



## **ROWING IRELAND SELECTION POLICY AND OLYMPIC NOMINATION CRITERIA – 2020/2021 Season**

### **AIM**

Rowing Ireland's aim is to select athletes and crews (including reserves where applicable) to represent Ireland who have the ability to achieve an 'A' Final (top 6) performance in all boat classes at their designated Championships.

In the case of Olympic and Paralympic games, Rowing Ireland's role with reference to this policy is to nominate athletes to the Olympic Federation of Ireland ("OFI") and/or Paralympics Ireland who have the formal responsibility and authority for selecting athletes and crews. All references to "selection" / "selecting" throughout this policy, in the context of Olympic or Paralympic games shall be taken to refer to "selection to be nominated to the OFI and/or Paralympics Ireland".

Rowing Ireland's primary focus in respect of selecting athletes and crews is on Olympic & Paralympic boats.

The Selection Panel will be comprised of the Rowing Ireland Performance Director (the "HPD"), and the appointed Lead Coach of the rowing squad for which the Rower is eligible (the "Selectors").

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible for selection, an athlete must comply with the Eligibility Criteria set out in the High Performance Programme Athlete Agreement. Paralympic Athletes attempting selection for the PARA Team must be classified nationally and internationally prior the selection trials.

### **SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Selection Criteria that must be taken into account by the Selectors in selecting rowers and coxes for the National Team include the following:

(a) Performance in trialling and competition specified in the Assessments, Tests, Trials & Rankings set out in the High Performance Strategy and the Event Requirements for the current year. Event Requirements for 2020 are at Appendix A, B and C of this Policy for Senior, Under 23 and Junior Rowers respectively.

(b) Current international performances.

The following Selection principles will be used to both invite Rowers to trials and eventually during trials to select into National Teams competing at events listed in the Event Requirements.

## **SELECTION PRINCIPLES**

The objective of the National Team Selection principles is to select crews (which shall include coxswains) that have potential to achieve Rowing Ireland's National Team Objective of achieving an 'A' Final position (top 6) or other special objectives as decided by the HPD.

The Selection Criteria may not provide sufficient evidence to make a conclusive selection decision and the Selectors will take also into account one or more of the following further Selection Criteria in selecting rowers and coxes for the National Team:

- (a) past national and international performances;
- (b) the Rower's current level of skill and physical fitness;
- (c) any current injury or condition, which will impair or prevent the Rower's performance
- (d) Factors relevant to crew combination, including but not limited to
  1. crew compatibility,
  2. coachability,
  3. technical - compatibility,
  4. team balance and harmony;
  5. commitment to the HP plan/program;
- (e) relevant rowing conditions in relation to any trialling or results (e.g. wind and stream effects);
- (f) Lead Coach's input;
- (g) Other factors relevant to achieving Rowing Ireland's team objectives including but not limited to racing outcomes and potential development of the athlete for subsequent National Teams and ultimately Senior A selection.
- (h) equipment breakages or malfunctions;
- (i) Ability to meet and maintain body weight targets (for lightweights and coxswains only);
- (j) for Rowers who are coxes only, consultation with Rowers;

From time to time as required, supplemental program specific information may be posted on the Rowing Ireland website.

## **SELECTION AUTHORITY**

The final authority for Team selection is set out below depending on the event: -

- World Rowing Championships (and all World Rowing Cups) and the Olympic Games – HPD, appointed lead coach

- Under 23 World Championships - HPD, appointed Lead Coach
- Junior World Championships - HPD, appointed Lead Coach

### **ATHLETE AGREEMENT**

All athletes wishing to be considered for National selection must fill in and sign the Athletes Agreement, prior to arrival in a National Training Centre, or entering into any National Team selection process.

The Athlete Agreement form will be available on the RI website and must be either hand delivered, posted, faxed or e-mail scanned to the RI CEO.

### **FINAL SELECTION DATES**

The final selection date for crews is as shown in the Rowing Ireland Selection Policy (Events Requirements Appendices) for the current year. These dates are the last moment of selection, however boats can be pre selected if results are shown in any of the preceding moments.

### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

If because of injury, illness, or personal extenuating circumstance (eg; unforeseen family circumstances, academic calendar, etc) an athlete is unable to meet any of the criteria set out in this document, an athlete may still be considered for selection to a National Team. The rower must advise the RI HPD in writing of any injury, illness, or personal extenuating circumstance prior to the assessment. In the case of illness or injury, a medical certificate signed by the Athlete's doctor, or in the case of National Squad Members, by the RI Chief Medical Officer must be submitted to RIs Chief Medical Officer.

In the event a Rower who has been selected in National Team becomes injured or ill, and in the opinion of the HPD and/or appointed Lead Coach (with advice of the Chief Medical Officer where relevant), is not deemed fit to compete, then the Rower may be replaced with another Rower. The choice of replacement Rower is at the sole discretion of the HPD, in consultation with the relevant Lead Coach. In all cases, permission to be exempted from any requirement contained with this document must be obtained in writing from the HPD. If an athlete becomes injured or ill after selection by the OFI for the Olympic Games the OFI 'Fit to Compete' Policy will come into effect as members of Team Ireland.

### **APPEALS**

If a Rower wishes to appeal a decision of HPD/ appointed Lead Coach in respect of the implementation of this Rowing Ireland Selection Policy, they should use the Selection Appeals Procedure as published on the Rowing Ireland website.

October 2020

**END**

## **Covid-19 Policy**

**Please note all selection requirements and events are subject to change or cancellation based on the most up to date government health advice and restrictions at the time of the event. All decisions will be made in line with Sport Ireland and Rowing Ireland safety protocols.**

### Appendix A

Appendix A to Rowing Ireland Selection Policy and Olympic Nomination Criteria  
2020 Event Requirements for Senior Ireland Rowing Team

### Appendix B

Appendix B to Rowing Ireland Selection Policy and  
2020 Event Requirements For The U23 Ireland Rowing Team

### Appendix C

Appendix C to Rowing Ireland Selection Policy and  
2020 Event Requirements For The Junior Ireland Rowing Team