2026 WINTER INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

World Aquatics Championships (25m), 1st to 6th December 2026, Beijing, China
Toyota U.S. Open Championships (50m), 2nd to 5th December 2026, Austin, Texas
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 either the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) or the Toyota U.S. Open 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 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) are held on the existing dates of 1st to 6th December 2026*
2. *The 2026 Toyota US Open Championships (50m) are held on the existing dates of 2nd to 5th December 2026*
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*
5. *The 2026 Irish Summer National Youth & Senior Championships are held on the existing dates of 21st to 25th July 2026*
6. *The 2026 Irish Summer National Age Group Championships are held on the existing dates of 9th to 12th July 2026*
7. *The 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships are held on the existing dates of 7th to 12th 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 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) or the 2026 Toyota US Open 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 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, 3 or 4 below; and
b. Meet the athlete eligibility criteria set out in Section 3 below

ii. 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', 'Selection Trials B', or 'Selection Trials C' as follows:

Selection Trials A

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

Selection Trials B

a. 2026 Irish Summer National Youth & Senior Championships, Dublin, Ireland
b. 2026 European Aquatics Junior Championships in Munich, Germany
c. 2026 Irish Summer National Age Group Championships in Limerick, Ireland

Selection Trials C

a. A nominated World Aquatics approved competition in a 25m pool in the period 1st September to 15th November 2026

2. Ireland National Team

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

ii. There are seventeen individual events per gender in the World Aquatics Championships (25m) 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. Any World Aquatics Wild Card invitation received by Swim Ireland will be managed in accordance with the Athlete Nomination Procedure set out in Section 9.

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 Tuesday 20th October, four (4) weeks prior to the Sports Entries deadline for the World Aquatics Championships (25m).

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 Ireland National Team obligations; and

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;

   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 (2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) 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;

ii. Athletes who do not wish to be nominated for selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) in Selection Stage 1 must declare this to the National Performance Director by 31st August 2026 in order to become eligible for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team for the Toyota US Open Championships in Selection Stage 4.

5. Selection Stage 2 (2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) 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 B;

ii. Where two (2) athletes have already been nominated for selection via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1, no additional athletes may be considered for nomination via that individual event(s) in Selection Stage 2;

iii. 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;

iv. 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;

v. Athletes who do not wish to be nominated for selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) in Selection Stage 2 must declare this to the National Performance Director by 31st August 2026 in order to become eligible for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team for the Toyota US Open Championships in Selection Stage 4.

Table 1

Male	Event	Female
21.81	**50m Freestyle**	24.61
47.90	**100m Freestyle**	53.87
1:45.85	**200m Freestyle**	1:57.72
3:46.68	**400m Freestyle**	4:08.79
7:48.66	**800m Freestyle**	8:30.85
15:01.89	**1500m Freestyle**	16:12.35
24.74	**50m Backstroke**	27.71
53.15	**100m Backstroke**	59.92
1:56.20	**200m Backstroke**	2:09.84
26.95	**50m Breaststroke**	30.56
59.44	**100m Breaststroke**	1:06.40
2:10.32	**200m Breaststroke**	2:25.16
23.02	**50m Butterfly**	25.68
51.21	**100m Butterfly**	57.67
1:55.30	**200m Butterfly**	2:09.21
1:58.21	**200m IM**	2:11.24
4:14.52	**400m IM**	4:43.06

6. Selection Stage 3 (2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) 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 3, athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 2 at Selection Trials C;

ii. Where two (2) athletes have already been nominated for selection via an individual event(s) in Selection Stages 1 and/or Stage 2, no additional athletes may be considered for nomination via that individual event(s) in Selection Stage 3;

iii. Where one (1) athlete has already been nominated for selection via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1 or Stage 2, a maximum of one (1) additional athlete may be nominated for selection via that same individual event(s) in Selection Stage 3
   a. Only the fastest athlete not previously nominated in Selection Stage 1 or Stage 2 via that individual event(s) may be considered for nomination;

iv. Where no athlete has been nominated for selection via an individual event(s) in Selection Stage 1 or Stage 2, a maximum of two (2) athletes may be nominated for selection via that individual event(s) in Selection Stage 3
   a. Only the fastest two (2) eligible athletes in that event(s) may be considered for nomination;

v. Athletes who do not wish to be nominated for selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) in Selection Stage 3 must declare this to the National Performance Director by 15th November 2026 in order to become eligible for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team for the Toyota US Open Championships in Selection Stage 4.

