



2016 Rowing Ireland Olympic Games Rio de Janeiro Nomination Policy

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the qualification process and nomination procedures of The Rio 2016 Olympic Nomination Policy (hereinafter referred to as the “Rio Nomination Policy”) of Rowing Ireland (hereinafter referred to as RI) for determining those athletes who will be nominated to the Olympic Council of Ireland (hereinafter referred to as OCI) for selection to represent Ireland at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. RI will nominate its selected athletes to the Olympic Council of Ireland. The OCI has the exclusive power for the selection and participation of the Irish Rowing Team at the 2016 Olympic Games Rio de Janeiro (**Appendix 5**).

The Rio Nomination Policy applies to the Rio 2016 Olympics only. Previous selection policies will have no bearing on the Rio Nomination Policy and cannot be used as a basis upon which an appeal or other complaint can be made in relation to athlete nomination for 2016. The implementation of the Rio Nomination Policy will be the responsibility of the Rio 2016 Rowing Ireland Selection Panel (hereinafter referred to as the “Selection Panel”).

The Selection Panel will be the following

- RI Chief Executive Officer (the Secretary of the Panel),
- RI High Performance Director (the Chair of the Panel)
- RI Lead Coach (the Data Collector of the Panel)

The Rio Nomination Policy may be amended at any time by the Selection Panel if the Selection Panel is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary to give effect to the Rio Nomination Policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of the selection of athletes. Neither the Selection Panel nor Rowing Ireland will be responsible or liable in any way as a consequence arising from the introduction of any such amendment or amendments; and such amendments will be considered final and binding on all athletes.

1. ELIGIBILITY TO REPRESENT IRELAND

In order to apply for consideration for the Olympic Rowing Ireland team in Rio in 2016 an applicant must be either:

1. Born in the Island of Ireland; or
2. Eligible for an Irish passport and in the process of applying for their passport on the day of their application for registration and by 30th September 2015.

If an applicant has represented another country in a rowing competition in respect of FISA Rule 19 at any stage that applicant must include with their application written confirmation that their transfer has been approved by the FISA & OCI/NOC of the country with their registration application. All applicants must be members of a Rowing Ireland Club, hold a RI registration and hold EU Health Insurance card and for ISC carded rowers hold a current Tax Clearance Certificate and a Private Health Insurance. A Pre-Competition Health Screening, FISA Rule 21 applies and together with a commitment as stated in the RI Performance Strategy document & Fitness to Perform Policy (**Appendix 3 & 4**).

2. REGISTRATION PERIOD

Athletes who wish to be considered to represent the Rowing Ireland Team in the 2016 Olympic Games must register with Rowing Ireland by completing the 2016 Olympic Registration of Intent to Represent form (**Appendix 1**) which is appended to these rules and must satisfy all of the application requirements as set out above and detailed in the application form. The registration date for all athletes will be by 30th September 2015. All original registration applications, with the appropriate original supporting documents must be delivered to the office of Rowing Ireland at National Rowing Centre, Farran Wood, Ovens Co. Cork before 4.00pm on the 30th September 2015. Athletes abroad at this deadline will be permitted to submit forms with digital signatures, which must be followed by Original signed documents within 10 days of your application to be valid.

3. ATHLETE NOMINATION CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for nomination, a registered athlete in a Rowing Ireland Club must;

3.1. Sign and return the 2016 Olympic Registration of Intent to Represent **Appendix 1** (hereinafter referred to as "Intent to Represent") the execution of the Intent to Represent form does not in any way ensure an athlete of nomination. Anyone failing to submit the Intent to Represent form by the closing date set by the HPD Rowing Ireland will not be entered in the selection events and will consequently not be eligible for consideration for nomination. Athletes should note that Rowing Ireland reserves absolutely the right to nominate athletes for selection events. **It is the athlete's personal responsibility to achieve the qualification criteria.**

3.2. Maintain the conditions and terms detailed in the Rio Nomination Policy;

3.3. Be a currently registered Rowing Ireland member who is eligible to represent Ireland at International & FISA Events in accordance with the FISA Rules.

4. FISA QUALIFICATION SYSTEM, COUNTRY NOMINATION & ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

FISA will notify Rowing Ireland of all qualification boat category (s) gained through the FISA Qualification system after the World Championship and Qualifying regattas in September 2015. The Country gains a quota in a boat category (s) from FISA, no athletes are named or nominated in the boats & boat category (s). The athletes are subject to replacement & substitution at all times until the Olympic Games. The Rowing Ireland selection panel nominates the athlete (s) for the boat category (s) and the OCI have the discretion of selection after Rowing Ireland nomination for participation in Olympic Games.

After the Continental & Final Qualification Regatta in Lucerne in May 2016, the procedure repeats itself from FISA to Rowing Ireland for the boat (s) at the qualifying regattas. RI & FISA/OCI must accept any athlete change (s), replacement (s) or substitution (s) qualified through the Continental and Final Qualification regattas.

