



## TEAM IRELAND DAKAR 2026 NOMINATION AND SELECTION POLICY

The Youth Olympic Games take place in Dakar, Senegal from the 31<sup>st</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026.

As the recognised National Olympic Committee for Ireland by the International Olympic Committee, the Olympic Federation of Ireland is responsible for the final selection of athletes for Team Ireland at Dakar 2026. This document outlines clearly to athletes and all stakeholders the full process of the nomination of athletes by the NF and final selection by the OFI to Team Ireland.

This document is subject to the terms and conditions of the official Dakar 2026 qualification process as published by the IOC and amended from time to time. All sport specific nomination policies must be read in conjunction with Dakar 2026 IOC and IF qualification principles and eligibility guide for that sport.

The Olympic Federation of Ireland shall publish the document containing all nomination policies in its entirety and each National Federation shall publish the general policy section with their sport specific policy.

### DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Athlete		means a person who competes in the sport of the NF and is recognised by that NF as eligible for nomination to Team Ireland.
Dakar 2026		see 'Games', meaning the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.
Court of Arbitration for Sport	CAS	means the Court of Arbitration for Sport.
Chef de Mission	CDM	means the appointed leader of Team Ireland by the OFI.
Chief Medical Officer	CMO	means the appointed lead doctor of Team Ireland responsible for all medical issues with Team Ireland.
European Olympic Committee	EOC	means the European Olympic Committee.
Games		Means the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.
International Federation	IF	means the International Federation for the Sport.

International Olympic Committee	IOC	means the International Olympic Committee.
IOC Conditions of Participation Form		means the document signed by the Athlete / Support Staff confirming their eligibility to participate at the Games and submitted by the OFI to the IOC.
Long List	LL	means a list of all Athletes / Support Staff who are recognised by an NF as potentially eligible and capable of being nominated for Team Ireland and therefore prospective members of Team Ireland.
Minimum Qualification Standard	MQS	means the minimum performance score set by the relevant IF for a specific sport contained in the Dakar 2026 qualification guide for the sport.
National Federation	NF	means the recognised national federation or national governing body of the sport.
National Olympic Committee	NOC	means the national Olympic committee recognized by the IOC. In the case of Ireland this is the OFI.
NF Agreement		means the agreement between the OFI and the NF which governs the process by which Athletes and Support Staff are nominated and selected for the Games.
NF Appeals Process		means the written procedure, submitted by the NF to the OFI, for a Nomination Appeal.
NF Appeals Policy		means the policy submitted by the NF to the OFI which governs how an Athlete can appeal a Nomination decision.
NF Nomination Criteria		means the sport specific criteria submitted by the NF to the OFI which governs how an Athlete will be nominated for selection.
Nominated Athlete		means an athlete nominated by the NF to the OFI Nomination List.
Nomination		means the process by which NFs submit the names of Athletes and Support Staff to the OFI for consideration for selection by the OFI for the Games.
Nomination Appeal		has the meaning given to it in clause 6.1 below.
Nomination Committee		means the committee appointed by the NF for the purpose of selecting Athletes and Support Staff for Nomination to the OFI.
Nomination Date		means the date specified by the OFI by which time the OFI Nomination List must be submitted to the OFI.

Organising Committee		means the Organising Committee of the Games.
OFI Nomination List		means the list of Nominated Athletes and Support Staff to be submitted to the OFI on or before the Nomination Date.
OFI Medical Data Capture Survey		means the survey issued by the OFI Chief Medical Officer to all Athletes and Support Staff.
OFI Selection Committee		means the three-person committee appointed by the OFI Executive Committee for the purposes of selecting Athletes and Support Staff for the Games.
Olympic Federation of Ireland	OFI	means the National Olympic Committee of Ireland.
Pre-Nomination Status		means the intention of the Nomination Committee to either nominate or not nominate an Athlete pending any appeal process.
Provisional Nomination List		means the list of Athletes and Support Staff provisionally nominated on or before the Provisional Nomination Date.
Selection Appeal		has the meaning given to it in clause 6.2 below.
Sports Dispute Solutions Ireland	SDSI	means the independent dispute resolution service for sport in Ireland.
SDSI Olympic Tribunal		means the SDSI tribunal on standby for Olympic Games specific appeals which will be handled within an expedited timeframe.
Support Staff		means the sport specific staff who have been recognised by that NF as eligible for nomination to Team Ireland.
Team Ireland		means all Athletes or Support Staff who are selected or appointed by the OFI for the Games.
Team Leader		means the appointed leader of the specific sport.
Team Member Agreement	TMA	means the OFI's agreement with Athletes or Support Staff which governs an Athlete's or Support Staff's participation in the Games.
World Anti-Doping Agency	WADA	means the World Anti-Doping Agency.

