

2023 LEN EUROPEAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

4th – 9th July 2023, Belgrade, Serbia

SELECTION POLICY (Swimming)



Introduction

This Policy provides the avenue by which an athlete can be selected to the Ireland National Team ("Ireland National Team") for the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships. This avenue is described in further detail below

This Policy will only apply if:

- 1. The 2023 LEN European Junior Championships are held on the existing dates of 4th July – 9th July 2023 and/or are held in the existing location of Belgrade, Serbia. If there is any postponement of the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships beyond this period and/or a change of location, a new Selection Policy will be required*
- 2. The 2023 Irish Open Championships are held on the existing dates of 1st April – 5th April 2023. If there is any postponement of the 2023 Irish Open Championships beyond this period, a new Selection Policy will be required*

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;*
- (b) be nominated for selection and;*
- (c) be selected to the Ireland National Team for swimming at the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships in Belgrade, Serbia*

Athletes, additional coaches, sports science/sports medicine practitioners 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 2023 Irish Open Championships, for those athletes selected to one or more National Team/s, 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. 2023 FINA World Championships (50m)*
- 2. 2023 EOC European Youth Olympic Festival*
- 3. 2023 LEN European Junior Championships*
- 4. 2023 LEN Under 23 Championships and 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games*

Where an athlete is selected to more than one National Team from within the five 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 National Performance Pathway Manager, the Head of Physical Preparation, the Head of Performance Analysis, 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

LEN is the Ligue Europeenne de Natation and is the European federation/governing body for aquatic sports

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 Performance Director will nominate athletes to the National Selection Panel for selection to individual and relay events for the Ireland National Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the 2023 Irish Open Championships as described below*

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- ii. Individual Events
To be considered eligible for nomination to the Ireland National Team via an individual event/s, athletes must:
 - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Section 4 below; and
 - b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below
- iii. Relay Events
To be considered eligible for nomination to the Ireland National Team via a relay event/s, athletes must:
 - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Section 5 below; and
 - b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below

2. Ireland National Team

- i. At the recommendation of the National Performance Director, the National Selection Panel will determine the athlete team size and athlete personnel for this National Team
- ii. 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 2023 Irish Open Championships
- iii. There are seventeen individual events per gender in the LEN European Championships programme for swimming. Athletes may be selected to the Ireland National Team via the fourteen Olympic individual events per gender only. Up to a maximum of four athletes per individual event can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel
- iv. There are three relay events per gender and two mixed gender relay events in the LEN European 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 can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel per relay event

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 to be eligible for nomination:

- i. Be an Irish citizen at the time of entries being submitted to FINA;
- ii. Be eligible to represent Ireland as per FINA General Rules 1 & 2 (GR 1 & 2) at the time of entries being submitted to FINA;
- iii. Hold an Irish passport at the time of entries being submitted to FINA;
- iv. Be born in the period of 2005-2008 (male athletes) and born in the period 2006-2009 (female athletes)
- v. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2022-2023 season;
- vi. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- vii. Be available to fulfil all of the Ireland National Team obligations;
- viii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have accepted their place on the National Programme in September 2022 (if offered);
- ix. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet;
- x. Not be the subject of an anti-doping ban, a doping violation and/or a pending doping violation;
- xi. Comply with any LEN and/or FINA eligibility criteria and/or requirements. Swim Ireland, in consultation with FINA, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by Swim Ireland, LEN and FINA) with the Swim Ireland decision being final

4. Athlete Selections (Individual Events)

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via an Olympic individual event(s), athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 at the 2023 Irish Open Championships in Dublin, Ireland
- ii. Times at the 2023 Irish Open Championships can be achieved from all rounds of competition in individual events only. Times achieved in Heats and/or Finals at the 2023 Irish Open Championships will have equal status and will be considered over and above times achieved in Time Trials at the 2023 Irish Open Championships

5. Athletes Selections (Relay Events)

- i. 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 at the National Performance Director's professional discretion
- iii. There is no obligation on the National Performance Director to nominate relays or additional athletes for relays to the National Selection Panel

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Table 1

MALE	Event	FEMALE
Consideration Time		Consideration Time
23.51	50m Freestyle	26.70
51.35	100m Freestyle	57.03
1:52.89	200m Freestyle	2:03.84
4:03.54	400m Freestyle	4:19.78
8:19.93	800m Freestyle	8:58.39
15:52.10	1500m Freestyle	17:02.98
56.62	100m Backstroke	1:04.15
2:03.52	200m Backstroke	2:18.19
1:04.64	100m Breaststroke	1:11.25
2:20.35	200m Breaststroke	2:36.47
55.24	100m Butterfly	1:01.44
2:02.72	200m Butterfly	2:15.58
2:05.99	200m IM	2:18.76
4:27.74	400m IM	4:51.18

6. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. At the conclusion of the 2023 Irish Open Championships, those athletes who have achieved the criteria requirements within Section 4 and/or Section 5 (including the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to the National Selection Panel
- ii. In the event of a tie (equal times achieved by two or more athletes) between any number of athletes within Section 4, the athlete with the next fastest time achieved once (from all rounds of competition at the 2023 Irish Open Championships,) in that event (with times achieved in Heats/Finals considered over and above times achieved in Time Trials) will be considered for nomination by the National Selection Panel
- iv. Subject to National Performance Pathway Manager 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 two athletes qualified for the individual event in question via Section 4. Other than in exceptional circumstances, athletes nominated to additional Olympic individual events must have achieved a standard within 1% of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1
- v. Subject to National Performance Pathway Manager professional discretion, athletes selected via an individual event may also be selected to populate teams in relay events
- vi. Subject to National Performance Pathway Manager professional discretion, athletes selected via relay events only may also be selected for individual events if the Ireland National Team do not already have two athletes qualified for the individual event in question via Section 4. Other than in exceptional circumstances, athletes nominated to additional Olympic individual events must have achieved a standard within 1% of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1
- vii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 22)

