

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026

23rd July – 2nd August 2026, Glasgow, Scotland

NOMINATION POLICY (PARA-SWIMMING)

Introduction

This Policy will only apply if:

- 1. The 2026 Commonwealth Games are held on the existing dates of 23rd July - 2nd August 2026 and/or are held in the existing location of Glasgow, Scotland. If there is any postponement of the 2026 Commonwealth Games beyond this period and/or a change of location, a new Nomination Policy will be required*
- 2. There are no amendments to the Para-Swimming Athlete Allocation System before the end of the qualification period (1st January 2025 - 28th February 2026). If there are amendments to the Para-Swimming Athlete Allocation System, a new Nomination Policy will be required*

Selection Philosophy

The Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland (CGNI) Strategic Plan 2021-2027, contains a clear focus on Performance and the defined objectives include “to present the best possible Northern Ireland team at each edition of the Commonwealth Games, supported by world class preparation and support services.” As outlined in the CGNI Selection Policy for Glasgow 2026, the Team NI performance will be adjudged a success if sports achieve more medals, and/or Top 8 finishes (Top 5 finishes in events with historically low participation numbers or performance standards when compared to global norms). Sporting success at the Commonwealth Games for Sport Northern Ireland (SNI) means nominated athletes can achieve one or more of these outcomes and are on track to achieve Olympic selection in 2028.

Swimming and Para-Swimming will operate as an integrated team at the 2026 Commonwealth Games and Para-Swimming places are in addition to places allocated for Swimming by CGNI. The Team Leader and any additional coaches and/or team managers nominated for selection to the Northern Ireland Team will support both swimming and para-swimming team members.

This Policy has been agreed by Swim Ulster Ltd and lodged with CGNI. It sets out the Swim Ireland National Selection Panel process for nominating athletes, additional coaches and/or team managers to:

- a. be considered eligible for nomination for selection;*
- b. be nominated for selection and;*
- c. be selected to the Northern Ireland Team for swimming at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow*

This Policy also states who will be the Team Leader, Team Head Coach and Team Manager for the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

Athletes, additional coaches, and team managers must satisfy certain criteria to be considered eligible for nomination for selection.

The role of the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations is to compile the names of athletes, additional coaches and team managers who meet the criteria for nomination for selection and to make recommendations to the National Selection Panel (athletes) and the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team (additional coaches, team managers, and sports science & sports medicine practitioners).

The Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team comprises of the National Performance Director, the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, the Head of Sports Science & Sports Medicine, the Performance Manager and the three National Centre Head Coaches, and is the expert group which selects additional coaches, team managers and sports science & sports medicine practitioners to the Northern Ireland Team.

The actual selection of any athlete, any additional team coach and/or team manager will be made by CGNI.

Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland (CGNI) is the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Association affiliated to the Commonwealth Games Federation

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) is the international federation administering the Commonwealth Games

World Para Swimming (WPS), under the governance of the International Paralympic Committee acts as the international federation for Para-Swimming

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026

23rd July – 2nd August 2026, Glasgow, Scotland

NOMINATION POLICY (PARA-SWIMMING)

1. Nomination for Selection

- i. The National Selection Panel will nominate athletes to CGNI for selection to individual events for the Northern Ireland Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the WPS Athlete Allocation System qualification period outlined in Section 4
- ii. To be considered eligible for nomination to individual events for the Northern Ireland Team, athletes must:
 - a. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below; and
 - b. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Section 4

2. Northern Ireland Team

- i. CGNI is the body which has the power to select an athlete or member of staff to the Northern Ireland Team for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland
- ii. CGNI will determine the team size and personnel
- iii. CGNI agrees to notify Swim Ulster Ltd of its selection or its refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after CGNI receives the National Selection Panel's nominations following the conclusion of the WPS Athlete Allocation System qualification period outlined in Section 4

3. Athlete Eligibility

At the time that the National Selection Panel is nominating athletes for selection to CGNI, athletes must meet the following criteria to be considered eligible for nomination:

- i. Be internationally classified with a 'Confirmed' Sport Class Status or a 'Review' Sport Class Status 2027 or later at the sport entries deadline of 23rd June 2026;
- ii. Hold an active WPS License for the 2026 season;
- iii. Be eligible to represent Northern Ireland as per Commonwealth Games Federation Bylaw 16 by the conclusion of WPS Athlete Allocation System qualification period outlined in Section 4. A copy of this document can be requested by emailing admin@swimulster.com;
- iv. Be a registered member of a Swim Ulster Ltd club based in Northern Ireland (where any membership category is accepted) for the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 season;
- v. Declare Northern Ireland as their Commonwealth country of representation;
- vi. Be available to fulfil all of the Northern Ireland Team obligations;
- vii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On Our Performance Team' Handbook;
- viii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster Ltd, and their registered Swim Ireland club, in particular;
 - a. display behaviours, standards and expectations that are aligned with the 'On Our Performance Team' Handbook, along with the aims and aspirations of the Swim Ireland Performance Plan 2025-2028; and
 - b. have not acted in a manner that brings themselves, Swim Ireland and/or the sport into current disrepute (potential and/or actual disrepute);
- ix. Not be the subject of a current anti-doping ban, a current doping violation and/or a pending doping violation. Paralympics Ireland or Aquatics GB Para-Swimming shall immediately inform Swim Ulster Ltd who in turn will inform CGNI of the outcome of any anti-doping test of any athlete nominated for selection;
- x. Comply with any CGF, WPS and CGNI eligibility criteria and/or requirements. CGNI, in consultation with WPS and the CGF, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by the CGF, WPS and Swim Ulster Ltd) with the CGNI decision being final

4. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. Para-Swimming places will be allocated using the Athlete Allocation System published by WPS, a copy of which can be requested by emailing admin@swimulster.com
 - a. Only results achieved by athletes at WPS recognised competitions are eligible for world rankings;
 - b. The qualification period is 1st January 2025 - 28th February 2026;
 - c. At the conclusion of the qualification period, CGA Nations will be extracted from the WPS World Rankings to create a Commonwealth adjusted ranking list;
 - d. CGA's will be eligible to qualify a maximum of three athletes per individual medal event (Table 1) and the Commonwealth adjusted ranking list will be amended to reflect this maximum number
 - e. Qualification slots will be issued to CGNI in the name of a specific athlete for allocation and are therefore non-transferable
- ii. Subject to National Selection Panel discretion, athletes selected to the Northern Ireland Team via an individual event may also be considered for additional individual event entries if the Northern Ireland Team do not already have three athletes selected for the individual event in question

- iii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 14)

Table 1 – Para Swimming Medal Events

MALE	Event	FEMALE
Classification		Classification
S7 & S13	50m Freestyle	S13
S13	100m Freestyle	S9 & S13
S14	200m Freestyle	S14
S9	100m Backstroke	S9
SB9	100m Breaststroke	SB8
S10	100m Butterfly	
	200m IM	SM10

5. Team Leader

- i. The Team Leader for the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games is a named individual, currently holding the position of as Interim National Performance Director, who may assume another role at the time of selection

6. Team Head Coach

- i. The Team Head Coach for the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games will be the National Centre (Ulster) Head Coach

7. Team Manager

- i. The Team Manager for the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games will be a female member of Swim Ulster Ltd staff

8. Northern Ireland Team Obligations

In accepting a selection to the Northern Ireland Team for the 2026 Commonwealth Games, athletes accept and agree that training with/competing for the Northern Ireland Team and/or the Ireland National 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 Ulster Ltd and CGNI require any athlete, coach or team manager who has been selected to represent the Northern Ireland Team at the 2026 Commonwealth Games to meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to Section 11. Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI oblige all selected athletes and, where relevant, all Ireland National Team staff to:

- i. Agree not to disclose any selected Northern Ireland Team member name to the press or any other media (including their own social media) until Swim Ulster Ltd 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. Comply with the CGNI Team Members Agreement
- iv. Complete a Swim Ulster Ltd Medical Form prior to competing at the 2026 Commonwealth Games
- v. 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
- vi. At the date of the decision of CGNI selections, all athletes selected must ensure that they are submitting a daily online submission via the Swim Ireland Management System (a space formerly occupied by Kitman) each training and competition day
- vii. Comply with Swim Ulster Ltd, CGNI and World Aquatic swimwear regulations
- viii. Adhere to all prescribed travel arrangements which might involve different travel dates to other members of the Team
- ix. Not take holidays between 28th February 2026 and the 2026 Commonwealth Games
- x. Make themselves available for all Northern Ireland Team activities designated by the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations (including, but not limited to, a 2026 National Team Day, any CGNI Pre-Event Team Days, preparation camps and/or holding camps) as part of or in addition to the National Programme or Regional Programme (where offered and accepted subject to Section 3vi). No Team member will be allowed to leave a

