2027 WORLD AQUATICS CHAMPIONSHIPS (50M)
10th to 18th July 2027, Budapest, Hungary
SELECTION POLICY (Swimming)

Introduction

This Policy outlines the avenues by which an athlete can be selected to the Ireland National Team ("Ireland National Team") for the 2027 World Aquatics Championships (50m). In all circumstances, an athlete is selected to the Ireland National Team and not to a specific event. These avenues ("Selection Stages") are described in detail below.

This Policy will only apply if:

1. *The 2027 World Aquatics Championships (50m) are held on the existing dates of 10th to 18th July 2027*
2. *The Irish Open Championships (50m) are held on the existing dates of 31st March to 3rd April 2027*
3. *The 2026 European Aquatics Championships (50m) are held on the existing dates of 10th to 16th August 2026*
4. *The 2026 Commonwealth Games are held on the existing dates of 24th to 29th July 2026*

This Policy sets out the Swim Ireland process for selecting athletes to:

(a) be considered eligible for nomination for selection which involves meeting the 'Athlete Eligibility' criteria in Section 3 and the achievement of Consideration Times and requirements set out in the 'Selection Stages' below;
(b) be nominated for selection; and
(c) be selected to the Ireland National Team for swimming at the 2027 World Aquatics Championships (50m).

This Event Specific Selection Policy must be read in conjunction with the Swim Ireland National Team Selection Governance Policy, which outlines the overarching eligibility requirements, governance procedures, obligations, appeals processes, and operational provisions applicable to all Swim Ireland National Teams.

Unless expressly stated otherwise within this Event Specific Selection Policy, all provisions contained within the Swim Ireland National Team Selection Governance Policy shall apply.

1. Nomination for Selection

The National Performance Director will nominate athletes to the National Selection Panel for selection to individual and relay events for the Ireland National Team as expediently as possible following the conclusion of the Selection Trials, as described below:

i. Individual Events
To be considered eligible for nomination to the Ireland National Team via an individual event/s, athletes must:
   a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Selection Stage 1, 2, or 4 below; and
   b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below.

ii. Relay Events
To be considered eligible for nomination to the Ireland National Team via a relay event/s, athletes must:
   a. Satisfy the conditions and standards set out in Selection Stage 3 below; and
   b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below.

iii. Selection Trials
The Selection Trials events will include individual event performances and National Team relay lead-off leg performances at events defined as 'Selection Trials A' or 'Selection Trials B' as follows:

Selection Trials A
   a. 2026 European Aquatics Championships (50m), Paris, France
   b. 2026 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow, Scotland

Selection Trials B
   a. 2027 Irish Open Championships (50m), Dublin, Ireland

2. Ireland National Team

i. The National Selection Panel agrees to notify Swim Ireland of its selection or refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable after the National Selection Panel receives the National Performance Director's nominations following the Selection Trials.

ii. There are seventeen individual events per gender in the World Aquatics Championships (50m) programme for swimming. Under World Aquatics Competition Regulations, up to a maximum of two athletes can be nominated by the National Performance Director for selection by the National Selection Panel via each individual event, provided both athletes have achieved the relevant World Aquatics 'A' Entry Standard.

iii. There are three relay events per gender and three mixed gender relay events in the World Aquatics Championships (50m) programme for swimming. Athletes may be selected to the Ireland

National 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 Performance Director is nominating athletes for selection to the National Selection Panel, athletes must meet the following criteria to be considered eligible for nomination:

i. Be an Irish citizen and hold an Irish passport by the conclusion of the Selection Trials;

ii. Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with *World Aquatics Competition Regulation No. 3 – Sport Nationality* by the conclusion of the Selection Trials, unless the athlete is undergoing a Change of Sport Nationality application. In such circumstances, the Change of Sport Nationality process must be completed no later than four (4) weeks prior to the Sports Entries deadline for the relevant competition. This date will be published once confirmed;

iii. Comply with any World Aquatics eligibility criteria and/or requirements. Swim Ireland, in consultation with World Aquatics, will decide on any question of eligibility (having regard to all eligibility criteria set by Swim Ireland, and World Aquatics) with the Swim Ireland decision being final;

iv. Maintain an active Swim Ireland membership at the time of the relevant Selection Trials and throughout the nomination and selection process;

v. Be available to fulfil all of the Ireland National Team obligations;

vi. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland and their registered Swim Ireland club, specifically by:
   a. demonstrating behaviours, standards and expectations consistent with the Swim Ireland Performance Team Charter, and aligned with the aims and aspirations of the Swim Ireland Performance Plan 2024-2028; and
   b. refraining from any conduct that has, or could reasonably be considered to have, brought themselves, Swim Ireland, and/or the sport into disrepute; and
   c. not being the subject of, or serving a sanction for, any anti-doping rule violation and/or pending doping violation.

