

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

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**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:*

- 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. The 2022 Irish Open Championships are held on the existing dates of 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022. If there is any postponement of the 2022 Irish Open Championships beyond this period, a new Nomination Policy will be required*

**Selection Philosophy**

*Sporting success at the 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 Olympic 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.*

*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 for the 2022 Commonwealth Games.*

*Athletes, additional coaches, and team managers must satisfy certain criteria to be considered eligible for nomination for selection.*

*In addition to the criteria for eligibility for selection, there are minimum qualification standards which an athlete needs to meet to be considered for selection by the National Selection Panel. At the completion of the 2022 Irish Open Championships, those athletes selected to the Northern Ireland Team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games shall consider this to be their summer international benchmark meet for the 2021-2022 season.*

*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 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, any additional team coach and 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 Performance Senior Leadership Team comprises of the National Performance Director, the National Performance Pathway Manager, the Head of Physical Preparation, the Head of Performance Analysis, the Performance Manager and the National Centre Head Coaches, and is the expert group which nominates additional coaches, team managers and sports science/sports medicine practitioners to the Northern Ireland Team*

*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 to individual and relay events for the Northern Ireland Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of Nomination Stage 2 as described below.
- ii. Individual Events  
To be considered eligible for nomination to individual events for the Northern Ireland Team, athletes must:
  - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Nominations Stage 1 or 2 below; and
  - b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below
- iii. Relay Events  
To be considered eligible for nomination to relay events for the Northern Ireland Team, athletes must:
  - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Nomination Stage 2 below; and
  - b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 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 Nomination Stage 2
- iv. There are sixteen individual events per gender in the Commonwealth Games programme for swimming. Athletes may be selected to the Northern Ireland Team via thirteen Olympic individual events per gender only. Up to a maximum of three athletes can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel via each individual event
- v. There are three relay events per gender and two mixed gender relay events in the Commonwealth Games programme for swimming. Athletes may be nominated to the Northern Ireland Team via the Olympic relay events only. Up to a maximum of one relay team can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel per relay 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](mailto:admin@swimulster.net);
  - ii. 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;
  - iii. Declare Northern Ireland as their Commonwealth country of representation;
  - 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. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have accepted their place on the National Squad/Programme or the Regional Squad/Programme in September 2020 and/or September 2021 (where offered);
  - vii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet;
  - viii. Not be the subject of a current anti-doping ban, a current doping violation and/or a pending doping violation. Swim Ireland shall inform CGNI immediately of the outcome of any anti-doping test of any athlete nominated for selection;
  - ix. 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. Event allocation to such athletes will be at the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager and will be specifically subject to Section 15

**5. Nomination Stage 2 (Athlete Individual Events Only)**

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team via an Olympic individual event(s) in Nomination Stage 2, athletes must record a time at the 2022 Irish Open Championships via one of the following routes:
  - In the heats, equal to or better than the individual event Consideration Standards detailed in Table 1
  - In the final, equal to or better than the individual event Consideration Standards detailed in Table 1 having already recorded a time in the heats equal to or better than the same individual event Consideration Standards detailed in Table 2
- ii. Times in Table 1 and Table 2 can be achieved from individual events only

**6. Nomination Stage 2 (Athlete Relay Events Only)**

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a relay event(s) in Nomination Stage 2, the athletes with the fastest four aggregated times recorded in the respective and associated composite individual events and/or relay legs at the:
  - a. 2021 Olympic Games, Tokyo, Japan
  - b. 2022 Irish Open Championships, Dublin, Irelandwhen combined, will be equal to or better than the Relay Consideration Standards detailed in Table 3. Relay Consideration Standards take a 1.5 second combined takeover differential into consideration and all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) at the 2021 Olympic Games and the 2022 Irish Open Championships are seen as having equal consideration status. In the case of nominated relays, the National Selection Panel may also nominate for selection to the Northern Ireland Team additional athletes as relay alternates/back up options for such relay teams at their discretion
- ii. In the event that a relay(s) are selected to the Northern Ireland Team, the National Selection Panel will have regard to the composition of that relay team (subject to such athletes meeting all Commonwealth Games Federation and/or FINA relay requirements) in the following manner:
  - a. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Male and or Female 800m Freestyle relay, the fastest four times (in the relevant gender/s) in the 200m Freestyle will be considered from:
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2021 Olympic Games, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2022 Irish Open Championships, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
    - Times achieved in lead-off legs of single gender 800m Freestyle National Team relays at the 2021 Olympic Games where all rounds of competition (heat and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
    - Times achieved in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> legs of single gender 800m Freestyle National Team relays at the 2021 Olympic Games, with 0.5 seconds being added to each of these relay legs prior to consideration;
  - b. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Male or Female 400m Freestyle relay, the fastest four times (in the relevant gender/s) in the 100m Freestyle will be considered from:
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2021 Olympic Games, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2022 Irish Open Championships, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
  - c. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Male or Female 400m Medley relay, the fastest combination (in the relevant gender/s) in the 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle will be considered from:
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2021 Olympic Games, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2022 Irish Open Championships, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
  - d. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Mixed 400m Medley relay, the fastest combination across the two genders in the 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle will be considered from:
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2021 Olympic Games, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;
    - Individual event times achieved at the 2022 Irish Open Championships, where all rounds of competition (heat, semi-final and/or final) are seen as having equal consideration status;