## 1. NOMINATION & SELECTION PRINCIPLES

The nomination and selection of the athletes to represent Ireland at the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games will be conducted in accordance with the following underlying principles:

- 1.1. **Performance** – The NF Nomination Criteria for each sport are designed to identify those athletes most likely to perform to the highest level at the Games. It is understood that in some

instances, an NF may set performance standards that are higher than the Minimum Qualification Standards set by the IF. NFs are encouraged to do this where they feel the Minimum Qualification Standards of the IF are at a lower level than the performance expectations of the sport nationally. The OFI reserves the right to set a higher performance standard if it deems necessary. In the case of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games, allocations in certain sports are event specific. In this instance, the NF policy will reflect this fact and performance standards will refer only to the event allocation received from the IOC and Organising Committee.

- 1.2. **Quota Places** – The decision to accept quota places will be made jointly by the NF and the OFI. In line with principle 1 ‘Performance’, a decision may be made not to accept all quota slots if Athletes do not meet the performance standards set by the NF. The official acceptance or rejection of an allocated quota place in writing is the sole responsibility of the OFI.
- 1.3. **Transparency, Clarity and Communication**– The nomination and selection policy of each NF must be clear and well communicated within a reasonable timeframe to all Athletes and coaches to ensure that all stakeholders understand it.
- 1.4. **Objective decision making** – Where possible decisions of Nomination Committees should be based on objective, measurable criteria. Where subjective criteria need to be included such as within teams or pairings, the process for this must be clearly explained to all stakeholders and the rationale for final decisions outlined in the Nomination meeting notes.
- 1.5. **Fairness** – The Nomination process must be fair and operated without bias or prejudice.
- 1.6. **Age** – The OFI does not set a minimum or maximum age requirement. The age requirement will be in accordance with IF rules for each sport [see sport specific criteria/eligibility].
- 1.7. **Re-allocation place acceptance** – In sports where re-allocation places are offered, the following criteria will apply:
  - (i) The decision to accept an athlete or team quota slot, will be jointly determined by the NF & OFI.
  - (ii) The OFI will only consider nominations for awarded re-allocation quota slots on the basis of the athlete or team having achieved a minimum performance standard as per the sport specific criteria agreed with the NF.
- 1.8. **NF and OFI Approval** – All Nomination Policies must be approved in writing by the relevant NF Board and the OFI prior to publication.

## 2. NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The nomination and selection of athletes to the 2026 Irish Youth Olympic Team will result from a graduated process of checks and balances to ensure the agreed criteria are applied correctly and to provide extra assurance to Athletes that their selection is confirmed by a robust process. The subsequent steps in the process are as follows (the timelines are sport specific and clearly documented within the relevant sport sections):

