



## TEAM IRELAND EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPIC FESTIVAL 2025 NOMINATION AND SELECTION POLICY

The European Youth Olympic Festival (EYOF) will take place in Skopje, North Macedonia from the 20th – 26th July, 2025.

As the recognised National Olympic Committee for Ireland by the International Olympic Committee and European Olympic Committee, the Olympic Federation of Ireland is responsible for the final selection of athletes for Team Ireland at Skopje 2025. 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 EYOF 2025 Qualification Guide. All sport specific nomination policies must be read in conjunction with the Skopje 2025 EOC and IF Qualification Guide for that sport.

The Olympic Federation of Ireland shall publish the document containing all nomination policies in its entirety no later than February 17th 2025 subject to the publication of the EOC/IF Qualification Guide having occurred. Each National Federation shall publish the general policy section with their sport specific policy prior to this date.

### DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

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| Skopje 2025                      |     | See 'Games', meaning the Skopje 2025 European Youth Olympic Festival   |
| 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.          |
| Court of Arbitration for Sport   | CAS | means the international Court of Arbitration for Sport   |
| Chef de Mission                  |     | Chief of Mission. 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 the Team                                     |
| EOC Conditions of Participation  |     | means the document signed by the Team Member in order to permit their participation in the Games and submitted by the OFI to the EOC |
| European Olympic Committee Games | EOC | means the European Olympic Committee<br>means the Skopje 2025 European Youth Olympic Festival  |
| International Federation         | IF  | means the International Federation for the Sport   |

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| Long List                        | LL   | means the list of all Athletes and Sport Specific Support Staff who are recognised by an NF as potentially eligible and capable of being nominated for a Games Team and therefore prospective members of a Games Team |
| Minimum Qualification Standard   | MQS  | means the minimum performance score set by the relevant IF for a specific sport contained in the Games 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 and EOC. 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 Sport Specific Support Staff are nominated and selected for the Games  |
| 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                       |      | means the process by which NFs submit the names of Athletes and Sport Specific Support Staff to the OFI for consideration for Selection   |
| 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 Team Members  |
| 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 at least 14 days 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   |

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| 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 Team Members 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 Skopje 2025 European Youth Olympic Festival will be conducted in accordance with the following underlying principles:

- 1.1. **Performance** – The 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.
- 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. **Universality / Re-allocation place acceptance** – In sports where Universality Places are awarded or Re-allocation Places 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 either (a) plus (b) or (a) plus (c) from the following criteria:
    - (a) The athlete has not competed at a previous Summer European Youth Olympic Festival.

- (b) The athlete has achieved a minimum performance standard as per the sport specific criteria agreed with the NF.
- (c) 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 universality or 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 2025 Irish EYOF 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.

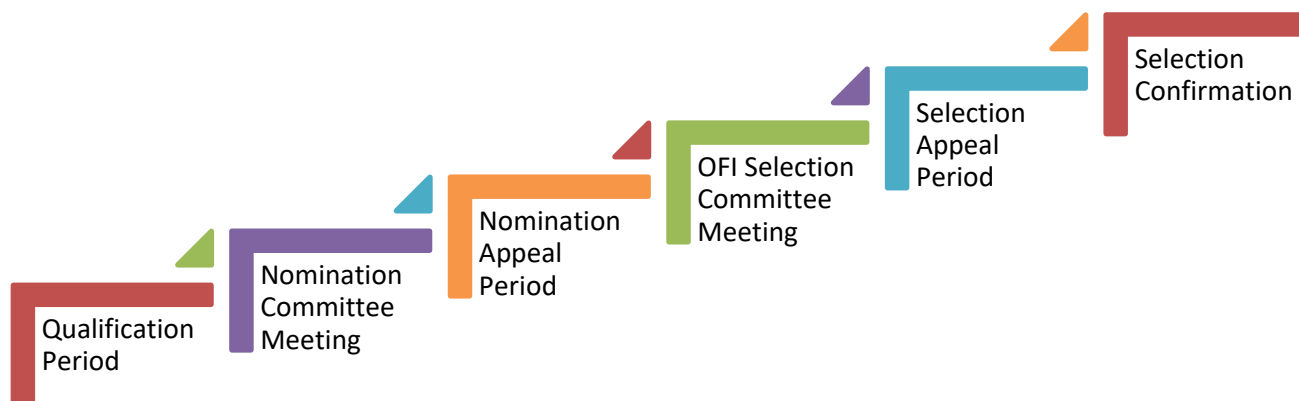
**Step 2:** The Nomination Committee convenes and applies the agreed nomination criteria for the sport. Athletes are informed of their pre-nomination status.

