

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026

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

NOMINATION POLICY (SWIMMING)

Introduction

This Policy provides four avenues by which an athlete can be nominated to Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland (CGNI) for selection to the Northern Ireland Team (“Northern Ireland Team”). These avenues (or “Nomination Stages”) are described in further detail below.

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. The 2025 World Aquatics Championships (50m) are held on the existing dates of 27th July - 3rd August 2025 and/or are held in the existing location of Kallang, Singapore. If there is any postponement of the 2025 World Aquatics Championships (50m) beyond this period and/or a change of location, a new Nomination Policy will be required*
- 3. The 2026 Irish Open Championships are held on the existing dates of 8th - 12th April 2026. If there is any postponement of the 2026 Irish Open Championships beyond this period, a new Nomination Policy will be required*
- 4. The 2026 Aquatics GB Championships are held on the existing dates of 14th - 19th April 2026. If there is any postponement of the 2026 Aquatics GB Championships beyond this period, 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. To contribute to the achievement of these aims, the nomination standards for the 2026 Commonwealth Games have been set at a level (for both individual and relay events) with these outcomes in mind.

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.

For those athletes selected to one or more National Team(s) in the 2025-2026 season, the following priority tiering system will be intrinsic to athletes and home programme coach planning, preparation and focus with regard to summer international benchmark meet status. Where an athlete is selected to more than one National Team from within those listed below, the priority tiering status should be considered in terms of preparation and focus:

- 1. 2026 Commonwealth Games*
- 2. 2026 European Aquatics Championships (50m)*

XXIII COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2026

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

NOMINATION POLICY (SWIMMING)

3. 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships

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 nominates 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. As there is a finite number of places for swimming, recording a consideration standard, as detailed in this document, does not guarantee selection.

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 Aquatics is the international federation/governing body administering international competition in aquatic sports

1. Nomination for Selection

- i. The National Selection Panel will nominate athletes to CGNI for selection to individual and Olympic relay events for the Northern Ireland Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of Nomination Trials B as described below.
- ii. Individual Events
To be considered eligible for nomination to individual events for the Northern Ireland Team, athletes must:
 - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Nominations Stage 1 or 2 below; and
 - b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below
- iii. Relay Events
To be considered eligible for nomination to Olympic relay events for the Northern Ireland Team, athletes must:
 - a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Nomination Stage 3 below; and
 - b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below
- iv. Nomination Trials
The Nomination Trials events will include all rounds of competition in Olympic individual event performances and single gender National Team relay lead-off leg performances at events defined 'Nomination Trials A' or 'Nomination Trials B' as follows:
 - Nomination Trials A**
 - a. 2025 World Aquatics Championships (50m) in Kallang, Singapore
 - Nomination Trials B**
 - a. 2026 Irish Open Championships (50m), for athletes whose recognised World Aquatics nation is 'Ireland' only, or
 - b. 2026 Aquatics GB Championships (50m), for athletes whose recognised World Aquatics nation is 'Great Britain' only

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 Nomination Trials B

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

- iv. There are seventeen individual events per gender in the Commonwealth Games programme for swimming. Up to a maximum of three athletes can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel via each individual event
- v. There are three relay events per gender and two mixed gender relay events in the Commonwealth Games programme for swimming. Athletes may be nominated to the Northern Ireland Team via the Olympic relay events only. Up to a maximum of one relay team can be nominated for selection by the National Selection Panel per relay event

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 eligible to represent Northern Ireland as per Commonwealth Games Federation Bylaw 16 by the conclusion of Nomination Trials B. A copy of this document can be requested by emailing admin@swimulster.com;
- ii. 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;
- iii. Declare Northern Ireland as their Commonwealth country of representation;
- iv. Be available to fulfil all of the Northern Ireland Team obligations;
- v. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On Our Performance Team' Handbook;
- vi. 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);
- vii. Not be the subject of a current anti-doping ban, a current doping violation and/or a pending doping violation. Swim Ireland shall inform CGNI immediately of the outcome of any anti-doping test of any athlete nominated for selection;
- viii. Comply with any CGF, World Aquatics and CGNI eligibility criteria and/or requirements. CGNI, in consultation with World Aquatics and the CGF, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by the CGF, World Aquatics and Swim Ulster Ltd) with the CGNI decision being final