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026
23rd July – 2nd August 2026, Glasgow, Scotland
NOMINATION POLICY (PARA-SWIMMING)

Team camp or undertake any activities that are not directly relevant to the Team camp, including any external media, sponsor, or social activities. Failure to attend the required activities could result in an athlete being de-nominated. Under exceptional circumstances, written approval to be excluded from activities can be given by the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations

- xi. Not attend overseas camps and/or competitions between 28th February 2026 and the 2026 Commonwealth Games without prior written approval from the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations
- xii. Nominated athletes, team coaches, and team managers agree not to attend the 2026 Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremony
- xiii. Nominated athletes, team coaches, team managers, Swim Ulster Ltd and Swim Ireland agree to abide by all CGNI and CGF requirements

9. Team Uniform/Kit

- i. All Team uniform and kit (other than racing suits and swim caps) will be provided for and to the Team by CGNI
- ii. All Team racing suits, and swim caps will be provided for and to the Team by Swim Ulster Ltd or CGNI
- iii. Athletes accepting racing suits from Swim Ulster Ltd and/or CGNI must wear them (or another branded suit of the same sponsor) for all of their races. Athletes may exercise ‘freedom of choice’ in the wearing of a non-sponsor suit, but such a suit must be unbranded

10. Competitive Readiness

‘Competitive Readiness’ means the combined professional opinion of the National Performance Director and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations following advice, where necessary, from a member/s of the CGNI Medical Team as to the ability of an athlete who has been nominated for selection or who has been selected to represent the Northern Ireland Team at the Commonwealth Games to achieve an equal or superior performance in their selected Olympic event(s) over their performance achieved to qualify for nomination for selection and/or selection

- i. Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Performance Director and Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, do not remain Competitively Ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury, illness, application to training, performance behaviour or other reasons, may be removed from the Northern Ireland Team
- 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 Commonwealth Games, to the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations 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 and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations to consider recommendations made by a member/s of the CGNI 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 and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations to seek recommendations from a member/s of the CGNI 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, the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations and appropriate a member/s of the CGNI 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 with the Northern Ireland Team to any Team event including the Commonwealth Games and the Commonwealth Games Holding Camp, unless and until the opinion of the National Performance Director and Head of Performance Pathways & Operations has been communicated to that athlete that the athlete does meet their opinion of Competitive Readiness. If the athlete is at either the Commonwealth Games or the Commonwealth Games Holding Camp 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 the National Performance Director and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations is final

11. Withdrawal & Removals

At any stage an athlete, coach or team manager may withdraw from the Northern Ireland Team but may only do so in extenuating circumstances

- i. An athlete, coach or team manager may be removed from:

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026
23rd July – 2nd August 2026, Glasgow, Scotland
NOMINATION POLICY (PARA-SWIMMING)



- a. Eligibility for nomination, or;
- b. Nomination for selection, or;
- c. Selection to the Northern Ireland Team for any of the following reasons:
 - Behaviour that is inconsistent with the National Team Code of Conduct
 - Found to be in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by Swim Ulster Ltd, Swim Ireland, Sport Ireland, Paralympics Ireland, Aquatics GB, UK Anti-Doping Agency and/or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA);
 - Unable or unwilling to fully comply with the Northern Ireland Team Obligations (Section 8)
- ii. An athlete may be removed from the Northern Ireland Team before or after nomination for selection or before or after selection if, in the opinion of the National Performance Director and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, he/she does not have Competitive Readiness (Section 10)

12. 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 selection 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