**Table 1**

<b>MALE</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
<b>Consideration Time</b>		<b>Consideration Time</b>
22.40	50m Freestyle	25.29
49.26	100m Freestyle	54.79
1:48.13	200m Freestyle	1:59.85
3:50.43	400m Freestyle	4:13.08
N/A	800m Freestyle	8:43.08
15:13.69	1500m Freestyle	N/A
54.57	100m Backstroke	1:01.20
1:59.25	200m Backstroke	2:12.39
1:00.35	100m Breaststroke	1:08.10
2:11.62	200m Breaststroke	2:27.37
52.48	100m Butterfly	58.91
1:57.88	200m Butterfly	2:10.50
2:00.96	200m IM	2:14.31
4:20.05	400m IM	4:45.89

**Table 2**

<b>MALE</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
<b>Consideration Time</b>		<b>Consideration Time</b>
22.73	50m Freestyle	25.67
49.99	100m Freestyle	55.61
1:49.74	200m Freestyle	2:01.63
3:53.85	400m Freestyle	4:16.83
N/A	800m Freestyle	8:50.85
15:27.26	1500m Freestyle	N/A
55.38	100m Backstroke	1:02.10
2:01.02	200m Backstroke	2:14.36
1:01.24	100m Breaststroke	1:09.12
2:13.58	200m Breaststroke	2:29.56
53.26	100m Butterfly	59.79
1:59.63	200m Butterfly	2:12.44
2:02.75	200m IM	2:16.30
4:23.92	400m IM	4:50.14

**Table 3**

<b>MALE</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>FEMALE</b>
<b>Consideration Time</b>		<b>Consideration Time</b>
3:36.46	<b>400m Medley Relay</b>	4:07.24
3:18.33	<b>400m Freestyle Relay</b>	3:45.30
7:14.63	<b>800m Freestyle Relay</b>	8:01.03
<b>MIXED</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>MIXED</b>
<b>Consideration Time</b>		<b>Consideration Time</b>
3:50.94	<b>400m Medley Relay</b>	3:50.94

**7. Athlete Nomination Procedure**

- i. At the conclusion of Nomination Stages 1 and 2, those who have achieved the criteria requirements within each stage (including the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to CGNI by the National Selection Panel
- ii. The National Selection Panel shall nominate for selection to the Northern Ireland Team on the basis of Nomination Stage 1 taking priority over Nomination Stage 2
- iii. If the number of athletes achieving nomination requirements (in individual and/or relay events) exceeds the number of places made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, the National Selection Panel shall nominate for selection as follows:
  - o As a first priority, performances achieved in Nomination Stage 1 will take priority over performances achieved in Nomination Stage 2
  - o As a second priority, the nomination times achieved for each nominated individual event and each nominated relay event will be ranked as a percentage inside the Nomination Consideration Time (Table 1 and Table 3) to reach the maximum team number permitted by CGNI
- iv. In the event of a tie (equal times achieved by two or more athletes) between any number of athletes within a Nomination Stage, the athlete with the next fastest time achieved once (from all rounds of competition) in the same event in the following competitions will be considered for nomination by the National Selection Panel:
  - Individual event times achieved at the 2021 Olympic Games
  - Times achieved in lead-off legs in single gender National Team relays at the 2021 Olympic Games
  - Times achieved in 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> legs of single gender National Team relays at the 2021 Olympic Games, with 0.5 seconds being added to each of these relay legs prior to consideration;
  - Individual event times achieved at the 2022 Irish Open Championships
- v. Subject to the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager, 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
- vi. Subject to the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager, athletes nominated via an individual event may also be selected to relay events
- vii. Subject to the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager, athletes nominated via relay events only may also be considered for individual event entries if the Northern Ireland Team do not already have three athletes nominated for the individual event in question
- viii. 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 Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games will be the National Performance Pathway Manager

**9. Team Coach Eligibility**

Depending on the size of the Northern Ireland Team and the staff accreditations made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, any additional coach to be considered eligible for nomination for selection by the Performance Senior Leadership Team must meet the following criteria:

- i. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 season;
- ii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster Ltd;
- iii. Be a full-time resident within Ireland;
- iv. Be a practising coach within an Irish swimming programme;
- v. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 3 Coaching Certificate or international equivalent or be enrolled on a Level 3 Coaches Course at the time of nomination;
- vi. Hold a Swim Ireland Coaching Licence;
- vii. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Northern Ireland Team;
- viii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided first-hand service or support as a coach as part of the National Squad/Programme or Regional Squad/Programme in the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 (where offered/requested);
- ix. Have engaged as part of the Home Programme Coach Policy in the 2020-2021 and the 2021-2022 season (where offered/requested);