**Step 1:** The Irish Qualification period closes.

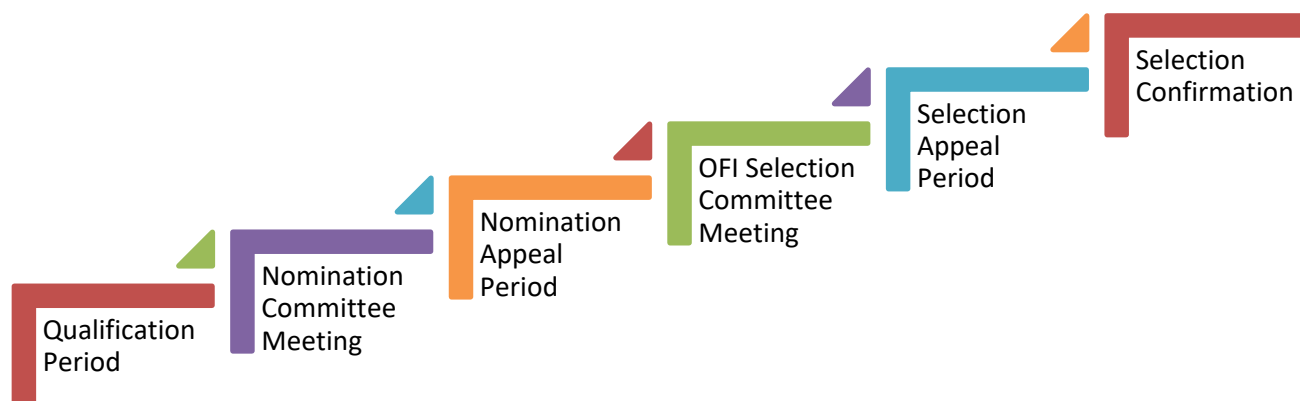
**Step 2:** The Nomination Committee convenes and applies the agreed NF Nomination Criteria for the sport. Athletes are informed of their Pre-Nomination Status.

**Step 3:** Sport specific appeal period including external SDSI appeal process if required.

**Step 4:** Formal nomination of Athletes from the NF to the OFI. All appeals must be concluded before this can happen.

**Step 5:** The OFI Selection Committee convenes to ratify the NF Nomination after confirming that the NF Nomination Criteria have been applied correctly.

**Step 6:** Athletes are informed of their selection by the Chef de Mission. Should the OFI Selection Committee not select a Nominated Athlete, the Athlete has the right to use the Selection Appeal Process.



### 3. NOMINATION AND SELECTION TIMELINES

The timelines for nomination and selection are sport specific and laid out in subsequent sections of this document. The close of the Irish qualification period for specific sports is final and will supersede the closing date for Athletes to achieve eligible performance standards set by the IF and/or Dakar 2026.

### 4. NOMINATION COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

- 4.1. Nomination Committees should be made up of a minimum of three voting members. There may be more than three voting members but an odd number is recommended to avoid a dead-lock.
- 4.2. All relevant information and paperwork should be circulated to the Nomination Committee Members in advance of the meeting to allow sufficient time for review to enable informed decision making to occur at the meeting.
- 4.3. An independent non-voting chairperson should be appointed. Ideally this person should have proven chairing skills and experience of high performance selection.
- 4.4. Detailed meeting notes must be recorded giving clear rationale for decisions on nomination or non-nomination and retained by the chairperson of the Nomination Committee.
- 4.5. NF Nomination Criteria must be applied in full fairly and consistently.
- 4.6. Where there is any actual or potential conflict of interest or loyalty e.g. where a member of the Nomination Committee is a personal coach of an athlete, this potential conflict must be

declared before the convening of the meeting and this person should be replaced on the Nomination Committee by another suitably qualified member.

- 4.7. The communication of an Athlete's Pre-Nomination Status must be communicated respectfully. The Nomination Committee Chairperson and Performance Director should give careful consideration to how the information is communicated to all Long List Athletes. Formal communication should be in writing.

## **5. OFI SELECTION COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES**

- 5.1. The OFI Selection Committee shall be made up of three members appointed by the OFI Executive Committee.
- 5.2. Detailed meeting notes must be recorded giving clear rationale for decisions on selection or non-selection and retained by the chairperson of the OFI Selection Committee.
- 5.3. Any perceived or known conflict of interest or loyalty will be declared by an OFI Selection Committee Member in advance and subsequent action will be taken to protect the integrity of the selection process.

## **6. APPEALS**

In accordance with the NF Agreement, there will be two types of appeal, namely Nomination Appeals and Selections Appeals. No party to a Selection Appeal or a Nomination Appeal may institute or maintain proceedings in any Court or Tribunal other than as specified in the NF Agreement.

### **6.1. Nomination Appeals**

- (i) Any Athlete on the Long List may appeal against their nomination or non-nomination by the NF to the Provisional Nomination List in accordance with the procedures set out in the NF Appeals Process (the "Nomination Appeal").
- (ii) The final right of any Nomination Appeal shall be to SDSI.
- (iii) The decision of SDSI shall be final and binding on the parties.
- (iv) Where the OFI is not a party to a Nomination Appeal, the NF consents to the circulation of the decision of SDSI and any other documents (in respect of that Nomination Appeal) to the OFI and to any other party specified by the OFI.
- (v) The OFI and/or their legal representative reserves the right to observe the SDSI Nomination Appeal.
- (vi) The NF shall not nominate any athlete while any internal appeals process is ongoing and shall confirm same in the athlete nomination form.

