

2023 LEN OPEN WATER SWIMMING CUP

Legs 2-4 (March 2023 – August 2023)

INVITATION POLICY



Introduction

This Policy provides the avenues by which an athlete can be invited to represent Ireland at one or two Legs of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup in 10km Open Water swimming only. These avenues (or “Invitation Stages”) are described in further detail below

Performance Objective

The objective of this Policy is to continue to ascertain the level of Open Water swimming talent that exists in 10km Open Water swimming amongst athletes who are eligible to represent Ireland and to provide one or more competitive development opportunities at international level for such athletes who are on a positive improvement trajectory within 10km Open Water swimming. This will help Swim Ireland to benchmark existing Irish Open Water talent against European counterparts

This Policy will only apply if:

1. *Legs 2-4 of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cups are held on the existing dates and venues of:*
 - *Leg 2: 13th May 2023 in Piombino, Italy*
 - *Leg 3: 17th June 2023 in Belgrade, Serbia*
 - *Leg 4: 19th August in Samorin, Slovakia**If there is any postponement of one or more of Legs 2-4 of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cups outside of these dates, and/or a change of location, and/or a 10km event is not available within one of the Legs, a new Invitation 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 Invitation Policy will be required*

This Policy sets out the Swim Ireland process for inviting athletes, coaches and/or team managers to:

- (a) be considered eligible for nomination for invitation to enter;*
- (b) be nominated for invitation to enter and;*
- (c) be selected to represent Ireland at one or more of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cups*

Athletes, coaches and team managers must satisfy certain criteria to be considered eligible for nomination for invitation

In addition to the criteria for eligibility for invitation, there are qualification requirements which an athlete needs to meet to be considered for invitation by the National Selection Panel

The role of the National Performance Director is to compile the names of athletes who meet the criteria for nomination for invitation and to make recommendations to the National Selection Panel

The National Selection Panel is the expert panel, as defined in the ‘Swim Ireland National 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 National Centre Head Coaches

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. LEN is affiliated to FINA

1. Nomination for Invitation

- i. *The National Performance Director will nominate athletes to the National Selection Panel for invitation to a 10km Open Water event at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the relevant Invitation Stages as described below*

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- ii. To be considered eligible for nomination to represent Ireland in the 10km Open water event at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup, athletes must:
 - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Invitation Stage 1 or Invitation Stage 2 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 athletes eligible for invitation
- ii. The National Selection Panel agrees to notify Swim Ireland of its invitation or its refusal to invite any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after the National Selection Panel receives the National Performance Director's nominations after each Invitation Stage
- iii. Athletes may be invited to represent Ireland in a 10km event only at one or more of the Legs of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup

3. Athlete Eligibility

At the time that the National Performance Director is nominating athletes for invitation 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 LEN;
- ii. Be eligible to represent Ireland as per FINA General Rules 1 & 2 (GR 1 & 2) at the time of entries being submitted to LEN;
- iii. Hold an Irish passport at the time of entries being submitted to LEN;
- iv. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2022-2023 season;
- v. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- vi. Be available to fulfil all of the Swim Ireland Performance team obligations;
- vii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet;
- viii. Not be the subject of an anti-doping ban, a doping violation and/or a pending doping violation;
- ix. Comply with any LEN eligibility criteria and/or requirements. Swim Ireland, in consultation with LEN and 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. Invitation Stage 1

- i. To be considered for nomination for invitation to represent Ireland in Leg 2 (Piombino, Italy) or Leg 3 (Belgrade, Serbia) of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup (Invitation Stage 1), athletes must:
 - a. finish in a top two position of eligible athletes in the 5km or the 10km event at the 2022 Swim Ireland National Open Water Championships (August 2022) or finish in a top two position of eligible athletes in the 5km event at the 2022 Swim Ireland Performance Identification Open Water Event (September 2022); and
 - b. finish in a top five position of eligible athletes in either the 800m or 1500m Freestyle at the 2023 Irish Open Championships (April 2023)

5. Invitation Stage 2

- i. To be considered for nomination for invitation to represent Ireland in Leg 4 (Samorin, Slovakia) of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup (Invitation Stage 2), athletes must have competed in Leg 2 and/or Leg 3 of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup and finished in a Top-20 position in the 10km Open water event in the respective male or female event

6. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. At the conclusion of both Invitation Stages 1 and 2, those athletes who have achieved the criteria requirements within Invitation Stage 1 or Invitation Stage 2 (including the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to the National Selection Panel
- ii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 17)

7. Athlete Coach Eligibility

Athletes will only be able to accept an invitation to represent Ireland at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup if they declare the name of a coach who could will travel with them to the event to undertake all technical, health and safety responsibilities for the athlete at the event. Such coaches must:

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- 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 a practising coach within an Irish swimming programme;
 - v. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 2 Open Water Coaching qualification or international equivalent or be enrolled on a Level 2 Open Water Coaches Course at the time of nomination;
 - vi. Hold a Swim Ireland Coaching Licence;
 - vii. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Swim Ireland Performance team;
 - viii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On This Performance Team' booklet

8. Team Manager Eligibility

Athletes will only be able to accept an invitation to represent Ireland at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup if they declare the name of a team manager who could travel with them to the event to undertake all welfare and wellbeing responsibilities for the athlete at the event if the athlete is under 18 years of age at the time of travel and/or if the athlete is female and their declared coach is male. Team managers may be the parent or guardian of the athlete. Such team managers must:

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

9. Team Staff Selection Procedure

Subject to the team staff meeting the criteria as set out in Sections 6 or 7, the team staff will be invited to the National Team by the Performance Senior Leadership Team. The number of coaches and/or team managers selected will be proportional to both the number of and the gender of the athletes who accept an invitation to compete

10. Ireland National Team Obligations (General)

In accepting an invitation to represent Ireland in one or more Legs of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup, athletes accept and agree that training with/competing for an Ireland representative 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 or team manager who has been selected to represent Ireland at the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup to meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to Section 14. Swim Ireland oblige all selected athletes and, where relevant, all declared coaches/team managers to:

- i. Agree not to disclose any selected representative 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. Complete, sign and comply with the Swim Ireland National Team Code of Conduct
- iii. Complete a Swim Ireland Medical Form prior to competing at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup
- iv. Commit to the values of the Swim Ireland National Programme 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. Comply with Swim Ireland and FINA swimwear regulations

11. Swim Ireland Performance Provisions to Athletes

- i. A holistic bursary per athlete of up to €750.00 will be provided by Swim Ireland for each athlete accepting their invitation to one or more Legs of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup to assist with the costs associated with travel (international & domestic) subsistence and accommodation costs. The holistic bursary is to support the costs of the athlete and the supporting team (coach and/or team manager). Each bursary will be pooled and all costs split evenly across athletes accepting their invitation to the National Team
- ii. 10km event entries to the nominated Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup will be made by Swim Ireland. Swim Ireland will pay for any associated entry cost to LEN

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- iii. Swim Ireland will make the hotel arrangements at the Leg/s on behalf of the athlete, coach and team manager once the athlete/coach has selected their preferred hotel from those offered by LEN
- iv. All Team uniform and kit (including a racing suit) will be provided by Swim Ireland. Athletes accepting a racing suit from Swim Ireland must wear this (or another branded suit of the same sponsor) for all of their races

12. Athlete Home Programme Club and/or Personal Provisions to Athlete

- i. All costs associated with travel (international & domestic) subsistence costs and hotel costs to a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup which is not covered by the holistic bursary (per athlete and their supporting team of a coach and/or a team manager) as outlined in Section 11 will be met by the athlete's home programme club or by the athlete

13. Competitive Readiness

'Competitive Readiness' means the professional opinion of the National Performance Director 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 Ireland at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup to achieve an equal or superior performance in the 10km Open Water event over their performance achieved to qualify for invitation

- i. Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Performance Director do not remain Competitively Ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury, illness, application to training, performance behaviour or other reasons, may be deselected to one or more Legs of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup
- 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 nominated Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup to the National Performance Director 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 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 Director 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 Director 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 to any Ireland representative swimming event until the opinion of the National Performance Director has been communicated to that athlete that the athlete does meet their opinion of Competitive Readiness. If the athlete is at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup 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 is final

14. Withdrawal & Removals

At any stage an athlete, coach or team manager may withdraw from representing Ireland at a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup 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 invitation, or;
 - c. Invitation to represent Ireland 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 10)
 - decline invitation to or withdraw from a Leg of the 2023 LEN Open Water Swimming Cup
- ii. An athlete may be removed from representing Ireland before or after nomination for invitation or before or after invitation if he/she, in the opinion of the National Performance Director does not have Competitive Readiness (Section 13)

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15. 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 invitation 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

16. Amendments

- i. The Performance Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to make changes to this Policy which, in its discretion, are necessary
- ii. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via www.swimireland.ie

17. Appeals

- i. Any appeal against an invitation made by the National Selection Panel must be made in accordance with the Swim Ireland Invitation Appeals Procedures, available via www.swimireland.ie
- ii. Athletes should be aware of the strict time limits contained within the Swim Ireland Invitation Appeals Procedures, which are designed with the intention of resolving issues expediently and fairly

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