- x. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet

**10. Team Coach Nomination Procedure**

- i. Subject to coaches meeting the criteria as set out in Section 9, one or more additional coaches may be recommended by the Performance Senior Leadership Team and where so recommended, may be nominated for selection to CGNI
- ii. Team Coaches may be nominated in an offsite (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp only), onsite (Commonwealth Games) and/or combined (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp and Commonwealth Games) role and such nominations will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays nominated, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole. As such, a Team Coach may not be required/nominated

**11. Team Manager Eligibility**

Depending on the size of the Northern Ireland Team and the staff accreditations made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, any team manager to be considered eligible for nomination for selection by the Performance Senior Leadership Team must meet the following criteria:

- i. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 season;
- ii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster Ltd;
- iii. Be a full-time resident within Ireland;
- iv. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 2 Team Management Certificate or international equivalent;
- v. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Northern Ireland Team;
- vi. Other than in exceptional circumstances, team managers will not be the parent or guardian of an athlete member of the Team;
- vii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided direct service or support as a team manager as part of the National Squad/Programme or Regional Squad/Programme in the period 1st September 2019 – 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 (where offered/requested);
- viii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet

**12. Team Manager Nomination Procedure**

- i. Subject to the team manager meeting the criteria as set out in Section 11, the team manager may be recommended by the Performance Senior Leadership Team and where so recommended, may be nominated for selection to CGNI
- ii. Team managers may be nominated in an offsite (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp only), onsite (Commonwealth Games) and/or combined (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp and Commonwealth Games) role and such nominations will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays nominated, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole. As such, a team manager may not be required/nominated

**13. Northern Ireland Team Obligations**

In accepting a selection to the Northern Ireland Team for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, athletes accept and agree that training with/competing for the Northern Ireland Team and/or the Ireland National Team takes precedence over training for/competing in any other competition, including that for another Team/Club or University programme in Ireland or anywhere in the world. Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI require any athlete, coach or team manager who has been selected to represent the Northern Ireland Team at the 2022 Commonwealth Games to meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to Section 16. Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI oblige all selected athletes and, where relevant, all Ireland National Team staff to:

- i. Agree not to disclose any selected Northern Ireland Team member name to the press or any other media (including their own social media) until Swim Ulster Ltd have themselves announced this to the press and other media
- ii. Compete in 2022 LEN European Championships (50m) (if selected)
- iii. Complete, sign and comply with the Swim Ireland National Team Code of Conduct
- iv. Comply with the CGNI Team Members Agreement
- v. Complete a Swim Ulster Ltd Medical Form prior to competing at the Commonwealth Games
- vi. Commit to the values of the Swim Ireland National Programme Athlete Charter

- 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. At the date of the decision of CGNI selections, all athletes selected must ensure that they are making the required Kitman submission each training/competition day
- ix. Comply with Swim Ulster Ltd, CGNI and FINA swimwear regulations
- x. Adhere to all prescribed travel arrangements which might involve different travel dates to other members of the Team
- xi. Not take holidays between the 2022 Irish Open Championships and the 2022 Commonwealth Games
- xii. 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) as part of or in addition to the National Squad/Programme or Regional Squad/Programme (where offered and accepted subject to Section 3vi). 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. Not attend overseas camps and/or competitions between the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and the Commonwealth Games without prior written approval from the National Performance Pathway Manager
- xiv. If Northern Ireland Team athletes intend to apply to/are invited to compete in the International Swimming League (ISL) in 2022, before making such an application they and/or their home programme coach must provide the National Performance Pathway Manager and the National Performance Director with a clear and comprehensive plan as to how the athlete's involvement in the ISL will aid and not hinder a peak performance at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. Such athletes must receive a combined written approval from the National Performance Pathway Manager and the National Performance Director in relation to this plan before accepting their position within an ISL team, and this will be specifically subject to Section 15
- xv. Nominated athletes, team coaches, and team managers agree not to attend the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony
- xvi. Nominated athletes, team coaches, team managers, Swim Ulster Ltd and Swim Ireland agree to abide by all CGNI and Commonwealth Games Federation requirements

**14. 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

**15. 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 National Performance Director and the National Performance Pathway Manager is final

**16. 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 13)
- 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 15)

**17. Replacement or Addition**

- i. If an athlete, coach, or team manager is removed from or withdraws from the Northern Ireland Team, that individual may be replaced by another eligible individual who meets the required standards set out in this Policy
- ii. The National Performance Pathway Manager, where in his opinion it is in the best interests of the Northern Ireland Team, may recommend that any number of additional athletes, coaches or team managers be added to the selected Northern Ireland 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 Northern Ireland Team shall be made by way of recommendation by the National Performance Pathway Manager, which recommendation is nominated by the National Selection Panel and which nomination is approved by CGNI

**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. 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 18)

- 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)

**20. 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.

**Published:** January 2022