



ROWING IRELAND SELECTION POLICY AND OLYMPIC/PARALYMPIC NOMINATION CRITERIA – 2023/2024 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" - Chair), the category Head Coach of the rowing squad for which the Rower is eligible and the category National Coach (the "Selectors").

In case the Head Coach is not appointed the role will be covered by one of the Head Coaches and appointed by the HPD

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 to 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/Annual Plan and the Event Requirements for the current year. Event Requirements for 2024 are at Appendix A, B and C of this Policy for Senior, Under 23 and Junior Rowers, respectively.

(b) Current international performances.

C) Any supplementary tests/assessments deemed necessary by the HPD in the best interests of team performance/selection. Distance, number and location of such assessments will be communicated to the athletes/crews concerned as and if required.

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 the 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 Selectors, as part of the Selection Criteria, will also take into account one or more of the following further Criteria in selecting rowers and coxes for the National Team:

(a) past national and international performances.

(b) the Rower's current level of technical skills and physical fitness.

(c) any current injury or condition which will impair or prevent the Rower's performance

(d) Factors relevant to crew combination and team's dynamic, 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) Head 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, Head coach – National Coach if appointed
- Under 23 World Championships - HPD, Pathway coordinator if appointed–, U23 National Coach if appointed
- Junior World Championships - HPD, Pathway coordinator if appointed, National Coach if appointed

ATHLETE AGREEMENT

All athletes wishing to be considered for National selection must fill in and sign the Athletes Agreement before arrival at 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 signed and submitted on the RI website.

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.

The Selectors have the authority to change or cancel the dates of the Selection based on circumstances and in order to select the best team possible.

The main circumstances are:

- 1) Injuries
- 2) Weather conditions
- 3) Updated information based on performances in training/international competitions etc.
- 4) Any other unforeseen circumstances deemed to be in the best interests of team selection/performance

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

If, because of injury, illness, or personal extenuating circumstances (e.g., 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 the National Team becomes injured or ill, and in the opinion of the HPD and/or appointed Head Coach (with advice of the Chief Medical Officer where relevant), is not deemed fit to compete. 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 Head 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 Head 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 2023

END

Appendix A

Appendix A to Rowing Ireland Selection Policy and Olympic Nomination Criteria
2024 Event Requirements for Senior Ireland Rowing Team

Appendix B

Appendix B to Rowing Ireland Selection Policy and
2024 Event Requirements for The U23 Ireland Rowing Team

Appendix C

Appendix C to Rowing Ireland Selection Policy and
2024 Event Requirements for The Junior Ireland Rowing Team