



Water Polo

# National Squad Selection Policy

---

November 2018

Ireland Water Polo through the National Water Polo Committee will follow a pathway providing water polo athletes across both genders and at the appropriate ages the opportunity to participate and compete at international events and competitions to the highest level possible within means and resources.

## **NATIONAL SQUAD SELECTION POLICY**

### **National Squads**

1001. Ireland Water Polo through the National Water Polo Committee will follow a pathway providing water polo athletes across both genders and at the appropriate ages the opportunity to participate and compete at international events and competitions to the highest level possible within means and resources.
1002. The NWPC will provide a structure of academies, education opportunities, training camps and national competitions to develop the sport of water polo in Ireland. A significant element of the development of the sport and the individual athletes will be international competition. Participation in international events will be by the Ireland Water polo team(s) representing Ireland and with club/interprovincial teams at international club competitions.
1003. The National Team(s) offer the opportunity to compete in a meaningful and beneficial competitive environment to further the development of Irish water polo athletes at all competition levels towards senior international success. Team selections will be made taking into consideration:
- a. Swim Ireland and Ireland Water Polo National Programme and long-term development plans
  - b. The development needs of individual athletes enabling them to compete on the Ireland team at the highest international level achievable.
  - c. The opportunity to be a successful national team at all events.

### **Selection Process**

1004. An open selection trial will take place annually each season prior to Christmas in four categories - Men and Women, Junior Boys and Girls. Junior boys and girls will be under 18 years of age.
1005. It is anticipated that there will be sub categories within the Junior category in both Boys and Girls reflecting the variable competition ages between seasons and as competitions evolve. The NWPC coach selection will allow for delegation of responsibility within the Junior coaching group with the provision of assistant coaches and cooption of additional coaches as required.

### **Open Selection Trials**

1006. All national squads will be selected through an Open Selection Trial. The Open Selection Trial dates will normally be notified in the National Fixtures by the Fixtures Secretary in sufficient time to allow the National Water Polo Committee (NWPC) complete coach selection where required and to allow athletes prepare for selection trials. It is envisaged that all national league competitions will have commenced prior to the Open Selection Trial dates.

1007. National coaches will coordinate the structure and conduct of the national trials approved by the National Water Polo Committee. The structure may include water polo skills assessment, swim assessment and time trials, and fitness assessment. A member of the National Water Polo Committee will attend all Open Selection Trials as the point of contact between the national coaches and the National Water Polo Committee.
1008. National coaches and Team managers will ensure accurate records of dates, attendance, trial activities and athlete performance are maintained.

### **Squad Selection**

1009. The National Coaches of each squad will conduct the selection of their respective national squad. On completion of the Open Trial the National Coach will advise the National Water Polo Committee, through the committee point of contact, of the recommended squad selection, for approval by the committee.
1010. The athletes selected will be notified directly and formally by letter by the Secretary National Water Polo Committee and final selections will be published by the National Water Polo Committee on the Swim Ireland water polo site. The national coach will advise all non-selected athletes/players verbally of reasons for non-selection.
1011. In cases where any athlete cannot attend an Open Trial, due to exceptional circumstances which must be notified in writing to the National Coach in advance, inclusion may be considered on a national squad where consultation has taken place between the relevant national coach and the athlete's club coach and the athlete.

### **Appeals**

1012. Players may appeal non-selection for national squads where they believe the Selection Policy has been contravened.
1013. Any appeals in relation to non-selection for national squads must be made in writing to the National Water Polo Committee within 7 days of the trials via [waterpolo@swimireland.ie](mailto:waterpolo@swimireland.ie) . Players should be aware of this time limit which is set with the intention of resolving issues expediently and fairly.

### **National Squads**

1014. Each national squad will comprise a panel of 22 outfield players (where sufficient number attend a trial) and 4 goalkeepers (where sufficient number attend a trial). National squads will be selected by the relevant national coach and assistant coaches.
1015. National junior squads will be structured in two-year age bands. National junior squads may have up to five players who are eligible to play in a younger age band up to four years out of age. An example is for the year band 2002/3, up to five athletes from the 2004/5 band may be included.

**Age Bands**

1016. Age bands will be determined by the National Water Polo Committee annually in advance of the national squad selections in consideration of anticipated international competitions.

**National Teams**

1017. National teams will normally consist of a minimum of 13 (or 15) athletes/players inclusive of at least one goalkeeper competition dependent. It is envisaged that two goalkeepers will normally be selected, coach selection dependent.

1018. Each selected national team of 15 players, at junior level, may have up to three (3) players who are eligible to play in the younger two-year age band. Each selected team of 13 players may have up to two (2) players who are eligible to play in the younger two-year age band.

1019. National team selection will be made from each national squad and approved, announced and published by the National Water Polo Committee in advance of each tournament. The selection of teams from national squads will be conducted by the relevant national coach and assistant coach. Only players who are national squad members may be selected for national teams. The national coach will advise squad members of their non-selection for any team and provide detailed feedback to each player verbally.

**Athlete Eligibility**

1020. All athletes/players must qualify under the following criteria prior to consideration:
- Hold an Irish passport, or a UK passport showing the holder's birthplace to be in Northern Ireland, at the time of selection.
  - Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with FINA General Rule 2.5 which states that *"Competitors, who have more than one nationality according to the laws of the respective nations must choose one "Sport Nationality" and be affiliated to one Member only"*
  - Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the season during which selection is being made.
  - Be available to fulfil national squad and team commitments.

**Team Commitments**

1021. Full team commitments will be confirmed following the selection of the national squad. All national squad and national team members will be required to:
- Comply with the Athlete Commitment Agreement in the Swim Ireland Code of Conduct. A breach of the Swim Ireland Code of Conduct will result in de-selection from the squad/team
  - Complete a Swim Ireland Medical Form on or prior to commencement of squad training
  - Comply with Swim Ireland and FINA regulations.
  - Make themselves available for all squad and team activities designated by the relevant national coach.

**Replacements**

1022. Replacements of athletes who withdraw from the national squad may be considered at the discretion of the relevant national coach if viewed to be in the best interest of over-all squad cohesion and performance. Prior approval of the National Water Polo Committee is required prior to any athlete being invited into a national squad as a replacement.
1023. Replacement of players/athletes who withdraw from a national team will only be made from the relevant national squad by the national coach and only with prior approval of the National Water Polo Committee.
1024. The Secretary of the National Water Polo Committee will issue formal notification to the player/athlete concerned.

**Queries**

1025. Any queries should be directed to the National Water Polo Committee via [waterpolo@swimireland.ie](mailto:waterpolo@swimireland.ie)