### **6.2. Selection Appeals**

- (i) Any Nominated Athlete may appeal against their selection or non-selection by the OFI to the SDSI in accordance with clause 6.2(ii) below ("Selection Appeal"). This appeal to the OFI selection decision shall only be available to Nominated Athletes on the following grounds:
  - (a) That the selection decision was affected by actual bias; or
  - (b) There was no basis upon which the OFI's decision could be reasonably made.
- (ii) The procedure for a Selection Appeal shall be as follows:
  - (a) Within 24 hours of receiving the OFI's notice of their non-selection, the Athlete must file and serve (on the respective CEOs of the OFI and NF) a Notice of Appeal with the SDSI setting out clearly the grounds upon which they dispute their non-selection.
  - (b) Thereafter the SDSI Procedural Rules shall apply.
  - (c) Any party to a Selection Appeal decision of the SDSI may appeal such a decision to CAS in accordance with its rules.
- (iii) Throughout any Selection Appeals process, all parties must use their best endeavours, acting in good faith, to resolve the dispute through communication and any communications made

for the purposes of this process may be made on a without prejudice basis and kept confidential between the parties.

## **7. NOTES TO THE NOMINATION AND SELECTION POLICY**

The following will apply for all sports unless otherwise indicated in sport specific sections below:

- 7.1. The Board of Directors of the Olympic Federation of Ireland will be the final decision making body in ratifying the position of all athletes and support staff on the 2026 Irish Youth Olympic Team.
- 7.2. The individuals named on the NF Nomination Committees in this document are correct at the time of publication. The NFs retain the right to amend the composition of any Nomination Committee without further notice to athletes.
- 7.3. The NF Nomination Criteria are subject to change, should there be any material amendment to the Dakar 2026 Principles of Participation by either the IOC, Dakar 2026 or the relevant International Federation for the sport. Any amendment to the NF Nomination Criteria by a National Federation can only be undertaken following written approval from the OFI. Any amendment must be clearly communicated to all Long List Athletes.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY FOR NOMINATION AND SELECTION**

The following will apply for all sports in addition to any NF and/or IF specific eligibility criteria which are detailed in the relevant section. To be eligible for nomination and subsequent selection Athletes must:

- 8.1. Be on the Long List.
- 8.2. Hold a valid Irish passport.
- 8.3. Be a maximum of 17 years old at the time of the Games, including up to the Closing Ceremony (23:59 Dakar local time on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2026) and meet the minimum age requirements aligned with the specific IF requirements contained in the sport specific eligibility criteria.
- 8.4. Comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force.
- 8.5. Complete the Team Ireland Dakar 2026 Team Member Agreement.
- 8.6. Have completed the IOC Conditions of Participation Form (if available at time of nomination).
- 8.7. Have achieved the Minimum Qualification Standard and any additional performance standards set by the NF.
- 8.8. Have completed all anti-doping requirements set out by the OFI and Sport Ireland.
- 8.9. Is not currently serving a period of ineligibility or period of provisional suspension in relation to an anti-doping rule violation.
- 8.10. Have completed the IOC Preventing Competition Manipulation online course.
- 8.11. Have completed the OFI Medical Data Capture Survey (if available at time of nomination).
- 8.12. Have demonstrated to the satisfaction of their NF that they are fit to perform at a sufficiently competitive level at the Games.
- 8.13. Has not acted in such a manner so as to bring himself/herself, the NF, the sport, the IF, the OFI, the IOC or the EOC into current disrepute. For the avoidance of doubt: the evaluation of this requirement is at the sole discretion of the NF Nomination Committee for the purposes of Nomination and at the sole discretion of the OFI Selection Committee for the purposes of selection: the public disrepute referred to within this clause includes potential and/or actual disrepute; an example of such public disrepute may include (but is not limited to) an athlete being charged with or convicted of a criminal offence; and
- 8.14. Have completed any other requirements requested by the OFI.

