

**XXII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022**  
**28<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022, Birmingham, England**  
**NOMINATION POLICY FOR PARA-SWIMMING**



**Introduction**

*This Policy will only apply if:*

1. *The 2022 Commonwealth Games are held on the existing dates of 28<sup>th</sup> July – 8<sup>th</sup> 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*
2. *There are no amendments to the Para-Swimming Athlete Allocation System before the end of the qualification period (31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022)*

**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. Sporting success at Commonwealth Games for Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) means nominated athletes can achieve podium or top 8 finishes and are on track to achieve Paralympic selection in 2024. To contribute to the achievement of these aims the nomination standards for the 2022 Commonwealth Games have been set at a level (for both individual and relay events) with these outcomes in mind.*

*Swimming and Para-Swimming will operate as an integrated team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and Para-Swimming places are in addition to places allocated for Swimming by CGNI. The Team Leader and any additional coaches and/or team managers nominated for selection to the Northern Ireland Team will support both swimming and para-swimming 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 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 for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.*

*Athletes must satisfy certain criteria to be considered eligible for nomination for selection.*

*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, for selection.*

*The actual selection of any athlete, additional coach or team manager will be made by CGNI. As there is a finite, and yet to be confirmed, number of places for swimming, 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 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 (Swimming), the Head of Physical Preparation and the National Performance Pathway Manager*

*World Para Swimming (WPS), under the governance of the International Paralympic Committee acts as the international federation for Para-Swimming*

**1. Nomination for Selection**

- i. *The National Selection Panel will nominate athletes to CGNI for selection to individual events for the Northern Ireland Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the WPS Athlete Allocation System qualification period outlined in Section 4*
- 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*

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**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

**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 internationally classified with a ‘Confirmed’ Sport Class Status or a ‘Review’ Sport Class Status 2023 or later;
- ii. Hold an active WPS License for the 2022 season;
- iii. 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](mailto:admin@swimulster.net);
- iv. Be a registered member of a Swim Ulster Ltd club based in Northern Ireland (any membership category is accepted) for the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 season;
- v. Declare Northern Ireland as their Commonwealth country of representation;
- vi. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster Ltd;
- vii. Be available to fulfil all of the Northern Ireland Team obligations;
- viii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland ‘On This Performance Team’ booklet;
- ix. Not be the subject of a current anti-doping ban, a current doping violation and/or a pending doping violation. Paralympics Ireland or British Para Swimming shall immediately inform Swim Ulster Ltd who in turn will inform CGNI of the outcome of any anti-doping test of any athlete nominated for selection;
- x. Comply with any Commonwealth Games Federation, WPS and CGNI eligibility criteria and/or requirements. CGNI, in consultation with WPS and the Commonwealth Games Federation, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by the Commonwealth Games Federation, WPS and Swim Ulster Ltd Ltd) with the CGNI decision being final

**4. Athlete Nomination Procedure**

- i. Para-Swimming places will be allocated using the Athlete Allocation System published by WPS, a copy of which can be requested by emailing [admin@swimulster.net](mailto:admin@swimulster.net)
  - o Only results achieved by athletes at WPS recognised competitions are eligible for world rankings;
  - o The qualification period is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022;
  - o At the conclusion of the qualification period, CGA Nations will be extracted from the WPS World Rankings to create a Commonwealth adjusted ranking list;
  - o CGA’s will be eligible to qualify a maximum of three athletes per individual event and the Commonwealth adjusted ranking list will be amended to reflect this maximum number
  - o Qualification slots will be issued to CGNI in the name of a specific athlete for allocation and are therefore non-transferable
- ii. Subject to National Selection Panel discretion, athletes selected to the Northern Ireland Team via an individual event may also be considered for additional individual event entries if the Northern Ireland Team do not already have three athletes selected for the individual event in question
- iii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 12)

**Table 1 – Para Swimming Medal Events**

<b>MALE</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
<b>Classification</b>		<b>Classification</b>
S7 & S13	50m Freestyle	S13
	100m Freestyle	S9
S14	200m Freestyle	S14
S9	100m Backstroke	S8
SB8	100m Breaststroke SB6	SB6
S10	100m Butterfly	
	200m IM	SM10

**5. Team Leader**

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

**6. Northern Ireland Team Obligations**

CGNI will publish a suite of obligations which must be agreed to by any athlete 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 Paralympics Ireland Kitman or British Para-Swimming Monitoring 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 2022 Irish Open Championships and the Commonwealth Games
- x. Not attend overseas camps and/or competitions between the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and 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

**7. Team Uniform/Kit**

- i. All Team uniform and kit (other than racing suits and swim caps) will be provided for and to the Team by CGNI
- ii. All Team racing suits, and swim caps will be provided for and to the Team by Swim Ulster Ltd or CGNI
- iii. Athletes accepting racing suits from Swim Ulster Ltd and/or CGNI 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

**8. Competitive Readiness**

'Competitive Readiness' means the combined professional opinion of the National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager 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 selected Olympic event(s) over their performance achieved to qualify for nomination for selection and/or selection

- i. Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Performance Director and National Performance Pathway Manager, 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 and the National Performance Pathway Manager 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 and the National Performance Pathway Manager 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 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 and National Performance Pathway Manager 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 the National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager is final

**9. 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 6)
- 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 and the National Performance Pathway Manager, he/she does not have Competitive Readiness (Section 8)

**10. 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

**11. 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 2022 Irish Open Championships unless the changes relate to the National Selection Panel exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions (Section 10)
- 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](http://www.swimulster.net)

**12. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:stephen@swimulster.net) and [resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk](mailto:resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk) and received on or before 1700 hrs Monday 9<sup>th</sup> 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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