Please see at FISA/IOC Olympic Qualification system & rules **Appendix 6**.

4.1 FISA Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games, the Rowing Ireland boats have to meet the following requirements by September 2015 & May 2016:

2015 FISA World Championship regatta in Aiguebelette/FRA 6th September following positions:

Top 5 for W4x-, W8+ & M8+

Top 8 for M4x-

Top 9 for W1x & M1x

Top 11 for W2-, W2x, LW2x & M2-, M2x, M4-, LM2x, LM4-

2016 FISA Continental Qualification regatta; European (+AUS, NZL, CAN, USA) in Lucerne 26th May:

3 boats in W1x & M1x, respectively

2 boats in LW2x & LM2x, respectively

The NOC/OCI may only qualify a maximum of one (1) female boat and one (1) male boat for the Rio Olympic Games. The Rowing Ireland selection panel nominates one (1) female boat and (1) one male boat to the OCI if qualified through the Continental Qualification regatta.

2016 FISA Final Qualification regatta in Lucerne 26th May:

4 boats in W2-

2 boats in W2x, W4x-, W8+ & M2-, M2x, M4-, M4x-, M8+, LM4-, respectively.

The Rowing Ireland selection panel nominates boat(s) to the OCI, if qualified through the Final Qualification regatta.

4.2. FISA will notify Rowing Ireland of all qualification boat category(s) through the FISA QUALIFICATION SYSTEM for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games by May 2016. RI will use the criteria below **(5)** to select athletes for nomination to the OCI for these places.

5. ROWING IRELAND SELECTION CRITERIA FOR ATHLETE NOMINATION

The overriding principle behind this selection policy is to maximise the opportunity for Rowing Ireland to achieve the best possible results as a team in the Rio Games. All the below criteria are subject to the allocation of places for RI & by FISA:

5.1 Athletes will be selected for an Olympic boat formation on the following criteria which are listed in order of importance and the athletes are subject to replacement & substitution at all times until the Olympic Games:

5.1.1. All athletes have to submit a Concept 2 erg test for 2 km & 6 km to the High Performance Director and Lead Coach conducted after The Irish Rowing Championships and at the latest by 30th September 2015. The HPD can give special dispensation after a written request from the athlete on

medical or other grounds by 10th of September. Athletes participating in an A or B final or in carding positions at 2015 World Championships in Aiguebelette are exempt from this test.

5.1.2. All athletes have to participate in on-water 1900/2000 meter assessments on 10th–11th October 2015 at the National Rowing Centre in a single scull or pair; where a maximum of Top 1-3 pairs in W2-, M2- & LM2- & Top 1-4 single scullers in W1x, LW1x, M1x and LM1x will go on in the trialling process. If racing in a pair it is the responsibility of the athlete to find a suitable partner and to provide their own boat. In special cases the HPD can allocate NRC equipment based on athletes' previous results.

The October weight for lightweights will be 74.5kg for men and 61kg for women. Weigh in will be no more than two and no less than one hour before the race.

5.1.3. Athletes will be ranked at the trial on the 10th – 11th October (or as soon as possible after the assessments if necessary). Athletes will go into a trialling process with matrix and/or speed racing tests to finalise the specific Olympic boat categories. In addition to this on-water testing, athletes will also be evaluated based on previous performances and results at WRC & U23 WRC and international events, ergo scores (2 km, 5 km & 6 km) plus availability and commitment to full time training at the NRC or at a designated training centre.

5.1.4. All assessments can be extended, prolonged or replaced on another date within reasonable time frame.

5.1.5. Participation by invitation only on 19th–20th December 2015, 13th-14th February 2016 & 19th-20th March 2016. At the 19th-20th December trial the maximum numbers of boats (W1x, LW1x, M1x, LM2-, W2-, M2-, & LM2-) and athletes will be reduced to the prime and core athletes and boats based on performance.

5.1.6. Dates for participation in the above can be change if there is adverse weather or other obstacles.

5.1.7. Participation by invitation to a 2km Concept 2 erg test at NRC after the October trials and before the of 1st November. Date TBA. Also athletes will be required to submit a training test erg of 6k for men and 5k for women by 1st of November.

5.1.8. All athletes must participate in Irish Indoor Rowing Championship regatta on 23rd January 2016.

5.1.9. All athletes must follow the prescribed plan of preparation and competition with weight and health management, pre-competition health screening, training program, service provision, camps, regattas, technique, in operation with the team and coaches etc.

5.1.10. Athletes have to accept being a subject of replacement or substitution in accordance with their performance and Fitness to Perform document at all times & must be able to be located at the NRC at all times, if no other arrangements are agreed upon by HPD.

