.99	1:03.09
2:03.88	2:07.59	200m Backstroke	2:19.56	2:17.59
28.52	28.52	50m Breaststroke	32.34	32.34
1:02.80	1:04.68	100m Breaststroke	1:11.75	1:10.74
2:16.61	2:20.70	200m Breaststroke	2:35.63	2:33.44
24.60	24.60	50m Butterfly	27.43	27.43
54.26	55.88	100m Butterfly	1:02.10	1:01.22
2:02.28	2:05.94	200m Butterfly	2:18.68	2:16.72
2:05.16	2:08.90	200m IM	2:20.82	2:18.84
4:29.36	4:37.41	400m IM	5:01.27	4:57.02

### 7. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. At the conclusion of the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m), those athletes who have achieved the criteria requirements within a Selection Stage (including the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to the National Selection Panel
- ii. The National Selection Panel shall select athletes to the Ireland National Team on the following priority basis:
  - a. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 1
  - b. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 2
  - c. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 3
- ii. In the event of more than four athletes achieving the consideration standard for an individual event, athletes will be ranked within their selection stage based on their fastest time achieved at the Nomination Trials
- iii. In the event of a tie (equal times achieved by two or more athletes) between any number of athletes within a Selection Stage, the athlete with the next fastest time achieved once from all rounds of competition in Olympic individual events at the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m) will be considered for nomination by the

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National Selection Panel. In the result of any subsequent tie remaining unresolved through this process, the process of the next fastest time will continue to be considered until the tie is broken

- iv. Subject to the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations' professional discretion, any athlete selected via an individual event may also be considered for additional individual event selections if the Ireland National Team do not already have four athletes qualified for the individual event in question via Selection Stages 1 or 3
- v. Subject to the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations' professional discretion, athletes selected via an individual event may also be selected to populate teams in relay events
- vi. Subject to the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations' professional discretion, athletes selected via relay events only may also be selected for individual events if the Ireland National Team do not already have four athletes qualified for the individual event in question via Selection Stages 1 or 3
- vii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 20)

### 8. Team Leader

- i. The Team Leader for the Ireland National Team at the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships will be nominated by the National Performance Director to the Performance Senior Leadership Team following the completion of the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m)

### 9. Team Head Coach/s

- i. The Head Coach/s for the Ireland National Team at the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships will be nominated for selection by the National Performance Director to the Performance Senior Leadership Team following the completion of the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m)

### 10. Team Coach Eligibility and Nomination Procedure

- i. Depending on the size of the Ireland National Team, any additional coach being considered for nomination must meet the eligibility and selection criteria outlined in the *Team Personnel Selection Policy for National Programmes and National Teams*. A copy of this document can be requested by emailing [niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie](mailto:niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie)
- ii. Team Coaches may be selected in an offsite (Holding Camp only), onsite (Championships only) or combined (Holding Camp and Championships) role and such selections will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays selected, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole. As such, a Team Coach may not be required/selected

### 11. Team Manager Eligibility and Nomination Procedure

- i. Any team manager being considered for nomination must meet the eligibility and selection criteria outlined in the *Team Personnel Selection Policy for National Programmes and National Teams*. A copy of this document can be requested by emailing [niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie](mailto:niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie)
- ii. Team Managers may be selected in an offsite (Holding Camp only), onsite (Championships only) or combined (Holding Camp and Championships) role and such selections will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays selected, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole.

### 12. Sports Science/Sports Medicine Practitioner Eligibility

- i. Depending on the size of the Ireland National Team, any sports science/sports medicine practitioner being considered for nomination must meet the eligibility and selection criteria outlined in the *Team Personnel Selection Policy for National Programmes and National Teams*. A copy of this document can be requested by emailing [niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie](mailto:niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie)
- ii. Sports Science/Sports Medicine Practitioners may be selected in an offsite (Holding Camp only), onsite (Championships only) or combined (Holding Camp and Championships) role and such selections will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays selected, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole. As such, Sports Science/Sports Medicine Practitioners may not be required/selected

### 13. Ireland National Team Obligations (General)

In accepting a selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships, athletes accept and agree that training with/competing for the Ireland National Team takes precedence over training for/competing in any other competition, including that for another Team/Club or University

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programme in Ireland or anywhere in the world. Swim Ireland require any athlete, coach, sports science/sports medicine practitioner or team manager who has been selected to represent the Ireland National Team at the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships to meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to Section 16. Swim Ireland oblige all selected athletes and, where relevant, all Ireland National Team staff to:

- i. Agree not to disclose any selected Ireland National Team member name to the press or any other media (including their own social media) until Swim Ireland have themselves announced this to the press and other media
- ii. Compete in other Swim Ireland events in 2026 (if selected and required to do so by the National Performance Director)
- iii. Complete, sign and comply with the Swim Ireland National Team Code of Conduct
- iv. Commit to the values of the Swim Ireland Performance Team Charter
- v. At the date of the decision of the National Selection Panel of selections, all Ireland National Team athletes must ensure that they are submitting a daily online submission via the Swim Ireland Management System (a space formerly occupied by Kitman) each training and competition day
- vi. Complete a Swim Ireland Medical Form prior to competing at the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships
- vii. Abide by the Uniform Policy, the Media Policy, the Appearances Policy, the Betting, Gambling & Integrity Policy and the Sports Supplements Policy of the Swim Ireland National Team
- viii. Comply with Swim Ireland and World Aquatics swimwear regulations
- ix. Adhere to all prescribed travel arrangements which might involve different travel dates to other members of the Ireland National Team
- x. Not take holidays between the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m) and the 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships
- xi. Make themselves available for all Ireland National Team activities designated by the National Performance Director (including, but not limited to, any associated Ireland National Team camps) as part of or in addition to the National Programme or Regional Programme. No Team member will be allowed to leave a National Team camp or undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the Ireland National Team camp, including any external media, sponsor or social activities. Under exceptional circumstances, written approval to be excluded from activities can be given by the National Performance Director