4. Nomination Stage 1

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team via an Olympic individual event(s) in Nomination Stage 1, athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 at Nomination Trials A, and
- ii. Prove Competitive Readiness (Section 18) by competing in and achieving the Consideration Time detailed in Table 2 in the same event(s) at Nomination Trials B
- iii. If an athlete is unable to compete at Nomination Trials B for medical reasons (which are fully and professionally validated/documentated by an approved member of the CGNI Medical Team only), the athlete will be required to prove Competitive Readiness (Section 18) via a controlled performance such as a competition or an observed test or a time trial (Section 18v) prior to nominations being confirmed. All costs pertaining to such a medical assessment will be borne in full by the athlete. There is no obligation on the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations to nominate an athlete for selection to the National Selection Panel nor is there an obligation on the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations to accept the reasons provided by an athlete or the CGNI Medical Team for their inability to compete at Nomination Trials B

5. Nomination Stage 2 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team via an Olympic individual event(s) in Nomination Stage 2, athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 at Nomination Trials B

6. Nomination Stage 3 (Athlete Relay Events Only)

- i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team via an Olympic relay event(s) in Nomination Stage 3, the athletes with the fastest four aggregated times recorded in the respective and associated composite individual events when combined, will be equal to or better than the Relay Consideration Times detailed in Table 3

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

- ii. In the event that a relay(s) is/are selected to the Northern Ireland Team, the National Selection Panel will have regard to the composition of that relay team (subject to such athletes meeting all CGF and/or World Aquatic relay requirements) in the following manner:
 - a. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Male or Female 400m Freestyle relay, the fastest four times (in the relevant gender) in the 100m Freestyle will be considered from Olympic individual event performances and single gender National Team relay lead-off leg performances achieved at Nomination Trials A and B
 - b. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Male or Female 800m Freestyle relay, the fastest four times (in the relevant gender) in the 200m Freestyle will be considered from Olympic individual event performances and single gender National Team relay lead-off leg performances achieved at Nomination Trials A and B
 - c. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Male or Female 400m Medley relay, the fastest combination (in the relevant gender) in the 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle will be considered from Olympic individual event performances and single gender National Team 400m Medley and 400m Freestyle relay lead-off leg performances achieved at Nomination Trials A and B
 - d. To be considered for selection to the Northern Ireland Team for a Mixed 400m Medley relay, the fastest combination across the two genders in the 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 100m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle will be considered from Olympic individual event performances and single gender National Team 400m Medley and 400m Freestyle relay lead-off leg performances achieved at Nomination Trials A and B
- iii. In the case of nominated relays, the National Selection Panel may also nominate for selection to the Northern Ireland Team additional athletes as relay alternates/back up options for such relay teams at their discretion

7. Nomination Stage 4 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

- i. In Nomination Stage 4, additional athletes may be nominated for selection to the Northern Ireland team via an Olympic individual event at the professional discretion of the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations where an athlete has been unable to compete at Nomination Trials B for medical reasons (which are fully and professionally validated/documentated by an approved member of the CGNI Medical Team only). All costs pertaining to such a medical assessment will be borne in full by the athlete. There is no obligation on the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations to nominate an athlete(s) for selection to the National Selection Panel via Nomination Stage 4 nor is there an obligation on the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations to accept the reasons provided by an athlete/CGNI Medical Team via Nomination Stage 4
- ii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, to be considered for nomination for selection to the Northern Ireland Team via an Olympic individual event(s) in Nomination Stage 4, athletes must record a time in a 50m pool in a meet recognised and approved by the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations equal to or better than the individual event Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 and record such a time in the period 26th June 2025 to 12th April 2026
- iii. In addition to Section 7ii, the athlete may be required to prove Competitive Readiness (Section 18) via a controlled performance such as a competition or an observed test or a time trial (Section 18v) prior to nominations being confirmed