4. Selection Stage 1 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1, athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 1 at Selection Trials A; and

ii. Prove Competitive Readiness (as outlined in the Swim Ireland National Team Governance Policy) by competing in and achieving the Consideration Time detailed in Table 2 in the same event(s) at Selection Trials B;If an athlete is unable to compete at Selection Trials B for medical reasons (which are fully and professionally validated/documented by an approved member of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Sports Institute Medical Team only), the athlete will be required to prove Competitive Readiness via a controlled performance such as a competition, observed test, or time trial prior to selections being confirmed. All costs pertaining to such a medical assessment will be borne in full by the athlete. There is no obligation on the National Performance Director to nominate an athlete for selection to the National Selection Panel, nor is there an obligation on the National Performance Director to accept the reasons provided by an athlete or the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Sports Institute Medical Team for their inability to compete at Selection Trials B;

iii. Only the fastest eligible athlete in each individual event may be considered for nomination for selection in Selection Stage 1.

5. Selection Stage 2 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

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

ii. Where one (1) athlete has already been nominated for selection via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1, a maximum of one (1) additional athlete may be nominated for selection via that same individual event(s) in Selection Stage 2:
   a. Only the fastest athlete not previously nominated in Selection Stage 1 via that individual event(s) may be considered for nomination;

iii. Where no athlete has been nominated for selection via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1, a maximum of two (2) athletes may be nominated for selection via that individual event(s) in Selection Stage 2.

a. Only the fastest two (2) eligible athletes in that event(s) may be considered for nomination.

6. Selection Stage 3 (Athlete Relay Events Only)

i. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via Olympic relay events in Selection Stage 3, the aggregate of the four fastest eligible times achieved at the Selection Trials must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 3.

ii. Eligibility for nomination for selection requires athletes to have achieved the 2027 World Aquatic 'B' Entry Standard, as detailed in Table 4, for the corresponding stroke and distance of the relay via which selection is being considered;

iii. In the case of nominated relays, the National Performance Director may, at his professional discretion and subject to team requirements, nominate relay alternatives for consideration for selection. Relay alternatives will only be considered where the aggregate relay times remain equal to or faster than the Consideration Times detailed in Table 3. There is no obligation on the National Performance Director to nominate any relay alternatives in Selection Stage 3.

Table 1

Male	Event	Female
21.91	**50m Freestyle**	24.86
48.33	**100m Freestyle**	54.25
1:46.67	**200m Freestyle**	1:58.23
3:47.57	**400m Freestyle**	4:10.23
7:48.66	**800m Freestyle**	8:34.62
15:01.89	**1500m Freestyle**	16.24.56
24.89	**50m Backstroke**	27.97
53.78	**100m Backstroke**	1:00.46
1:57.10	**200m Backstroke**	2:10.35
27.20	**50m Breaststroke**	30.75
59.75	**100m Breaststroke**	1:06.87
2:10.32	**200m Breaststroke**	2:25.91
23.28	**50m Butterfly**	25.97
51.58	**100m Butterfly**	58.31
1:56.35	**200m Butterfly**	2:09.21
1:59.05	**200m IM**	2:12.29
4:16.91	**400m IM**	4:43.06