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

**Step 4:** Formal nomination of athletes by the Chair of the Nomination Committee 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 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 supercede the closing date for athletes to achieve qualifying performances as per the Skopje 2025 Qualification Guide.

### 4. NOMINATION COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

- 4.1. Nomination Committees should be made up of a minimum of three voting members, save where the NF seeks permission from the OFI to have less than three voting members. In such circumstances the NF shall set out the reasons justifying why the Nomination Committee should comprise less than three voting members, and the OFI shall have sole discretion to decide whether to grant such permission. 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 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 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 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. SELECTION COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES

- 5.1. The Selection Committee shall be made up of three members appointed by the OFI Executive Committee comprising the following members:
- (i) OFI Chief Executive Officer (Chair)
  - (ii) Skopje 2025 Chef de Mission
  - (iii) OFI Executive Committee member. This member will be appointed in advance of each selection meeting and will be selected from those members who do not have any association with the sport being selected.
- 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 Selection Committee.
- 5.3. Any perceived or known conflict of interest or loyalty will be declared by a 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.

### 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 set out in the NF's Appeals Process.
- (ii) The final right of any Nomination Appeal shall be to 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 Hearing 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
  - (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 48 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 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 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 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 2025 Irish EYOF 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 nomination criteria are subject to change, should there be any material amendment to the Skopje 2025 Qualification Guide by either the EOC, Skopje 2025 Organising Committee or the relevant International Federation for the sport. Any amendment to the 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 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. Have completed the Team Ireland Skopje 2025 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 Qualifying Standard and any additional performance standard set by the NF.
- 8.7. Have completed the on-line anti-doping course through Sport Ireland or Sport NI AND a Sport Ireland or Sport NI approved anti-doping workshop within 12 months prior to the nomination date.
- 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.



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| <b>Sport</b>                        | <b>Table Tennis</b>   |
| <b>National Federation</b>          | Table Tennis Ireland  |
| <b>International Federation</b>     | International Table Tennis Federation   |
| <b>Team Leader</b>                  | Tara Fusco or David McNally   |
| <b>Nomination Committee</b>         | A Nomination Panel comprising three representatives from the Table Tennis Ireland performance pathway working group will be responsible for the administering of this policy. Panel members will declare any conflict of interest and be replaced in such an instance.  |
| <b>Qualification Slot</b>           | Quota places are allocated to the NOC / Named Athlete   |
| <b>Eligibility Criteria</b>         | <p>As per section 8 of this document.</p> <p>Additional eligibility criteria specific to the Sport:<br/> In order for players to be considered for nomination they must meet the following eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be an affiliated member of and in good standing with Table Tennis Ireland</li> <li>• Born in the year 2009-2010</li> <li>• Hold an Irish passport</li> <li>• Have not represented any other Member Association for three years immediately preceding the date of the fixture or last represented Table Tennis Ireland</li> <li>• Not currently be under disqualification or suspension under the rules of the ITTF</li> <li>• Must enter the mandatory tournaments listed below, unless pre-agreed in writing with the Table Tennis Ireland Performance Pathway Manager</li> <li>• Must participate in all of their national underage squad sessions, unless pre-agreed in writing with squad coaches or due to exceptional circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>The Squad dates are:<br/> 8/9 February</p> |
| <b>Universality / Re-allocation</b> | Not Applicable.   |
| <b>Notes to Nomination Criteria</b> | <p>As per section 7 of this document.</p> <p>Additional notes specific to the Sport:<br/> In reaching their nominations a Table Tennis Ireland selection panel will consider the following:<br/> Results in Singles at following Under 17 events in 2025<br/> U17 Connacht Open February<br/> U17 National Championships March</p>  |
| <b>Nomination Criteria</b>          | <p>PHYSICAL READINESS AND FITNESS TO PERFORM</p> <p>4.1 Pre-Nomination<br/> Any athlete injured at the time of Nomination may be considered for nomination subject to passing a suitable fitness test. Table Tennis Ireland reserves the right to require athletes to undergo a medical assessment and/or</p>   |



fitness to perform test to determine their ability to compete to their ability at the Games.

