

XXII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022
28th July – 8th August 2022, Birmingham, England
NOMINATION POLICY FOR DIVING



Introduction

This Policy provides two avenues by which an athlete can be nominated to Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland (CGNI) for selection to the Northern Ireland Team (“Northern Ireland Team”). These avenues (or “Nomination Stages”) are described in further detail below.

This Policy will only apply if the 2022 Commonwealth Games are held on the existing dates of 28th July – 8th August 2022 and/or are held in the existing location of Birmingham, England. If there is any postponement of the 2022 Commonwealth Games beyond this period and/or a change of location, a new Nomination Policy will be required

Selection Philosophy

Sporting success at Commonwealth Games for CGNI means; more medals, more sports winning medals, more sports achieving Top-8 finishes and more athletes achieving Top-8 finishes. To contribute to the achievement of these aims the nomination standards for the 2022 Commonwealth Games have been set at a level with this outcome in mind.

Swimming, Para-Swimming and Diving will operate as an integrated team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Diving places are in addition to places allocated for Swimming and Para-Swimming by CGNI. The Team Leader will support the swimming, para-swimming, and diving team members.

This Policy has been agreed by Swim Ulster Ltd and lodged with CGNI. It sets out the Swim Ireland National Selection Panel process for selecting athletes, additional coaches and/or team managers to:

- a. be considered eligible for nomination for selection;*
- b. be nominated for selection and;*
- c. be selected to the Northern Ireland Team for swimming at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham*

This Policy also states who will be the Team Leader and the Head Coach (Diving) for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Athletes must satisfy certain criteria to be considered eligible for nomination for selection. In addition to the criteria for eligibility for nomination for selection, there are minimum qualification standards which the athlete needs to meet to be considered for nomination by the National Selection Panel.

The National Selection Panel is the expert panel, as defined in the ‘Swim Ireland Selection Panel Terms of Reference (November 2020)’, which nominates an athlete, additional coaches and/or team managers for selection.

The actual selection of any athlete will be made by CGNI. As there is a finite, and yet to be confirmed, number of places for diving, recording a nomination standard, as detailed in this document, does not guarantee selection.

The role of the National Performance Pathway Manager is to compile the names of athletes, additional coaches and team managers who meet the criteria for nomination for selection and to make recommendations to the National Selection Panel.

The Performance Senior Leadership Team comprises of the National Performance Director, the National Head Coach (Diving), the Head of Physical Preparation, the Head of Performance Analysis and the National Performance Pathway Manager.

FINA is the Federation Internationale de Natation and is the international federation/governing body administering international competition in aquatic sports.

1. Nomination for Selection

- i. The National Selection Panel will nominate athletes to CGNI for selection as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the qualifying period outlined in Section 6*
- ii. To be considered eligible for nomination to individual events for the Northern Ireland Team, athletes must:*
 - a. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below; and*
 - b. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Section 4 below*

2. Northern Ireland Team

- i. CGNI is the body which has the power to select an athlete or member of staff to the Northern Ireland Team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England
- ii. CGNI will determine the team size and personnel
- iii. CGNI agrees to notify Swim Ulster Ltd of its selection or its refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after CGNI receives the National Selection Panel’s nominations following the conclusion of each Nomination Stage
- iv. There are three individual events per gender in the Commonwealth Games programme for diving. Athletes may be selected to the Northern Ireland Team via the two Olympic individual events per gender only. Up to a maximum of three athletes can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel per individual event

3. Athlete Eligibility

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

- i. Be eligible to represent Northern Ireland as per Commonwealth Games Federation Bylaw 17. A copy of this document can be requested by emailing admin@swimulster.net;
- ii. Be a registered member of a Swim Ulster Ltd club based in Northern Ireland for the 2021-2022 season where any membership category is accepted;
- iii. Declare Northern Ireland as their Commonwealth country of representation prior to the commencement of the 2021-2022 season;
- iv. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster Ltd;
- v. Be available to fulfil all of the Northern Ireland Team obligations;
- vi. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland ‘On This Performance Team’ booklet;
- vii. Not be the subject of a current anti-doping ban, a current doping violation and/or a pending doping violation. Swim Ulster Ltd shall inform CGNI immediately of the outcome of any anti-doping test of any athlete nominated for selection;
- viii. Comply with any Commonwealth Games Federation, FINA and CGNI eligibility criteria and/or requirements. CGNI, in consultation with FINA and the Commonwealth Games Federation, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by the Commonwealth Games Federation, FINA and Swim Ulster Ltd Ltd) with the CGNI decision being final