7. Team Leader

- i. The Team Leader for the Ireland National Team at the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships will be the National Performance Pathway Manager

8. Team Head Coach/s

- ii. The Head Coach/s for the Ireland National Team at the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships will be nominated for selection by the National Performance Director to the Performance Senior Leadership Team following the 2023 Irish Open Championships

9. Team Coach Eligibility

Depending on the size of the Ireland National Team, 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 2022-2023 season;
- ii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- iii. Be a full-time resident within Ireland;

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- 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 Ireland National Team;
- viii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided first hand service or support as a coach as part of the National Programme or Regional Programme in the period 1st September 2021 – 31st March 2023 (where offered/requested);
- ix. 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 National Performance Director and where so recommended, may be selected by the Performance Senior Leadership Team
- ii. National Team Coaches may be selected in an offsite (LEN European Junior Championships Holding Camp only), onsite (LEN European Junior Championships) and/or combined (LEN European Junior Championships Holding Camp and LEN European Junior 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

Depending on the size of the Ireland National Team, 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 2022-2023 season;
- ii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- iii. Be a full-time resident within Ireland;
- iv. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 2 Team Management Certificate or equivalent Swim Ireland Team Manager CPD courses completed or international equivalent;
- v. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Ireland National 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 Programme or Regional Programme in the period 1st September 2021 – 31st March 2023 (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 National Performance Director and where so recommended, may be selected by the Performance Senior Leadership Team
- ii. Team managers may be selected in an offsite (LEN European Junior Championships Holding Camp only), onsite (LEN European Junior Championships) and/or combined (LEN European Junior Championships Holding Camp and LEN European Junior 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 manager may not be required/selected

13. Sports Science/Sports Medicine Practitioner Eligibility

Depending on the size of the Ireland National Team, any sports science/sports medicine practitioner to be considered eligible for selection by the Performance Senior Leadership Team must meet the following criteria:

- i. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- ii. Be holders of an appropriate and recognised qualification for the position of appointment;
- iii. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Ireland National Team;
- iv. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet

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14. Sports Science/Sports Medicine Practitioner Selection Procedure

- i. Subject to a sports science/sports medicine practitioner meeting the criteria as set out in Section 13, a sports science/sports medicine practitioner may be recommended by the National Performance Director and where so recommended, may be selected by the Performance Senior Leadership Team
- ii. Sports science/sports medicine practitioners may be selected in an offsite (LEN European Junior Championships Holding Camp only), onsite (LEN European Junior Championships) and/or combined (LEN European Junior Championships Holding Camp and LEN European Junior Championships) role and such selections will be reflective of the Team size and the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays selected. As such, sports science/sports medicine practitioners may not be required/selected

15. Ireland National Team Obligations (General)

In accepting a selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2023 LEN European 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 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 2023 LEN European Junior Championships to meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to Section 19. 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 or Swim Ulster Ltd National Team events in 2023 (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. Complete a Swim Ireland Medical Form prior to competing at the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships
- v. Commit to the values of the Swim Ireland National Programme Athlete Charter
- vi. 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
- vii. At the date of the decision of the National Selection Panel of selections, all Ireland National Team athletes must ensure that they are making the required Kitman submission each training/competition day
- viii. Comply with Swim Ireland and FINA 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/elected periods away from training between the Nomination Trials and the 2023 LEN European 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
- xii. If Ireland National Team athletes intend to apply to/are invited to compete in the International Swimming League (ISL) in 2023, before making such an application they and/or their home programme coach must provide 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 2023 LEN European Junior Championships. Such athletes must receive a written approval from 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 17

16. 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

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17. Competitive Readiness

'Competitive Readiness' means the combined professional opinion of the National Performance Pathway Manager and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s following advice, where necessary, from a member/s of the Sport Ireland Institute Medical Team as to the ability of an athlete who has been selected to represent the Ireland National Team at the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships 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 National Performance Pathway Manager 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 the 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 at the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships, to the National Performance Pathway Manager 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 National Performance Pathway Manager and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s to consider recommendations made by a member/s of the Sport 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 National Performance Pathway Manager and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s to seek recommendations from a member/s of the Sport 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 National Performance Pathway Manager, the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s and appropriate a member/s of the Sport 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 including the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships and/or an associated Holding Camp, unless and until the opinion of the National Performance Pathway Manager 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 either the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships or the associated 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 Pathway Manager and the appointed Ireland National Team Head Coach/s is final

18. 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 performance@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 15)
 - decline selection to or withdraw from the 2023 LEN European Junior Championships
- 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 National Performance Director and National Senior Team Head Coach/s, does not have Competitive Readiness (Section 17)

19. 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

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- 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)

20. 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

21. 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 2023 Irish Open Championships unless the changes relate to the National Selection Panel exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions (Section 20)
- 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 FINA and/or FINA that affect the criteria set out in this Policy
- iii. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via www.swimireland.ie

22. 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
- 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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