



### General Selection

The Selection Committee is under no obligation to have a maximum or minimum number of members in the squad. The Selection Committee will use the below criteria in order to assist in their deliberations. Members of the National Squad may not always receive the same levels of support, financial or otherwise.

In no way limiting the discretion of the National Para Coach or Selection Committee, the National Para Coach/ Selection Committee may consider the following matter when making selections for the National Squad/Team.

- A. An athlete's current playing level (Recent results, performances, Irish Ranking, World ranking, regularity of participation etc.)
- B. An athlete's training environment (Volume of training hours, level of practise partners, level of coaching received etc.)
- C. An athlete's level of physical ability (Athleticism, Fitness, hand-eye or other coordination skills etc.)
- D. An athlete's dedication/attitude (Commitment to success, work ethic, team spirit, sportsmanship, pride in representing Ireland etc.)
- E. An athlete's persona; environment (parental involvement/support, current and future living conditions (availability of training)
- F. An athlete's future success potential (Playing Style, Prioritisation of table tennis, progression rate.)

### Para Selection criteria

Initially we will work off 3 strands: development, pathway and performance. Eventually the programmes will be broader, and the strands will be split into more categories e.g., development will be participation development and pre pathway development.

### Development

The Development squad will travel to events which are deemed appropriate by the National Para Coach, Para Manager and/or Selection Committee. Dev. Squad will travel to between 2-4 events per season/at least 2. These events will be offered to all dev. Squad players by way of an expression of interest model. The National Para Coach/TTI will notify the squad of tournaments we will look to target, and players will be free to attend these events if they wish. The one non-negotiable criterion for these expression of interest events will be 80% attendance at Monthly National training camps. This model, at its core, embraces the participation and community spirit of our para development programme.

It is very important to have little to no barriers to entry into the development squad, particularly at the present moment **but** this will change over time with addition of provincial camps and increase in players and \*camp attendance and \*participation in local/national events are a must. There must be some requirements in order to give value to the programme and remind the players that it is an honour and an achievement to be in your national squad/provincial squad.

Provincial squads will eventually become operational and will assume this role of the participation/community element of the programme.



In order to be a member of the TTI para development squad players must -

- Be affiliated members of TTI.
- Be a permanent resident on the island of Ireland or be an Irish citizen.
- Maintain an 80% attendance rate at national camps or 9/12 camps – (when provincial camps are operational this criterion may be applied to them rather than the national camps) **\*must\***
- Be willing to make adaptations to style of play and take on board technical advice from coaches.
- Demonstrate the ability to work well in a team/group environment with your peers.
- Be training in a serious manner for a minimum of 5 hours per week.
- Show enthusiasm and a good attitude at training camps.
- Show improvements technically and physically throughout the year/season.
- Should\* be expressing interest in travelling and being selected.
- Participate in national tournaments able-bodied and para events – at least 3 events per season (players must enter the para event and at least one able-bodied event where the schedule allows) **\*Must\***
- Participate in at least 2 local/provincial tournaments per season – unless these events clash with internationals or national events, which take precedence.
- Be financially unencumbered by TTI (Unless otherwise agreed at board level).

### Pathway

The goal of this Pathway programme is to engage the players in a programme that is challenging and requires commitment and dedication but does not ask too much of them too early. This plan has been drawn up to make engaging with the programme more feasible for the players. This strand of the programme will become more demanding of the players in the next 2-4 years.

The pathway programme will focus on providing our players with realistic performance and training goals and with this in mind will concentrate on making the players more active regarding competitive match play. Players will travel not only to ITTF events but British GP events as well as other European events deemed appropriate by the NC and PM/Selection Committee.

In order to be on the Pathway programme (in addition to the above), players must:

- Attend all national camps unless able to provide good reason for absence. Minimum attendance is 80% (9/12 camps). Exceptions can be made if reasons are deemed legitimate by NC or PM.
- Be practising at least 7 hours per week in a focussed and serious manner.
- Prepare weekly training reports and share with the NC on the agreed upon day every week. (Late submittal of reports may be tolerated when communicated in advance)
- Participate in national tournaments (and where deemed appropriate, local tournaments) able-bodied and para events – at least 5 events per season
- Engage with training programmes developed in conjunction with the National Para Coach and should be showing visible improvements at monthly camps.
- Engage with an S&C Programme and carry out S&C sessions at least 2 times per week - showing that they are trying to maximise their physical ability and potential.
- Be selected for and attend a minimum of 2 international events per season – in theory players will be selected between 2 and 6 times per season for various events. Players are encouraged to make maximum effort to attend all events or as many as possible.



- Demonstrate the ability to be competitive at ITTF ranking level.
- Adhere to Anti-Doping guidelines as set out by Sport Ireland.
- Be in constant communication with the NC regarding event plans, training programme and physical/psychology programmes.

### Performance

In order to be a Performance athlete (in addition to the above), players must:

- Maintain a training programme consisting of minimum 12 hours per week, focussed and planned training, agreed upon with the NC.
- Demonstrate the ability and results to potentially qualify for the Paralympic games.
- Engage with NC and Paralympics Ireland as requested.

### General

Both national and international classification is necessary for all players to participate in ITTF ranking competitions. For classes 1-10 Paralympics Ireland will be responsible for national classification while international classification can be achieved through assessment at any international competitions where classes 1-10 classification is offered.

For class 11 players the international classification process is a new process to TTI. It will require the completion of a primary eligibility check through Paralympics Ireland and table tennis skills assessment at any international competition where class 11 classification is offered – **the TTI Criteria & Process for Class 11 Player Classification document refers.**

Players in all classes will not be nominated for international competitions for the sole purpose of classification only. They must fulfil the criteria set out in this document and be selected by the Selection Committee.

In order for players to transcend their current squad strand they must meet all of the criteria for a period of six months or, alternatively, exceed the criteria for their current strand for a period of four months.

Provincial camps – National development squad

With the introduction of provincial camps, the NC and PM/SC would like to restructure the National development Squad.

The provincial squads/camps will act as a base squad for all players. All players will be expected to participate in these squads/camps in order to gain selection for the National Squad. There will be no barriers to entry for provincial squads for the foreseeable future, although this could change as the system grows and develops.

This restructure is part of the professionalisation of the system which will help us in the direction of performance sport and producing higher level players. At the same time the provincial camps will continue to act as training and participation opportunities for players who enjoy playing and do not want to pursue a higher level. Players who want to pursue a higher level of play and performance will have a pathway through these provincial squads to enter the national squad:

In order to enter the national squad Players will:



- Attend 80% of provincial camps and any absences will be communicated in writing to the squad leads. Reasons for absence will be considered by the leads and deemed acceptable or not. In other words, players must have a reasonable excuse for not attending a camp and therefore deemed an exception.
- Players will meet the aforementioned development squad criteria.
- Players will be individually assessed by the NC and Provincial Coach.

**This criterion, pertaining to the provincial camps, will not be activated until all provinces are up and running with regular training camps/sessions.**