

2024 EUROPEAN AQUATICS JUNIOR OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

12th July – 14th July 2024, Vienna, Austria

INVITATION POLICY



Introduction

This Policy provides the avenue by which an athlete can be invited to represent Ireland at the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships. This avenue (or "Invitation Stage") is 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 Junior Open Water swimming amongst athletes who are eligible to represent Ireland and to provide a competitive development opportunity 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. The 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships are held on the existing dates of 12th July – 14th July 2024 and/or are held in the existing location of Vienna, Austria. If there is any postponement of the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships beyond this period and/or a change of location, a new Invitation Policy will be required*
- 2. The 2024 McCullagh International Meet is held on the existing dates of 11th April – 14th April 2024. If there is any postponement of the 2024 McCullagh International Meet 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 the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships*

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 invites athletes to the Ireland National Team

The Performance Senior Leadership Team comprises of the National Performance Director, the Head of Performance Pathway & Operations, the Head of Physical Preparation, the Head of Performance Analysis, the Performance Manager and the National Centre Head Coaches

European Aquatics is the European federation/governing body for aquatic sports. World Aquatics and is the international federation/governing body administering international competition in aquatic sports. European Aquatics is affiliated to World Aquatics

1. Nomination for Invitation

- i. The National Performance Director will nominate athletes to the National Selection Panel for invitation to the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the relevant Invitation Stage as described below*
- ii. To be considered eligible for nomination to represent Ireland at the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships, athletes must:*
 - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in the Invitation Stage 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 athlete team size and athlete personnel*

2024 EUROPEAN AQUATICS JUNIOR OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

12th July – 14th July 2024, Vienna, Austria

INVITATION POLICY



- 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 the Invitation Stage

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 born in the period 2005 - 2010;
- ii. Be an Irish citizen at the time of entries being submitted to European Aquatics;
- iii. Be eligible to represent Ireland as per 'World Aquatics Competition Regulation No.3 - Sport Nationality' at the time of entries being submitted to European Aquatics;
- iv. Hold an Irish passport at the time of entries being submitted to European Aquatics;
- v. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2023-2024 season;
- vi. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- vii. Be available to fulfil all of the Swim Ireland Performance team obligations;
- viii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On Our Performance Team' booklet;
- ix. Not be the subject of an anti-doping ban, a doping violation and/or a pending doping violation;
- x. Comply with any European Aquatics eligibility criteria and/or requirements. Swim Ireland, in consultation with European Aquatics and World Aquatics, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by Swim Ireland, European Aquatics and World Aquatics) with the Swim Ireland decision being final

4. Invitation Stage

- i. To be considered for nomination for invitation to represent Ireland in the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships athletes must:
 - a. Finish in a top two position of eligible athletes born in the respective double band age group (see Section 5) in the 5km (for athletes born in 2007, 2008, 2009 or 2010) or the 10km event (for athletes born in 2005, 2006 or 2007) at the 2023 Swim Ireland National Open Water Championships (July 2023); and
 - b. Finish in a top two position of eligible athletes born in the respective double band age group (see Section 5) in either the 800m or 1500m Freestyle at the 2024 McCullagh International Meet (April 2024)
 - c. Where an athlete was unable to partake in the requirements of Section 4ia through selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2023 European Youth Olympic Festival, the National Performance Director may nominate such athletes to the National Selection Panel should they meet the criteria in Section 4ib and, in their professional opinion, possess the capabilities to have achieved the criteria in Section 4ia

5. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. At the conclusion of the Invitation Stage, those athletes who have achieved the criteria requirements within Sections 3 and 4 will be considered eligible for nomination to the National Selection Panel
- ii. Athletes born in 2009 or 2010 will be nominated for the 5km Open Water Event
- iii. Athletes born in 2007 or 2008 will be nominated for the 7.5km Open Water Event
- iv. Athletes born in 2005 or 2006 will be nominated for the 10km Open Water Event
- v. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 16)

6. Athlete Coach Eligibility

Athletes will only be able to accept an invitation to represent Ireland at 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships if they declare the name of a coach who could travel with them to the event to undertake all technical, health and safety responsibilities for the athlete at the event. Such coaches must:

- i. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2023-2024 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

2024 EUROPEAN AQUATICS JUNIOR OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

12th July – 14th July 2024, Vienna, Austria

INVITATION POLICY



7. Team Manager Eligibility

Athletes will only be able to accept an invitation to represent Ireland at the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 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 2023-2024 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 Our Performance Team' booklet

8. Team Staff Selection Procedure

Subject to the team staff meeting the criteria as set out in Sections 6 and/or 7, the team staff will be appointed by the Performance Senior Leadership Team and subsequently invited to be part of this National 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

9. Ireland National Team Obligations (General)

In accepting an invitation to represent Ireland in the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships, 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 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships to meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to Section 12. 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 the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships Commit to the values of the Swim Ireland National Programme Athlete Charter
- iv. 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
- v. Comply with Swim Ireland and World Aquatics swimwear regulations

10. 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 the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 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. Event entries to the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships will be made by Swim Ireland. Swim Ireland will pay for any associated entry cost to European Aquatics
- iii. Swim Ireland will make the hotel arrangements on behalf of the athlete, coach and team manager once the preferred hotel from those offered by European Aquatics has been selected
- 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

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

- i. All costs associated with travel (international & domestic) subsistence costs and hotel costs to the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships which is not covered by the holistic bursary as outlined in Section 10 will be met by the athlete's home programme club or by the athlete

2024 EUROPEAN AQUATICS JUNIOR OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

12th July – 14th July 2024, Vienna, Austria

INVITATION POLICY



12. 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 the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships to achieve an equal or superior performance in the 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 the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships
- 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 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 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 the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 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 World final

13. Withdrawal & Removals

At any stage an athlete, coach or team manager may withdraw from representing Ireland at the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships 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 9)
 - decline invitation to or withdraw from the 2024 European Aquatics Junior Open Water Swimming Championships
- 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 12)

14. 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

15. 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

2024 EUROPEAN AQUATICS JUNIOR OPEN WATER CHAMPIONSHIPS

12th July – 14th July 2024, Vienna, Austria

INVITATION POLICY



16. 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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