



## TEAM IRELAND ISTANBUL 2027 NOMINATION AND SELECTION POLICY

The European Games take place in Istanbul in Turkey from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2027.

As the recognised National Olympic Committee for Ireland by the European Olympic Committee, the Olympic Federation of Ireland is responsible for the final selection of athletes for Team Ireland at Istanbul 2027. 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 Istanbul 2027 Qualification Guide as published by the EOC and amended from time to time. All sport specific nomination policies must be read in conjunction with the Istanbul 2027, EOC and IF Qualification Guide for that sport.

The Olympic Federation of Ireland shall publish each nomination policy when it is completed and each National Federation shall publish the general policy section with their sport specific policy. Publication must occur in advance of any direct qualification events and/or as close as possible to the start of the qualification period of the relevant sport.

### 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.                                   |
| Istanbul 2027                    |     | see 'Games', meaning the Istanbul 2027 European 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.                                                         |
| Conditions of Participation Form | COP | means the document signed by the Athlete / Support Staff confirming their eligibility to participate at the Games and submitted by the OFI to the EOC or IOC. |

|                                 |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| European Olympic Committee      | EOC | means the European Olympic Committee.                                                                                                                                                               |
| Games                           |     | Means the Istanbul 2027 European Games.                                                                                                                                                             |
| International Federation        | IF  | means the International Federation for the Sport.                                                                                                                                                   |
| International Olympic Committee | IOC | means the International Olympic Committee.                                                                                                                                                          |
| 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 Istanbul 2027 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 EOC and 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.                                |
| Provisional Nomination Date      |      | means a date set by the National Federation prior to the OFI 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 Istanbul 2027 European 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.
- 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 apply for such an athlete or team quota slot, will be jointly determined by the NF & OFI.
  - (ii) The OFI will only consider nominations for awarded individual universality or re-allocation quota slots on the basis of the athlete meeting the following criteria:
    - (a) The athlete has achieved a minimum performance standard as per the sport specific criteria agreed with the NF or
    - (b) The athlete has not had the opportunity to qualify through the normal qualification system due to injury, pregnancy, nationality dispute etc.
  - (iii) The OFI will only consider nominations for awarded team re-allocation quota slots if the team has achieved a minimum performance standard as per the sport specific criteria agreed with the NF (each NF Nomination Policy will clearly state what they consider a Team).
- 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 2027 Irish European 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.

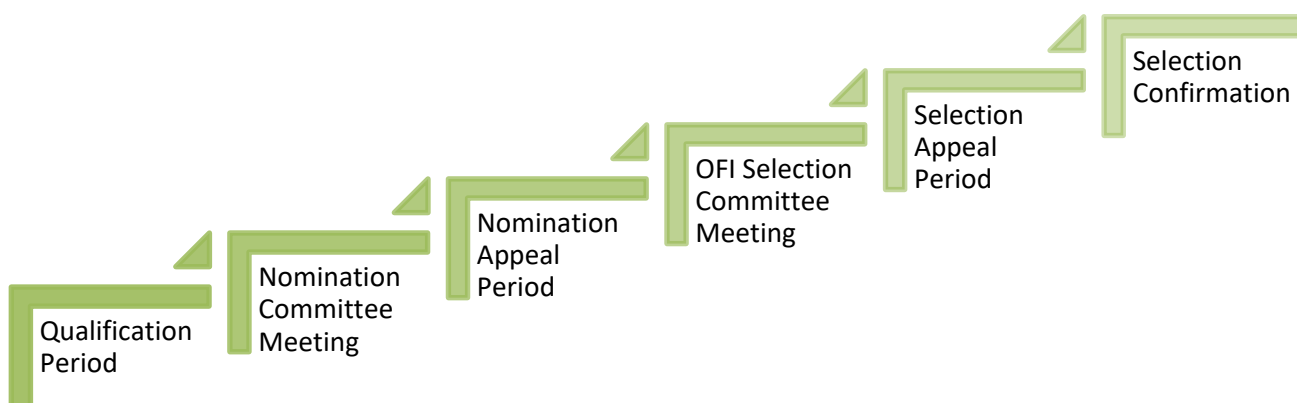
**Step 2:** The Nomination Committee convenes and applies the agreed NF Nomination Criteria for the sport. Athletes are informed of their Pre-Nomination Status.

**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 qualifying performances as per the Istanbul 2027 Qualification Guide.

### 4. NOMINATION COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

- 4.1. Nomination Committees should be made up of a minimum of three voting members with a mix of gender. 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 the SDSI.
- (iii) The decision of the 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 the 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 2027 Irish European Games 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 Istanbul 2027 Qualification Guide by either the EOC, Istanbul 2027 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. Comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force.
- 8.4. Complete the Team Ireland Istanbul 2027 Team Member Agreement.
- 8.5. Have completed the EOC Conditions of Participation Form (if available at time of nomination).
- 8.6. Have achieved the Minimum Qualification Standard and any additional performance standards set by the NF.
- 8.7. Have completed all anti-doping requirements set out by the OFI.
- 8.8. Is not currently serving a period of ineligibility or period of provisional suspension in relation to an anti-doping rule violation.
- 8.9. Have completed the IOC Preventing Competition Manipulation online course.
- 8.10. Have completed the OFI Medical Data Capture Survey (if available at time of nomination).
- 8.11. Have demonstrated to the satisfaction of their NF that they are fit to perform at a sufficiently competitive level at the Games.
- 8.12. 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

- 8.13. Have completed any other requirements requested by the OFI.