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



Table 1

MALE	Event	FEMALE
Consideration Time		Consideration Time
22.38	50m Freestyle	25.23
49.07	100m Freestyle	55.06
1:48.30	200m Freestyle	1:59.99
3:51.57	400m Freestyle	4:13.98
7:55.69	800m Freestyle	8:42.34
15:15.42	1500m Freestyle	16:39.33
25.49	50m Backstroke	28.64
54.75	100m Backstroke	1:01.37
1:59.84	200m Backstroke	2:13.05
27.74	50m Breaststroke	31.21
1:00.65	100m Breaststroke	1:07.87
2:12.27	200m Breaststroke	2:28.10
23.71	50m Butterfly	26.62
52.55	100m Butterfly	59.20
1:58.26	200m Butterfly	2:11.15
2:00.84	200m IM	2:14.82
4:21.34	400m IM	4:47.31

Table 2

MALE	Event	FEMALE
Consideration Time		Consideration Time
22.83	50m Freestyle	25.74
50.05	100m Freestyle	56.17
1:50.47	200m Freestyle	2:02.39
3:56.20	400m Freestyle	4:19.06
8:05.20	800m Freestyle	8:52.79
15:33.73	1500m Freestyle	16:59.31
26.00	50m Backstroke	29.22
55.84	100m Backstroke	1:02.59
2:02.24	200m Backstroke	2:15.71
28.29	50m Breaststroke	31.84
1:01.86	100m Breaststroke	1:09.23
2:14.92	200m Breaststroke	2:31.06
24.18	50m Butterfly	27.16
53.60	100m Butterfly	1:00.39
2:00.62	200m Butterfly	2:13.77
2:03.25	200m IM	2:17.52
4:26.57	400m IM	4:53.05

Table 3

MALE	Event	FEMALE
Consideration Time		Consideration Time
3:18.95	400m Freestyle Relay	3:45.21
7:15.16	800m Freestyle Relay	8:02.53
3:44.42	400m Medley Relay	4:06.50
MIXED	Event	MIXED
Consideration Time		Consideration Time
3:49.26	400m Medley Relay	3:49.26

8. Athlete Nomination Procedure

- i. At the conclusion of the Nomination Trials, those who have achieved the criteria requirements within each stage (including the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to CGNI by the National Selection Panel
- ii. If the number of athletes achieving nomination requirements (in individual and/or relay events) exceeds the number of places made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, the National Selection Panel shall nominate for selection as follows:
 - a. Nomination Stage 1 will take priority over Nomination Stage 2, Nomination Stage 2 will take priority over Nomination Stage 3, and Nomination Stage 3 will take priority over Nomination Stage 4
 - b. If required, to reach the maximum number of places made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, the times achieved for each nominated individual event and each nominated relay event will be ranked as a percentage inside the Consideration Time (Table 1 and Table 3)
- iii. In the event of a tie (equal times achieved by two or more athletes) between any number of athletes within a Nomination Stage, the athlete with the next fastest time achieved once (from all rounds of competition in Olympic individual events and lead-off legs in single gender National Team relays) in that event from the Nomination Trials will be considered for nomination by the National Selection Panel. In the result of any subsequent tie remaining unresolved through this process, the process of the next fastest time achieved at the Nomination Trials will continue to be considered until the tie is broken
- iv. Subject to the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, 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
- v. Subject to the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, athletes nominated via an individual event may also be selected to relay events
- vi. Subject to the joint discretion of the National Performance Director and the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, athletes nominated via relay events only may also be considered for individual event entries if the Northern Ireland Team do not already have three athletes nominated for the individual event in question
- vii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to an Appeals Process (Section 23)