4. Nomination Stage 1

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team in Nomination Stage 1, athletes must have been selected for and competed at the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan, and will be specifically subject to Section 11

5. Nomination Stage 2

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team in Nomination Stage 2, athletes must record a Performance Score, within the qualifying period at one of the events approved by the Commonwealth Games Federation outlined in Section 5, which is equal to or better than the individual event Nomination Standard detailed in Table 1. All rounds of competition within the Nomination Trials (heat and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status

Table 1

MALE	Event	FEMALE
Nomination Standard		Nomination Standard
347	3m Springboard	240
285	10m Platform	232

6. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. At the conclusion of the qualifying period (1st January - 30th April 2022 inclusive) those athletes who have achieved the requirements of Section 5 or Section 5 (plus meeting the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to CGNI by the National Selection Panel
- ii. Commonwealth Games approved competitions are:
 - o Any FINA or LEN approved competitions (including the Olympic Games, FINA World Championships, LEN European Championships and/or FINA World Cup events) scheduled during the qualifying period
 - o The British Diving National Cup and British Senior National Championships scheduled during the qualifying period
- iii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 15)

7. Team Leader

- i. The Team Leader for the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games will be the National Performance Pathway Manager

8. Team Head Coach (Diving)

- i. The Head Coach for the Northern Ireland Team (Diving) at the Commonwealth Games will be the Swim Ireland National Head Coach (Diving)

9. Northern Ireland Team Obligations

CGNI will publish a suite of obligations which must be agreed to by any athlete, coach or team manager who has been selected to represent the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games. In addition to CGNI obligations, Swim Ulster Ltd oblige all athletes selected by CGNI to:

- i. Complete, sign and comply with the Swim Ireland National Team Code of Conduct
- ii. Comply with the CGNI Team Members Agreement
- iii. Complete a Swim Ulster Ltd Medical Form prior to competing at the Commonwealth Games
- iv. Commit to the values of the Swim Ireland National Squad Athlete Charter
- v. 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
- vi. At the date of the decision of CGNI selections, all athletes selected must ensure that they are making the required Kitman submission each training day
- vii. Comply with Swim Ulster Ltd, CGNI and FINA swimwear regulations
- viii. Adhere to all prescribed travel arrangements which might involve different travel dates to other members of the Team
- ix. Not take holidays between the end of the qualification period and the start of the Commonwealth Games
- x. Not attend overseas camps and/or competitions between the end of Qualification Period outlined in Section 5 and the start of the Commonwealth Games without prior written approval from the National Performance Pathway Manager
- xi. Make themselves available for all Northern Ireland Team activities designated by the National Performance Pathway Manager (including, but not limited to, a 2022 National Team Day, any CGNI Pre-Event Team Days, preparation camps and/or holding camps)
- xii. No Team member will be allowed to leave a Team camp or undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the Team camp, including any external media, sponsor, or social activities. Failure to attend the required activities could result in an athlete being de-nominated. Under exceptional circumstances, written approval to be excluded from activities can be given by the National Performance Pathway Manager
- xiii. Nominated athletes, team coaches, and team managers agree not to attend the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony
- xiv. Nominated athletes, team coaches, team managers, Swim Ulster Ltd and Swim Ireland agree not to disclose any nominated name to the press or any other media (including their own social media) until CGNI have selected the team member for the Commonwealth Games and announced this to the press and other media
- xv. Nominated athletes, team coaches, team managers, Swim Ulster Ltd and Swim Ireland agree to abide by all CGNI and Commonwealth Games Federation requirements

10. Team Uniform/Kit

- i. All Team uniform and kit (other than competition kit) will be provided for and to the Team by CGNI

- ii. All Team competition kit will be provided for and to the Team by Swim Ulster Ltd or CGNI
- iii. Athletes accepting competition kit from Swim Ulster Ltd and/or CGNI must wear them (or another branded kit of the same sponsor) for all of their events. Athletes may exercise 'freedom of choice' in the wearing of non-sponsor kit, but such kit must be unbranded

11. Competitive Readiness

'Competitive Readiness' means the combined professional opinion of the National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager and the National Head Coach (Diving) following advice, where necessary, from a member/s of the CGNI Medical Team as to the ability of an athlete who has been nominated for selection or who has been selected to represent the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games to achieve an equal or superior performance in their nominated Olympic event(s) at or above the Nomination Standards detailed in Table 1.