Table 2

Male	Event	Female
22.35	**50m Freestyle**	25.36
49.30	**100m Freestyle**	55.34
1:48.80	**200m Freestyle**	2:00.59
3:52.12	**400m Freestyle**	4:15.23
7:58.03	**800m Freestyle**	8:44.91
15:19.93	**1500m Freestyle**	16:44.25
25.39	**50m Backstroke**	28.53
54.86	**100m Backstroke**	1:01.67
1:59.44	**200m Backstroke**	2:12.96
27.74	**50m Breaststroke**	31.37
1:00.95	**100m Breaststroke**	1:08.21
2:12.93	**200m Breaststroke**	2:28.83
23.75	**50m Butterfly**	26.49
52.61	**100m Butterfly**	59.48
1:58.68	**200m Butterfly**	2:11.79
2:01.43	**200m IM**	2:14.94
4:22.05	**400m IM**	4:48.72

Table 3

Male	Event	Female
3:16.87	**4 x 100m Freestyle**	3:43.25
7:12.37	**4 x 200m Freestyle**	8:06.71
3:36.96	**4 x 100m Medley**	4:04.80
Mixed		**Mixed**
3:49.50	**4 x 100m Medley**	3:49.50

Table 4

Male	Event	Female
50.02	**100m Freestyle**	56.15
1:50.40	**200m Freestyle**	2:02.37
55.66	**100m Backstroke**	1:02.58
1:01.84	**100m Breaststroke**	1:09.21
53.39	**100m Butterfly**	1:00.35

7. Selection Stage 4 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

i. In Selection Stage 4, additional athletes may be selected to the Ireland National Team for the 2027 World Aquatics Championships (50m) at the professional discretion of the National Performance Director where an athlete has been unable to compete at the Selection Trials for medical reasons (which are fully and professionally validated/documented by an approved member of the Sport Ireland Institute or Sport Northern Ireland Sports Institute 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 National Performance Director to nominate an athlete(s) to the National Selection Panel via Selection Stage 4, nor is there an obligation on the National Performance Director to accept the reasons provided by an athlete/medical practitioner via Selection Stage 4.

ii. Other than in exceptional circumstances, to be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 4, athletes must record a time in a 50m pool, in a meet recognised and approved by the National Performance Director, equal to or better than the individual event Consideration Standards detailed in Table 1, and must record such a time in the period 1st July 2026 to 3rd April 2027.

iii. In addition to Section 7ii, the athlete may be required to prove Competitive Readiness (as outlined in the Swim Ireland National Team Governance Policy) via a controlled performance such as a competition, observed test, or time trial prior to nominations being confirmed.

8. Athlete Nomination Procedure

i. At the conclusion of the Selection Trials, those athletes who have achieved the criteria requirements within a Selection Stage (including the athlete eligibility requirements outlined in Section 3) will be considered eligible for nomination to the National Selection Panel.

ii. The National Selection Panel shall select athletes to the Ireland National Team on the following priority basis:
   a. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 1
   b. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 2
   c. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 3
   d. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 4

iii. In the event of a tie, defined as equal times being achieved by two or more athletes within a Selection Stage, the athlete with the next fastest performance in that individual event achieved across all rounds of competition at the Selection Trials will be considered for nomination for selection. Should the tie remain unresolved, the process of comparing the next fastest performances achieved at the Selection Trials will continue until the tie is broken. If the tie remains unresolved following this process, the affected athletes will be required to participate in a Time Trial to be conducted on the final day of Selection Trials B;

iv. Subject to World Aquatics Competition Regulations and the National Performance Director's professional discretion, any athlete selected via an individual event may also be considered for additional individual event selections;
v. Subject to World Aquatics Competition Regulations and the National Performance Director's professional discretion, any athlete selected via an individual event may also be selected to populate teams in relay events;
vi. Subject to World Aquatics Competition Regulations and the National Performance Director's professional discretion, any athlete selected via a relay may also be considered for individual event selections;
vii. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to the Swim Ireland Appeals Process for European Aquatics & World Aquatics Events.

9. Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event that this Policy is silent on any matter which arises in the administration, application, or interpretation of any selection process or decision, the National Selection Panel shall have discretion to determine any issue as it deems fit, provided that such discretion is exercised fairly and promptly.

10. Amendments

i. The Performance SLT 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 the Selection Trials unless the changes relate to the National Selection Panel exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions;
ii. The Performance SLT reserves the right to review and modify this Policy or a decision related to the selection process in the case of rule or policy changes from an international federation that affect the criteria set out in this Policy;
iii. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via www.swimireland.ie.

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