9. Team Leader

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

10. 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

11. 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

12. Team Coach Eligibility

Depending on the size of the Northern Ireland Team and the staff accreditations made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, any additional coach to be considered eligible for nomination for selection by the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team must meet the following criteria:

- i. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 season;
- ii. Be a full-time resident on the island of Ireland;
- iii. Be a practising coach within a Swim Ireland affiliated swimming programme;
- iv. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 3 Coaching Certificate or international equivalent or be enrolled on a Level 3 Coaches Course at the time of nomination;
- v. Be a registered coach on the Swim Ireland Register of Aquatic Professionals;
- vi. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Northern Ireland Team;
- vii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided first-hand service or support as a coach as part of the National Programme or Regional Programme in the period 1st September 2025 – 12th April 2026 (where offered/requested);

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

- viii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On Our Performance Team' Handbook;
- ix. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and Swim Ulster Ltd, 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)

13. Team Coach Nomination Procedure

- i. Subject to coaches meeting the criteria as set out in Section 12, one or more additional coaches may be recommended by the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team and where so recommended, may be nominated for selection to CGNI;
- ii. Team Coaches may be nominated in an offsite (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp only), onsite (Commonwealth Games) and/or combined (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp and Commonwealth Games) role and such nominations will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays nominated, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole. As such, a Team Coach may not be required/nominated

14. Team Manager Eligibility

Depending on the size of the Northern Ireland Team and the staff accreditations made available to Swim Ulster Ltd by CGNI, any additional team manager to be considered eligible for nomination for selection by the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team must meet the following criteria:

- i. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 season;
- ii. Be a full-time resident on the island of Ireland;
- iii. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 2 Team Management Certificate or international equivalent;
- iv. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Northern Ireland Team;
- v. Other than in exceptional circumstances, team managers will not be the parent or carer of an athlete member of the Team;
- vi. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided direct service or support as a team manager as part of the National Programme or Regional Programme in the period 1st September 2025 – 12th April 2026 (where offered/requested);
- vii. Comply with the statements and expectations of the Swim Ireland 'On Our Performance Team' Handbook;
- viii. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland, 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)

15. Team Manager Nomination Procedure

- i. Subject to the team manager meeting the criteria as set out in Section 14, the team manager may be recommended by the Swim Ireland Performance Senior Leadership Team and where so recommended, may be nominated for selection to CGNI
- ii. Team managers may be nominated in an offsite (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp only), onsite (Commonwealth Games) and/or combined (Commonwealth Games Holding Camp and Commonwealth Games) role and such nominations will be reflective of the Team size, the number of accreditations available, the needs of the individual athletes and/or relays nominated, as well as considering the optimum balance of the Team as a whole. As such, a team manager may not be required/nominated

16. 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 19. Swim Ulster Ltd and CGNI oblige all selected athletes and, where relevant, all National Ireland Team staff to:

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

- 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 Nomination Trials B 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 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 Nomination Trials B 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

17. 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

18. 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

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

- 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 if 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

19. 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:
 - 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, 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 16)
- 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 18)

20. Replacement or Addition

- i. If an athlete, coach, or team manager is removed from or withdraws from the Northern Ireland Team, that individual may be replaced by another eligible individual who meets the required standards set out in this Policy
- ii. The Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, where in his opinion it is in the best interests of the Northern Ireland Team, may recommend that any number of additional athletes, coaches or team managers be added to the selected Northern Ireland Team, subject to such additional individuals meeting the required standards set out in this Policy
- iii. Any replacement or addition of an individual to the Northern Ireland Team shall be made by way of recommendation by the Head of Performance Pathways & Operations, which recommendation is nominated by the National Selection Panel and which nomination is approved by CGNI

21. 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

22. 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 21)
- 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

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



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.com

23. 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
- 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

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

- 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.

Updated: October 2025