BEACH SPRINT SELECTION POLICY

Version	Date	Author	Changes
1.0	8TH April 2022	Offshore committee	New policy
Board Approved {insert Date} **Awaiting Rowing Ireland board approval**			

1. Introduction

Rowing Ireland will be sending a team to represent Ireland at the following 2022 events:

- Home International Beach Sprint Regatta – St Andrews, Scotland, 20th August
- World Rowing Beach Sprint Finals - Saundersfoot, Wales, 14-16th October
- European Coastal Rowing Championships – San Sebastian, Spain, 27-30th October

This discipline is ideal for agile and skilled scullers with a performance background, from either a coastal or flatwater.

2. Eligibility

World Beach Sprints Finals and European Coastal Championships
Rowers and coxes must fulfil the following criteria:

- hold a valid Irish Passport or a passport showing a place of birth in Northern Ireland;
- be eligible under the World Rowing Nationality & Gender Regulations;
- be a registered member of a Rowing Ireland affiliated club;
- be a registered racing member of Rowing Ireland
- undergo the health screening outlined in Appendix 2;
- senior Rowers and coxes must be aged eighteen years or over on 1st January;
- junior Rowers must be under eighteen years of age on 31st December.

Home International Sprint Regatta
Rowers and coxes must fulfil the following criteria:

- hold a Passport or other document permitting travel to Great Britain;
- be eligible under the Home International Nationality & Gender Regulations;
- be a registered member of a Rowing Ireland affiliated club;
- be a registered racing member of Rowing Ireland
- undergo the health screening outlined in Appendix 2 if required[1]
- senior Rowers and coxes must be aged eighteen years on or before 1st January;
- junior Rowers must be under eighteen years before 1st September the preceding year

3. Qualification Opportunities

The following are the events offered at the various events

Event	CM1x	CW1x	CJM1x	CJW1x	CJM2x	CJW2x	CMix2x	CJMix2x	CM4x+
Worlds	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Europeans	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Homes	•	•	•	•			•	•	

4. Qualification Regatta

The selection event for each of the above will be the Beach Sprint Qualification regatta at Ownahincha, Cork on the weekend of 7-8th May 2022. Athletes will participate in pool boats provided by a boat vendor. . To ensure fairness private/club boats may not be used however athletes must provide their own oars. Athletes are advised that it is their responsibility to arrange boat handlers for the qualifying event. A maximum of three handlers will be permitted per boat at this event

[1] It has not yet been established if this requirement will apply to the Home International event

5. Qualification Process

a) Crews wishing to represent Ireland in any of the three listed events must enter the qualification event
b) Entries must be made in the appropriate category on Tracker, but will not be complete until the club secretary of each club has confirmed the entry by e-mailing an electronic form, a sample of which is displayed in Appendix 3, to offshore@rowingireland.ie. This must be submitted before the close of entries and such e-mails will be acknowledged.
c) In the doubles and quads, composite crews are allowed which must be approved by all club secretaries on tracker.
d) The club secretary will specify which regattas the crew wishes to be considered by using the distributed form
e) In nominating a crew, the club accepts that it is responsible for any levy which their club member(s) are liable for if selected
f) Athletes may enter several qualifying events but may only represent Ireland in one event at each regatta. If an athlete qualifies in more than one event they may decide which event to participate in.
g) A list of the events which each crew has applied for will be published shortly after entries close.
h) Should a crew withdraw from an event having qualified from an earlier round, they may take no further part in any event at the regatta.
i) The highest placed crew[2] of each boat type will be offered the opportunity to participate in each of the regattas they indicated they wished to be considered for. If the crew declines to participate in one or more of the regattas, the opportunity will pass to the next fastest crew which indicated an interest in that event. The process will continue until all positions are filled.
j) The crew must either:
    a. Confirm in writing their interest in accepting any offered place at the qualifying regatta or
    b. The Club secretary must confirm by e-mailing offshore@rowingireland.ie

    Such confirmations must be received by no later than 7pm on the Monday following the qualifying regatta.

j) Once a crew accepts a place on the team, they may withdraw by notifying offshore@rowingireland.ie at the earliest opportunity. The club remains liable for the levy even if another crew is selected to replace them. The Offshore Committee reserves the right to refuse selection in the following year to crews which withdraw and do not notify the committee immediately they become aware of the unavailability of a crew member.
k) In the event that a single sculler withdraws, the committee will offer the position to the next qualified sculler. In the event that a member of a crew withdraws, the Offshore Committee will consider whether to pass the opportunity to the next qualified crew or whether to replace the crew member. At a regatta the Team Manager will have the power to make any necessary substitutions.
l) Should there be no entries for a boat class at the qualification event the Offshore Committee may at their discretion select a crew.

6. Restriction on Entries at the qualifying regatta

Based on the number of entries it may be necessary to restrict the number of entries in order to be able to complete the selection regatta in the time allocated. This is more likely to apply to the smaller boat categories. Should this happen, the offshore committee will decide on the maximum number of permitted entries from a club in each event. As a result, clubs may need to run qualifying events within their club to determine which athlete(s) attend the selection regatta.

7. Junior Athletes

At any event they have been selected for, junior rowers must be accompanied by a parent/guardian or a nominated club coach who has been Garda Vetted/Access NI approved. Details of who will be accompanying the junior must be provided at least one month in advance of the relevant event.