### 14. Team Uniform/Kit

- i. All Team uniform and kit will be provided for and to the Team by Swim Ireland
- ii. Athletes accepting racing suits from Swim Ireland must wear them (or another branded suit of the same sponsor) for all of their races. Athletes may exercise 'freedom of choice' in the wearing of a non-sponsor suit, but such a suit must be unbranded

### 15. Competitive Readiness

'Competitive Readiness' means the combined professional opinion of the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s following advice, where necessary, from a member/s of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Institute Medical Team as to the ability of an athlete who has been selected to represent this Ireland National Team to achieve an equal or superior performance in their selected Olympic event(s) over their performance achieved to qualify for selection

- i. Athletes who, in the opinion of the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s, do not remain Competitively Ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury, illness, application to training, performance behaviour or other reasons, may be removed from this Ireland National Team
- ii. Athletes and their home programme coaches shall immediately report any injury, illness, change in training, change in application to training and/or performance behaviour, that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level on this National Team, to the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s in writing, via e-mail
- iii. In the case of lack of fitness, injury or illness, it shall be necessary for the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s to consider recommendations made by a member/s of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Institute Medical Team
- iv. In the case of application to training, or performance behaviour or other reasons, it shall not be necessary for the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s to

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seek recommendations from a member/s of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Institute Medical Team

- v. In the case of lack of fitness, injury or illness, such athletes may be subject to a 'Proof of Readiness Test' to be determined by the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s and appropriate member/s of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Institute Medical Team. The Proof of Readiness test will consist of a controlled performance such as a competition or an observed test or a time trial
- vi. Athletes who are notified of a Competitive Readiness concern shall not travel with the Ireland National Team to any National Team event and/or an associated Holding Camp, unless and until the opinion of the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s has been communicated to that athlete that the athlete does meet their opinion of Competitive Readiness. If the athlete is at the National Team competition or the associated Holding Camp and the opinion is that the athlete is not Competitively Ready, then he/she may be required to return home immediately
- vii. The opinion on Competitive Readiness made by Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s is final

### 16. Withdrawal & Removals

At any stage an athlete, team coach, team manager or sports science/sports medicine practitioner may withdraw from the Ireland National Team but may only do so in extenuating circumstances

- i. An athlete, team coach, team manager or sports science/sports medicine practitioner may be removed from:
  - a. Eligibility for nomination, or;
  - b. Nomination for selection, or;
  - c. Selection to the Ireland National Team for any of the following reasons:
    - Behaviour that is inconsistent with the National Team Code of Conduct. A copy of this document is available via [niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie](mailto:niamhmcdonnell@swimireland.ie);
    - found to be in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by Swim Ireland, Sport Ireland and/or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);
    - unable or unwilling to fully comply with the Ireland National Team Obligations (Section 13)
    - decline selection to or withdraw from this Ireland National Team
- ii. An athlete may be removed from the Ireland National Team before or after nomination for selection or before or after selection if he/she, in the opinion of the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s, does not have Competitive Readiness (Section 15)

### 17. Replacement or Addition

- i. If an athlete, team coach, team manager or sports science/sports medicine practitioner is removed from or withdraws from the Ireland National Team, that individual may be replaced by another eligible individual who meets the required standards set out in this Policy
- ii. The National Performance Director, where in his opinion it is in the best interests of the Ireland National Team, may recommend that any number of additional athletes, team coaches, team managers and/or sports science/sports medicine practitioners be added to the selected Ireland National Team, subject to such additional individuals meeting the required standards set out in this Policy
- iii. Any replacement or addition of an individual to the Ireland National Team shall be made by way of nomination by the National Performance Director, and which nomination is approved by the National Selection Panel (in the case of athletes) or the Senior Leadership Team (in the case of team coaches, team managers and/or sports science/sports medicine practitioners)

### 18. Unforeseen Circumstances

- i. In the event that this Policy is silent on any matter which arises in the administration or application or interpretation of any selection process or decision, then the National Selection Panel shall have discretion to determine any issue as they deem fit so long as it is exercised fairly and quickly

### 19. Amendments

- i. The Performance Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to make changes to this Policy which, in its discretion, are necessary. No such changes shall be made after the commencement of the 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m) unless the changes relate to the National Selection Panel exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions (Section 18)

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- ii. The Performance Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to review and modify this Policy or a decision related to the selection process in the case of rule or policy changes from European Aquatics and/or World Aquatics that affect the criteria set out in this Policy
  - iii. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via [www.swimireland.ie](http://www.swimireland.ie)

#### 20. Appeals

- i. Any appeal against a selection made by the National Selection Panel must be made in accordance with the Swim Ireland Selection Appeals Procedures, available via [www.swimireland.ie](http://www.swimireland.ie)
- ii. Athletes should be aware of the strict time limits contained within the Swim Ireland Selection Appeals Procedures, which are designed with the intention of resolving issues expediently and fairly

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