Table 2

Male	Event	Female
20.88	**50m Freestyle**	24.03
46.33	**100m Freestyle**	52.56
1:43.21	**200m Freestyle**	1:54.84
3:40.33	**400m Freestyle**	4:03.63
7:39.26	**800m Freestyle**	8:21.47
14:39.42	**1500m Freestyle**	15:55.80
23.21	**50m Backstroke**	26.35
50.43	**100m Backstroke**	56.94
1:51.60	**200m Backstroke**	2:05.19
26.17	**50m Breaststroke**	29.95
56.98	**100m Breaststroke**	1:04.55
2:04.78	**200m Breaststroke**	2:20.55
22.25	**50m Butterfly**	25.26
49.47	**100m Butterfly**	56.48
1:52.63	**200m Butterfly**	2:07.85
1:54.88	**200m IM**	2:08.61
4:06.73	**400m IM**	4:34.08

7. Selection Stage 4 (2026 Toyota US Open Championships (50m) Athlete Individual Events Only)

i. Up to a maximum of 15 athletes will be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team in Selection Stage 4, subject to a maximum of three (3) athletes per individual event and per gender;

ii. To be considered for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Team in Selection Stage 4, athletes must achieve one or more of the Consideration Times detailed in Table 3 at Selection Trials A or Selection Trials B;

iii. Athletes will be ranked according to their percentage inside/outside the 2027 World Aquatics 'A' Entry Standard and considered for nomination for selection in rank order until the maximum team size of 15 athletes is reached;

iv. Athletes nominated for selection to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) via Selection Stage 1, 2, or 3 are not eligible for selection to the Ireland National Team for the Toyota US Open Championships in Selection Stage 4.

Table 3

Male		Event	Female	
Born 2003 or later	**Born any year**		**Born any year**	**Born 2003 or later**
22.46	22.24	**50m Freestyle**	25.23	25.48
49.54	49.05	**100m Freestyle**	55.06	55.61
1:49.34	1:48.27	**200m Freestyle**	2:00.00	2:01.19
3:53.26	3:50.98	**400m Freestyle**	4:13.98	4:16.49
8:00.38	7:55.69	**800m Freestyle**	8:42.34	8:47.49
15:24.44	15:15.42	**1500m Freestyle**	16:39.33	16:49.17
25.51	25.26	**50m Backstroke**	28.39	28.67
55.12	54.59	**100m Backstroke**	1:01.37	1:01.97
2:00.03	1:58.86	**200m Backstroke**	2:12.31	2:13.61
27.88	27.61	**50m Breaststroke**	31.21	31.52
1:01.24	1:00.65	**100m Breaststroke**	1:07.87	1:08.54
2:13.58	2:12.27	**200m Breaststroke**	2:28.10	2:29.56
23.86	23.63	**50m Butterfly**	26.36	26.62
52.87	52.35	**100m Butterfly**	59.18	59.77
1:59.26	1:58.10	**200m Butterfly**	2:11.15	2:12.44
2:02.03	2:00.84	**200m IM**	2:14.27	2:15.60
4:23.33	4:16.91	**400m IM**	4:47.31	4:50.14

8. Selection Stage 5 (Athlete Individual Events Only)

i. In Selection Stage 5, additional athletes may be selected to the Ireland National Team for the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m) or the 2026 Toyota U.S. Open 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 5, nor is there an obligation on the National Performance Director to accept the reasons provided by an athlete/medical practitioner via Selection Stage 5;

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 5, 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 record such a time in the period 8th April to 15th November 2026;

iii. In addition to Section 8ii, the athlete may be required to prove Competitive Readiness (as outlined in the Swim Ireland National Team Selection Governance Policy) via a controlled performance such as a competition or an observed test or a time trial prior to nominations being confirmed.

9. Athlete Nomination Procedure

i. At the conclusion of the Selection Trials those athletes who have achieved the criteria requirements within a Selection Stage 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
   e. Athletes selected via Selection Stage 5

iii. In the event of a tie (equal times achieved by two or more athletes) between any number of athletes within a Selection Stage, the athlete with the next fastest time in that event, achieved once from all rounds of competition in individual events at the Selection Trials, will be considered for nomination by the National Selection Panel. If any subsequent tie remains unresolved through this process, the next fastest time achieved at the Selection Trials will continue to be considered until the tie is broken;

iv. Subject to World Aquatics Competitions Regulations and subject to the National Performance Director's professional discretion, any athlete selected via an individual event may also be considered for additional individual event selections;

v. Where World Aquatics issues a Wild Card invitation to an athlete for the 2026 World Aquatics Championships (25m), Swim Ireland will only accept such an invitation where the named athlete has satisfied the relevant eligibility, performance, nomination and selection requirements set out in this Policy. For the avoidance of doubt, a Wild Card invitation does not create an automatic entitlement to selection, nor provide an alternative route to selection outside this Policy;

vi. The decision of the National Selection Panel shall be subject to the Swim Ireland Appeals Process for European Aquatics & World Aquatics Events.

10. 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 quickly.

11. 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

Published: June 2026
Updated: August 2026