5.2 Discretionary Qualification

5.2.1. With discretion the Selection Panel can take action and approved by OCI; on a quota place as reserve or wild card by FISA/OCI/IOC or for replacement or substitution.

5.3 Factors that will be used to help determine the above will be:

A combination of the criteria below will be used to determine the most suitable athletes under **5.1 & 5.2** above, these are not necessarily in order of importance, the overriding principle is to maximise the opportunity for Rowing Ireland to achieve the best possible result as a team at the Rio Games.

5.3.1. In the Qualification Periods;

a. Gained positions at U23 WRC, European Championships, World Cups, World Championships and Olympic Games with focus on the most previous ones;

b. Been in an Olympic qualified boat category at 2015 World Championship or earlier;

c. Time and the percentage time behind the first placed athlete;

d. Time and percentage time related to WBT on water in boat categories and Concept 2 erg times on 2 km/5 km/6 km.

5.3.2. Finishing place in the Test Event, International and/or FISA regattas

5.3.3. Compatibility and ability to work in a crew and the team;

5.3.4. Previous outcomes in a support role;

5.3.5. Historical Performance Data;

5.3.6. Extenuating Circumstances as determined by the panel; In any decision regarding the selection of athletes to the Team, the Selection Panel may, in their sole discretion, take into account any extenuating circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, the following: *a. Injury or illness; b. travel delays; c. Equipment failure; d. Bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or any other factors reasonably considered by the Selection Panel to constitute extenuating circumstances.*

Athletes unable to compete at events, trials, or other attendances required under this Selection Criteria, must advise the High Performance Director of the extenuating circumstances and reasons, in writing, with as much advance notice as possible and ideally seven days prior to the commencement of the event, trial or other attendance. If the extenuating circumstance occurs during the race, the High Performance Director should be notified in writing within 4 hours of the completion of the race. If the High Performance Director is not notified of any extenuating circumstances in accordance with this Selection Criteria, then the Selection Panel have no obligation to rely on such circumstances. In the case of injury or illness, athletes may be required by the Selection Panel to provide a medical certificate and/or to undergo an examination by a health practitioner/s nominated by the Selectors, and to provide that opinion and/or report to the Selectors. Any failure to agree to such a request may result in the Selection Panel being unable to consider the injury or illness as an extenuating circumstance. In the case of any extenuating circumstance/s, the Selection Panel will make a decision on a case by case basis.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURE

After consideration of this Selection Criteria, within reasonable time of the Selection Date, the Selection Panel will follow the following procedure:

6.1. Confidentially inform all athletes, within 48 hours of the selection panel decision, who have satisfied the minimum RI Eligibility Criteria, and who may reasonably have had a selection claim, of their intended selection or nonselection;

6.2. Allow sufficient time to hear any questions or appeals;

6.3. RI will nominate its selected athletes to the Olympic Council of Ireland by the 29th of May 2016. The OCI has the exclusive power for the selection and participation of the Irish Rowing Team at the Olympic Games Rio (**Appendix 5**).

6.4. Announce the team, under the OCI's management and control. Rowing Ireland will nominate reserve athlete(s) ; this will be announced at the same time as the Olympic Team is announced.

6.5. Discuss with selected athletes, agree and communicate their necessary preparation plan for the Olympic Games Event;

6.6. Reserve athletes will be required to train and prepare with the Olympic Rowing Team, also the reserve athlete(s) will be subject to the Fitness to Perform criteria.

7. APPEALS PROCEDURE

Selection Appeals: An athlete may appeal to RI against their nonselection in accordance with the RI High Performance Selection Appeal Policy within 48 hours of their notification. **See Appendix 2.**

8. RESERVE ATHLETE PROCEDURE

Rowing Ireland will use the following Fitness to Perform criteria to judge when and if the reserve athlete(s) will be used.

9. IN 2016

9.1. After 1st of January when athletes considered for nomination or selected later for the Olympic Games will sign an Athlete Agreement & Selection Criteria agreement.

9.2. Athletes will be required to attend press a conference (s) and press releases organized by Rowing Ireland and the OCI.

9.3. Athletes may be required to attend the Rowing Ireland holding and preparation camps. All athletes will be in camp prior to moving into the Olympic Village, unless prior agreement has been made pre competition with the High Performance Director.

9.4. Athletes are required to attend all RI/OCI Olympic orientation camps and test events prior to the Olympic Games.

10. AVAILABILITY TO COMPETE

Before selection the athlete must confirm availability of all related preparations and training camps/events to High Performance Director.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1; 2016 Olympic Registration of Intent to Represent Ireland.

Appendix 2; OCI/Rowing Ireland: Selection Appeals Procedure.

Appendix 3; OCI/Rowing Ireland policy: Fitness to Perform.

Appendix 4; Medical Protocol.

Appendix 5; OCI Rowing Agreement.

Appendix 6; FISA Qualification System for Rio 2016.