## **SPORTS NOMINATION CRITERIA**

### **1. DETAILS**

- 1.1. **Sport Name:** Squash
- 1.2. **National Federation:** Squash Ireland
- 1.3. **International Federation:** World Squash Federation / European Squash Federation
- 1.4. **Team Leader:** Squash Ireland Performance Lead (TBC)
- 1.5. **Nomination Committee:** Angus Kirklan (Chair), Aisling Blake, Ken Flynn, Paul Carragher, David Noone, Scott Graham (CEO)

### **2. QUALIFICATION SLOT**

- 2.1. Quota places are allocated to the athlete(s) by name.

### **3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 3.1. As per section 8 of the main Team Ireland policy document
- 3.2. Be an affiliated member of Squash Ireland
- 3.3. Be a member of the Professional Squash Association and appear on the PSA World Rankings
- 3.4. Comply with the Squash Ireland Code of Conduct
- 3.5. Be eligible to represent Ireland as per the World Squash Federation Eligibility Regulations (See [here](#) Section 1, Item K)

### **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.
- 4.2. The minimum performance standard for consideration for an individual re-allocation slot is as follows:
  - 4.2.1. Hold a PSA World Ranking of 120 or higher on cut-off date of 19 April 2027.

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

- 5.1. As per section 7 of the main Team Ireland policy
- 5.2. The European Games is an important qualification event for the LA2028 Olympic Games, offering automatic qualification to the male and female winners, provided they hold a top-50 PSA World Ranking on 22 May 2028.
- 5.3. PSA World Ranking points will be awarded at the European Games, providing an opportunity to improve prospects of qualification for LA2028.
- 5.4. The European Games serves as the European Individual Championships in the relevant year, making it a priority event for eligible players.
- 5.5. The European Games features a 24-player draw, setting a high bar for eligibility. Competition within Europe is extremely strong, meaning that players are, by default, highly competitive if they achieve the European Squash Federation qualification standard of making the 24-player draw.
- 5.6. The 2027 European Games marks the first time squash has been included in the Games, and it is considered to be of great importance that the sport is well represented and fully embraces the opportunity. Full participation in the Games will strengthen squash's case for inclusion in future European and Olympic Games. Continued inclusion would present future medal opportunities for Ireland, as Squash Ireland's High Performance Programme is rapidly professionalising.

### **6. NOMINATION CRITERIA**

- 6.1. Players ranked 1 to 21 on the European Games Ranking List will gain automatic nomination, in ranking order, up to the maximum number of places permitted by the European Squash Federation.
- 6.2. A player who does not gain automatic qualification by being ranked between 1 and 21 on the European Games Ranking List will be required to fulfil the following criteria:
  - Win the Final Qualifying Tournament

OR

- Finish as runner-up in the Final Qualifying Tournament; and
- Demonstrate an upwards trajectory with strong potential to be competitive at future Major Games.

**NOTE:** The Final Qualification Tournament is only open to nations not represented amongst the 21 directly qualified places per gender. Each eligible nation may nominate one (1) player per gender.

## 7. WITHDRAWAL / REMOVAL

- 7.1. An athlete may be withdrawn from the nomination process due to:
  - 7.1.1. Illness or injury, where they are deemed unable to perform to the required standard at the Games.
  - 7.1.2. A breach of, or failure to comply with, any of the eligibility requirements.
  - 7.1.3. Any withdrawal or removal following selection by the OFI will be carried out in accordance with the OFI Team Member Agreement and the OFI Fit to Compete Policy.
- 7.2. Any replacement following the withdrawal of an athlete will be made in accordance with these Nomination Criteria and the Late Athlete Replacement Policy for the 2027 European Games.

## 8. NOMINATION APPEAL PROCESS

- 8.1. Appeals against nominations shall be heard in accordance with the Squash Ireland Selection and Nomination Appeals Policy. (Policy 29 <https://www.squashireland.ie/performance/high-performance-programme/>)

## 9. TIMELINE

- |                                                   |                                |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 9.1. PSA Ranking Qualification Period             | 19 April 2026 to 19 April 2026 |
| 9.2. Final Qualifying Tournament                  | 6-9 May 2027                   |
| 9.3. Nomination Committee Meeting (no later than) | 11 May 2027                    |
| 9.4. Selection and Announcement by the OFI        | TBC                            |
| 9.5. Sport Entries Deadline                       | 1 June 2027                    |