Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme

Swimming & Diving 2025-2028

All criteria are based on Olympic Disciplines/Events Only

Review & Approval Process

Athletes are subject to a 'Review & Approval' process by the National Performance Director prior to an application being made to Sport Ireland for the International Carding Scheme and subject to further Review & Approval processes each year/season by the National Performance Director and/or the Sport Ireland Carding Committee. The Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme for swimming only recognises identified and agreed benchmark international meets as those meets from which the Carding criteria can be considered. Review & Approval processes will be undertaken within the Carding year in the following periods:

- April/May
- July/August
- November/December as part of a consideration for an application for the following Carding year

Swim Ireland Performance has a responsibility to ensure that funding received via the Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme is invested into athletes at a level which matches and supports the athlete's potential to qualify for and deliver a lifetime best performance at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

It is recognised by both Sport Ireland and Swim Ireland that the Daily Performance Environment (DPE) is the primary essential factor which will facilitate or thwart an athlete in their quest to reach their full Performance potential. It is also recognised that athletes who are in offshore DPE's are residing in programmes where the key focus and attention is not necessarily directed to and/or driven by that of Irish international success. By implication, it is recognised that an athlete's current and/or future DPE has to be considered as part of an application process.

Prior to Application

During the immediately preceding season, and other than in exceptional circumstances which have been ratified by the National Performance Director, the athlete will have:

- Abided by the Swim Ireland National Team, National Programme, and National Centre Code of Conduct and Athlete Agreement;
- Upheld the standards and expectations outlined in the Performance Team Charter;
- Made themselves available for all necessary National Team Trials events;
- Represented Ireland via a National Team when selected;
- Completed all necessary administrative requirements for the year;
- Indicated a clear ethical commitment to the Sport Ireland Anti-Doping procedures and protocols;
- Fulfilled all athlete specific requirements within the Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme Athlete Agreement extant at the commencement of the Carding year in question;
- Formally declared an intent to continue at a Performance level within the sport, a level which is considered to be both full and committed, with a targeted approach towards further progress and performance improvement

On Application

Other than in exceptional circumstances which have been ratified by the National Performance Director, the athlete will be:

- A registered Swim Ireland member for the season extant at that time;
- Be in good standing with Swim Ireland;
- Be available to fulfil all of the Irish National Team obligations;
- Formally declared an intent to be fully engaged in the Performance Programme from the commencement of the season;
- Not be the subject of an Anti-Doping ban and/or a pending doping violation

Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme

Swimming & Diving 2025-2028

All criteria are based on Olympic Disciplines/Events Only

Prior to application for funding via the International Carding Scheme, the National Performance Director will assess each potential athlete who meets one of the Carding Criteria in the following three key areas:

1. **Performance trajectory/potential in association with their age profile in their primary Olympic event/s utilising the 'OnTrack Dashboard' as part of this process (Swimming), or in association with their age profile and the degree of difficulty within their competitive list of dives in their primary Olympic event/s (Diving) over the course of the 2025-2028 Olympic cycle**

2. **Performance progression in their primary Olympic event/s over the course of the current and immediately prior season in the agreed National Team Trials and the agreed and identified benchmark international meet**

3. **The formally assessed 'fit for purpose' nature of the selected DPE**

These factors will be assessed in each individual case and through this process, each athlete will be categorised into one of two distinct groups:

Category 1 - On Track
Athletes who meet the Carding Criteria and are deemed by the National Performance Director to be making sufficient and agreed performance progression as per Points 1 and 2 above will be considered to be residing in a fit for purpose DPE and will be eligible for an application to be made on their behalf.

Carded athletes who are On Track will be re-assessed in that year in relation to their performance progression in their primary Olympic event/s in the agreed National Team Trials and the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. Such performances will be relevant for Carding payments to continue in Q3 and Q4 (with or without adjustment) and may require the athlete's DPE to be considered and discussed with the National Performance Director at this time.

Athletes who choose to relocate their DPE at the commencement of or within the Carding year to one that is viewed by the National Performance Director as being detrimental to their performance development will no longer be eligible for an application to be made on their behalf and/or Swim Ireland will cease or suspend Carding Award payments until the matter is resolved by the athlete to the satisfaction of the National Performance Director.

Category 2 - Off Track
Athletes who meet the Carding Criteria but are deemed by the National Performance Director to be making insufficient Performance progress or regression as per Points 1 and 2 above will, in the first instance be ineligible for an application to be made of their behalf at that time. Such athletes will be informed of this assessment by the National Performance Director in Q3 of the preceding season prior to application and will be provided with an opportunity to discuss and address the reasons for this.

Once an Off Track athlete is considered to have addressed their Performance issues and agreed an action plan for the season ahead, they will become eligible for an application to be made on their behalf.

Carded athletes who are Off Track will be re-assessed in that year in relation to their Performance progression in their primary Olympic event/s in the agreed National Team Trials and the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. Any necessary adjustments to monthly Carding payments will be made according to these performances.