[2] Where a knock out system is used it may not be possible to run races to determine some of the lower positions. In such a case the fastest time will be used to determine the ranking of such crews.

8. Coxes

Coxes must be able to sprint between 10m and 50m and have the ability to steer an offshore boat through breaking waves. They must also be a minimum of 55kg inclusive of a maximum of 15kg ballast.

9. Coaches

Each crew which qualifies will be entitled to bring one official coach to the relevant event. All such coaches must be Garda Vetted/Access NI approved. In addition they must have completed Safeguarding 1. These are unpaid volunteer positions and the coaches travel at their own expense.

10. Boat Handlers

Experienced boat handlers are a critical component of the team and can make the difference between a crew winning or losing. As the crews will be representing Ireland, club boat handlers will not be permitted but it is planned to take three official boat handlers to each event. All such boat handlers must be Garda Vetted/Access NI approved. In addition they must have completed Safeguarding 1. These are unpaid volunteer positions and the boat handlers travel at their own expense. The job will entail frequently lifting boats so those applying should if necessary obtain health screening in advance. Anyone interested in applying to be a boat handler at any of the three events should complete and e-mail the online application on or before 8th May indicating which event(s) they wish to be considered for any outlining their previous Beach Sprint boat handling experience.

Note – It is possible for coaches to also act as boat handlers but any coaches registering for boat handling must be prepared to act as boat handler for any of the crews on the team.

11. Team manager

A Team Manager will be appointed to each competition by the offshore committee. The individual will have good organisational skills and must have experience of attending World Rowing Beach Sprint events. He/she must be Garda Vetted/Access NI approved. In addition, he/she must have completed Safeguarding 1. This is an unpaid volunteer position and the Team Manager travels at their own expense.

12. Athlete Levies

The following are the levies for the various regattas. The levies include the provision of team gear and oar rental. Athletes are responsible for their own travel, accommodation, meals and any additional costs including Covid 19 testing should it be required.

Levies must be paid 30 days prior to the event as set out below .

All levies will be paid to Rowing Ireland electronically. It is the responsibility of the Team Manager to ensure the levies have been paid in a timely manner. Any transactions for the athlete's equipment (covered in the levy) will be pre agreed in order for the Team Manager to carry out their duties for the Beach Sprints Team.

The cost of any accidental damage to equipment will be covered by Rowing Ireland in a similar manner to all other international Team's.

Team athlete's, team support individuals and team manager are responsible to arrange and pay for all travel and accommodation requirements.

- Home International Regatta –St Andrews, Scotland, 20th August
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13. Other International Opportunities

Should other international opportunities for national teams arise during the year, the offshore committee shall decide whether to send a team. Should they do so, places will initially be offered to crews based on the results of the qualifying regatta.

14. Antidoping

All athletes attending the selection event or those selected for international competition are reminded that they are subject to the Rowing Ireland Anti-Doping Policy and should make themselves aware of same.

15. Appeal Process

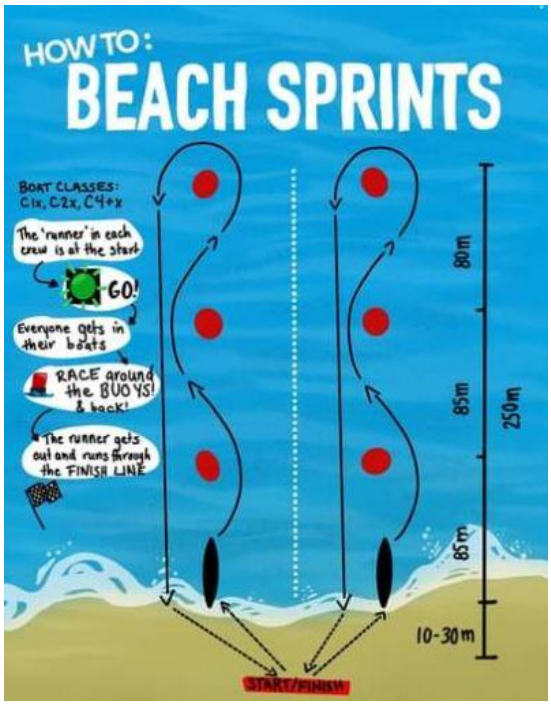
Any individual is entitled to make an appeal in relation to the selection process in accordance with the stated Appeal Process

For additional information or any queries please contact offshore@rowingireland.ie

16. Code of conduct

All athletes should complete the RI code of conduct

Appendix 1 – Beach Sprint Outline



Appendix 2 – World Rowing Pre-Competition Health Screening

Pre-Competition Health Screening

a) All rowers competing in the World Rowing Senior, Under 23, Under 19 and Beach Sprint Championship regattas must have completed a pre-competition health screening which included a questionnaire, a physical examination and an ECG following the IOC's recommended procedure. It is the responsibility of the member federation to ensure and certify that these Pre-competition Health Screening procedures have been performed and be able to provide evidence thereof if requested by world Rowing.

b) All rowers competing in the World Rowing Senior, Under 23, Under 19 and Beach Sprint Championship regattas must complete the medical questionnaire and undergo a medical examination each year, and, in addition must undergo a resting ECG every three years up to the age of 23, and every five years after the age of 23.