4.2 Post-Selection

If an injury /illness occurs to an athlete after selection they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness to remain as a selected athlete. This procedure will involve both physical readiness and fitness to perform phases and will be conducted by the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) Medical Team and in line with the OFI Fitness to Compete policy which is contained within the Team Member Agreement.

**OVERRIDING FACTORS**

- Should a player with an established record of high-level results become injured and be unable to compete in the events listed in paragraph 3, the player may be considered for nomination based on previous performances, subject to passing a suitable fitness test
- If an injury occurs to a selected player after selection, they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness (as determined by Table Tennis Ireland) to remain as a selected player
- Attendance, behaviour, and performance of players will be constantly reviewed throughout the season and continued selection will be dependent on these factors
- If an injury occurs to a selected player after nomination, it is possible for a replacement player to be nominated if it is in the interests of the team

**DESELECTION**

A player selected for the Team may be deselected from the team if the player: Due to illness or injury, in the opinion of the responsible National Coach becomes unable to perform to the required standard. Medical advice may be taken

Breaches or fails to fulfil a requirement of the Anti-Doping Policies of Table Tennis Ireland, the International Table Tennis Federation, or other approved agencies

**Nomination Appeal Process**

Appeal to the nomination may be made in writing to the Chief Executive of Table Tennis Ireland within 48 hours from the date and time players have been notified by TTI of the Irish team.

The sole ground for an appeal is that the nomination policy was not properly followed.

An appeal must be made in writing with appropriate and sufficient supporting documentation and must be accompanied by a deposit of €100.00, payable to TABLE TENNIS IRELAND. If the appeal is upheld the deposit will be refunded in full.

Within three working days of receiving the appeal, the Chief Executive (or an appointed deputy) will appoint a group of three selected people with relevant experience ('Appeal Committee') that will investigate the issues of the appeal with all involved parties. Where possible one member of the panel will be from outside the sport. No member of the Appeal Committee shall have been involved in the original nomination process.

The Chief Executive will in writing inform all parties about the Appeal Committee's decision to either uphold or reject the appeal. All decisions issued by the Table Tennis Ireland appeals procedure may be appealed exclusively by referral to Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland, within 14 days from receipt of such decision, for final and binding arbitration in accordance with the Sport Dispute Solutions Ireland Arbitration Rules. Each party will bear its own costs throughout the process.

The Chief Executive will set appropriate deadlines for the process of appeals to minimize disruptions to the competition.

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|                        | <p>In the event that the OFI fails to select a player nominated by Table Tennis Ireland, the player shall have the right to appeal in accordance with the OFI's "Selection Appeals Process" outlined in the Team Member Agreement.</p>   |
| <p><b>Timeline</b></p> | <p><b>TIMELINE OF SELECTION</b><br/> Table Tennis Ireland Selection Date<br/> 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025<br/> Nomination to OFI<br/> April 14<sup>th</sup> 2025<br/> Team Announcement<br/> *July 1st 2025<br/> <b>TBC date subject to change</b><br/> Final selection is at the sole discretion of the OFI and will be based on the Table Tennis Ireland nominations made against this nomination policy. Nominations will be submitted to the OFI and the team will be announced following selection by the OFI.<br/> Table Tennis Ireland will notify all players of their selection by e-mail by April 30th. Any player who might be difficult to contact by normal means during this period should inform Table Tennis Ireland in advance of alternative contact details.<br/> If a player has not received notification personally on that day, it is his/her responsibility to contact Table Tennis Ireland to confirm the situation.<br/> Nominated/selected players are not permitted to make any announcements to the media or the general public in any form whatsoever prior to official announcement by the OFI of such selection.<br/> Policy Published on Table Tennis Ireland Website</p> |