13. Amendments

- i. Subject to Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI approval, the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to make changes to this Policy which, in its discretion, are necessary. No such changes shall be made after the commencement of Nomination Trials B unless the changes relate to the National Selection Panel exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions (Section 12)
- ii. Subject to Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI approval, the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team reserves the right to review and modify this Policy or a decision related to the nomination process in the case of rule or policy changes from the Commonwealth Games Federation and/or World Aquatics that affect the criteria set out in this Policy
- iii. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via www.swimulster.net

14. Appeals

- i. Any appeal regarding;
 - Nomination
 - Non-nomination
 - De-nomination
 - De-selection

is a matter for the athlete in question and Swim Ulster Ltd only. Appeals shall only be considered if they address one or more of the following areas:

- Selection process
- Clarification of fact
- Provision of new and relevant information
- ii. An appeal will not be considered in relation to an individual athlete failing to achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 or a relay failing to achieve a Consideration Time detailed in Table 3
- iii. Following the announcement of nominated athletes in the week commencing Monday 20th April 2026, in the case of non-nomination, the athlete (which for this purpose includes a parent/carer and/or a coach of an athlete who is under the age of 18 years) is required to lodge an appeal in writing (Notice of Appeal) setting out in full detail the basis upon which the athlete wishes to appeal against the decision of the National Selection Panel
- iv. The Notice of Appeal must be sent to stephen@swimulster.com and received before 1700 hrs Monday 27th April 2026
- v. In the case of de-nomination or de-selection, the Notice of Appeal must be received within two working days of the date on which the decision to de-nominate/de-select was communicated to the athlete
- vi. A fee of £200.00 must be paid with the Notice of Appeal either electronically to Swim Ulster Ltd (Danske Bank, Sort Code 95-01-33, Account Number 22780453) or by cheque made payable to Swim Ulster Ltd. This fee will be refunded to the Appellant if the Appeal is successful
- vii. Within two working days, the Swim Ulster Chief Executive Officer will supply copies of the Notice of Appeal to the National Selection Panel in order that they have the opportunity to review the original decision in light of the points made in the Notice of Appeal

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026
23rd July – 2nd August 2026, Glasgow, Scotland
NOMINATION POLICY (PARA-SWIMMING)

- viii. Within two working days of the date of receipt by them of the Notice of Appeal, the National Selection Panel will advise the Swim Ulster Chief Executive Officer in writing whether the National Selection Panel confirm or reverse their original decision
- ix. Within two working days of the date of receipt of the determination of the National Selection Panel, the Swim Ulster Chief Executive Officer will advise the Appellant in writing of the decision of the National Selection Panel with regard to the Appeal
- x. Where the decision of the National Selection Panel is to confirm their original decision, and no later than two working days after the date of notification of the decision of the National Selection Panel, the appellant may (by notice in writing to stephen@swimulster.com and resolve@sportresolutions.co.uk) apply for Leave to Appeal against the decision of the National Selection Panel
- xi. The Leave to Appeal shall be referred to Sport Resolutions UK (a trading name for The Sports Dispute Resolutions Panel Ltd – Company No. 3351039) for final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Act 1996 and Sport Resolutions UK's Arbitration Rules, which rules are deemed to be incorporated by reference to this clause
- xii. Within two working days of receipt of the Leave to Appeal, Sport Resolutions UK will respond in writing by email to the athlete to notify the athlete if there are grounds for an appeal and if so;
 - Whether the appeal will proceed by way of written submissions or an oral hearing and set a date for the hearing;
 - Whether the parties (athlete and Swim Ulster Ltd) are required to submit statements of their evidence and/or written submissions prior to the hearing and, if so, a timetable for doing so and the procedure for exchanging such statements and written submissions;
 - In the case that there may be an 'affected athlete' whether they will be included in the appeal hearing and/or be invited to make a representation at the appeal hearing
- xiii. Sport Resolutions UK will notify the athlete and Swim Ulster Ltd of the decision on the day of the hearing. Written reasons for the decision shall follow no later than one working day following the hearing. The decision of Sport Resolutions UK will be final and binding.
- xiv. Swim Ulster Ltd will also have the right to appeal to CGNI if athletes have been nominated by Swim Ulster Ltd and are not selected. This will be completed within twenty-four hours of CGNI notification of non-selection. All CGNI appeal decisions will be made ahead of final announcement of the team. Athletes do not have the right to appeal directly to CGNI.

Published: June 2025