## **9. SPORT SPECIFIC NOMINATION POLICIES**

Please find nomination policies for the following sports below:



## **1. DETAILS**

- 1.1. Sport Name: Boxing
- 1.2. National Federation: Boxing Ireland
- 1.3. International Federation: World Boxing
- 1.4. Team Leader: Eoin Pluck
- 1.5. Nomination Committee: Jon Mackey, Anto Donnelly, Damian Kennedy, Eoin Pluck, Lynne McEnery

## **2. QUALIFICATION SLOT**

- 2.1. Quota places are allocated to the NOC.

## **3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 3.1. As per section 8 of the main Team Ireland policy document
- 3.2. Athletes must be born between 14 November 2008 and 31 December 2009 (inclusive)

## **4. RE-ALLOCATION**

- 4.1. Re-allocation places will only be considered in accordance with Clause 1.7 of the main Team Ireland policy document.

## **5. NOTES TO THE NOMINATION CRITERIA**

- 5.1. As per section 7 of the main Team Ireland policy.
- 5.2. Ireland has been allocated 1 quota place in the men's 50kg category.

## **6. NOMINATION CRITERIA**

- 6.1. The nomination committee will nominate the athlete who meets the eligibility criteria and places highest in the 2026 U19 national championships in the 50kg men's category.

## **7. WITHDRAWAL / REMOVAL**

- 7.1. An athlete may be withdrawn from the nomination process due to :
  - 7.1.1. illness or injury if, they are deemed unable to perform to the required standard at the Games.
  - 7.1.2. Breaches or failure to comply with any of the eligibility requirements.
- 7.2. Any withdrawal / removal post selection by the OFI will be in accordance with the OFI Team Member Agreement and OFI Fit to Compete Policy.
- 7.3. Any replacement following the withdrawal of an athlete will be made in accordance with the Nomination Criteria and in line with the Late Athlete Replacement policy of the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Games.

## **8. NOMINATION APPEAL PROCESS**

- 8.1 The appeals process is limited strictly to procedural matters. An athlete may appeal a non-nomination decision only where it is alleged that the mandatory eligibility requirements or nomination factors were not properly applied, that the agreed assessment or selection procedures were breached, or that the decision was affected by actual bias.

8.2 Appeals are considered by an independent Appeal Panel appointed by the Board. The panel is typically comprised of a barrister or solicitor acting as Chairperson, an individual with substantial knowledge of boxing, and an experienced independent sports administrator. Individuals involved in the original selection decision, or anyone who may reasonably be perceived as lacking impartiality, are excluded from serving on the panel.

8.3 To initiate an appeal, the athlete must submit a written Notice of Appeal within 48 hours of the selection decision. The notice must clearly identify the grounds of appeal, the relevant sections of the policy alleged to have been breached, details of the decision being challenged, and any supporting evidence relied upon. An appeal fee is also required as part of the submission process.

8.4 The Appeal Panel is required to convene a hearing as soon as practicable, generally within 10 working days of receiving the appeal. Hearings may be conducted in person, by telephone, or by video conference. The process must adhere to principles of procedural fairness, ensuring both parties are given the opportunity to be heard and that decisions are made independently, objectively, and without prejudgment. Prior to the hearing, the original Selection Panel must provide written reasons for the decision under appeal.

8.5 Following the hearing, the Appeal Panel may either dismiss the appeal or uphold it and remit the matter back to the Selection Panel with appropriate guidance. The Appeal Panel does not have the authority to directly select or deselect an athlete. Written decisions are normally issued within three working days of the hearing.

8.6 Any further appeal may only be referred to Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland for final and binding arbitration. Neither the Appeal Panel nor SDSI has jurisdiction to directly select or deselect athletes. The policy also requires confidentiality throughout the process and confirms that court proceedings may not be initiated until all internal and arbitration procedures have been exhausted.

## **9. TIMELINE**

- 9.1. Stage 1 U19 National Championship final 16/05/2026
- 9.2. Stage 2 Nomination Panel Meeting 22/05/26
- 9.3. Stage 3 Appeal window opens (48hrs)
- 9.4. Stage 4 Appeal window closes
- 9.5. Stage 5 Nomination to OFI within 7 days of Appeals window closing

Conclusion of Boxing Ireland nomination process before Friday 29/0526