- i. Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Performance Director, National Performance Pathway Manager and National Head Coach (Diving), 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 the Northern Ireland 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 at the Commonwealth Games, to the National Performance Pathway Manager in writing, via e-mail
- iii. In the case of lack of fitness, injury, or illness, it shall be necessary for the National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager, and the National Head Coach (Diving) to consider recommendations made by a member/s of the CGNI Medical Team
- iv. In the case of application to training, or performance behaviour or other reasons, it shall not be necessary for the National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager, and the National Head Coach (Diving) to seek recommendations from a member/s of the CGNI 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 National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager, the National Head Coach (Diving), and appropriate a member/s of the CGNI 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 Northern Ireland Team to any Team event including the Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth Games Holding Camp, unless and until the opinion of the National Performance Director, National Performance Pathway Manager, and the National Head Coach (Diving) has been communicated to that athlete that the athlete does meet their opinion of Competitive Readiness. If the athlete is at either the Commonwealth Games or the Commonwealth Games Holding Camp and the opinion is that the athlete is not Competitively Ready, then he or she may be required to return home immediately
- vii. The opinion on Competitive Readiness made by National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager, and the National Head Coach (Diving) is final

12. Withdrawal & Removals

At any stage an athlete, coach or team manager may withdraw from the Northern Ireland Team but may only do so in extenuating circumstances

- i. An athlete, coach or team manager may be removed from:
 - a. Eligibility for nomination, or;
 - b. Nomination for selection, or;
 - c. Selection to the Northern Ireland Team for any of the following reasons:
 - Behaviour that is inconsistent with the National Team Code of Conduct
 - Found to be in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by Swim Ulster Ltd, Swim Ireland, Sport Ireland, UK Anti-Doping Agency and/or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);
 - Unable or unwilling to fully comply with the Northern Ireland Team Obligations (Section 8)
- ii. An athlete may be removed from the Northern Ireland Team before or after nomination for selection or before or after selection if, in the opinion of the National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager and National Head Coach (Diving), he/she does not have Competitive Readiness (Section 11)

13. 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

14. Amendments

- i. Subject to Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI approval, 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 Qualifying Period outlined in Section 5 unless the changes relate to the National Selection Panel exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions (Section 13)
- ii. Subject to Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI approval, the Performance Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to review and modify this Policy or a decision related to the nomination process in the case of rule or policy changes from the Commonwealth Games Federation and/or FINA that affect the criteria set out in this Policy
- iii. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via www.swimulster.net

15. Appeals

- i. Any appeal against a nomination for selection made by the National Selection Panel is a matter for the athlete in question and Swim Ulster Ltd only. Appeals shall only be considered if they address one or more of the following areas:
 - Selection process
 - Clarification of fact
 - Provision of new and relevant information
- ii. Following the announcement of nominated swimmers in the week commencing Monday 2nd May 2022, the athlete (which for this purpose includes a parent and/or a coach of an athlete who is under the age of 18 years) is required to lodge an appeal in writing (Notice of Appeal) setting out in full detail the basis upon which the athlete wishes to appeal against the decision of not being nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel to CGNI
- iii. Any appeal against a decision made pursuant to this Nomination Policy shall be referred to Sport Resolutions UK (a trading name for The Sports Dispute Resolutions Panel Ltd – Company No. 3351039) for final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sport Resolutions UK's Arbitration Rules, which rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this clause
- iv. The Notice of Appeal must be sent to stephen@swimulster.net and resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk and received on or before 1700 hrs Monday 9th May 2022
- v. In the case of de-nomination or de-selection, the Notice of Appeal must be received within two working days of the date on which the decision to de-nominate/de-select was communicated to the athlete
- vi. Sport Resolutions UK will respond in writing by email to the athlete within two working days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal to notify the athlete if there are grounds for an appeal and if so;
 - Whether the appeal will proceed by way of written submissions or an oral hearing and set a date for the hearing;
 - Whether the parties (athlete and Swim Ulster Ltd) should be required to submit statements of their evidence and/or written submissions prior to the hearing and, if so, a timetable for doing so and the procedure for exchanging such statements and written submissions;
 - In the case that there may be an 'affected athlete' whether they will be included in the appeal hearing and/or be invited to make a representation at the appeal hearing
- vii. Sport Resolutions UK will notify the athlete and Swim Ulster Ltd of the decision on the day of the hearing. Written reasons for the decision shall follow no later than one working day following the hearing. The decision of Sport Resolutions UK will be final and binding.
- viii. Swim Ulster Ltd will also have the right to appeal to CGNI if athletes have been nominated by Swim Ulster Ltd and are not selected. This will be completed within twenty-four hours of CGNI notification of non-selection. All CGNI appeal decisions will be made ahead of final announcement of the team. Athletes do not have the right to appeal directly to CGNI.

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