

National Squad Selection

Updated – March 2022

National Squads

1001. Ireland Water Polo through the National Water Polo Committee will follow a pathway providing water polo athletes across both genders and at the appropriate ages the opportunity to participate and compete at international events and competitions to the highest level possible within means and resources.

1002. The NWPC will provide a structure of education opportunities, training camps and national competitions to develop the sport of water polo in Ireland. A significant element of the development of the sport and the individual athletes will be international competition. Participation in international events will be by the Ireland Water polo team(s) representing Ireland and with club/interprovincial teams at international club competitions.

1003. The National Team(s) offer the opportunity to compete in a meaningful and beneficial competitive environment to further the development of Irish water polo athletes at all competition levels towards senior international success. Team selections will be made taking into consideration:

- a. Ireland Water Polo National Squad Programme
- b. The development needs of individual athletes
- c. The opportunity to be a successful national team at all events.

Selection Process

1004. The National Squads will be made up from the following age groups - U13, U15, U17, U19 and Senior for both male and female athletes.

1005. National Squad selection/invitation for all age groups, except under 13, will be made according to the criteria below;

- athletes who are members of Provincial Squads
- athletes who were members of previous National Squads

1006. The U13 national squad will be selected through assessment at age group competitions and at national under 13 age group training camps. Assessments will be conducted by the national coach and relevant national age group coaches. Attendance at training camps will be by invitation and by agreement of the national coach and relevant national age group coaches.

1007. National coaches and Team managers will ensure accurate records of dates, attendance, training camps/days activities and athlete performance are maintained.

Squad Selection

1008. The National Head Coach along with the relevant National Age Group Coaches will conduct the selection of the U13 National Squad. On completion of underage competitions and training camp, the National Head coach, in conjunction with the National Age Group coaches, will advise the National Water Polo Committee of the recommended squad selection, for approval by the committee.

1009. All athletes, whether selected or not, will be notified directly and formally in writing by Swim Ireland/the Secretary National Water Polo Committee and final selections will be published on the Swim Ireland water polo site. The National Head Coach and national age group coach can advise, once agreed, non-selected athletes/players verbally of reasons for non-selection.

1010. In cases where, due to exceptional circumstances, an athlete cannot attend an age group competition or training camp, he/she must give written advance notification to the National Head Coach and Age Group coach. In such circumstances inclusion may be considered on a national squad where consultation has taken place between the national coach, national age group coach, the athlete's club coach and the athlete.

Appeals

1011. Players may appeal non-selection for national squads to the National Water Polo Committee where they believe the Selection Policy has been contravened.

1012. Any appeals in relation to non-selection for national squads must be made in writing to the National Water Polo Committee within 7 days of being advised of non-selection via waterpolo@swimireland.ie. Players should be aware of this time limit which is set with the intention of resolving issues expediently and fairly.

National Squads

1013. Each national squad will comprise a panel of 22 outfield players (where sufficient number attend a trial) and 4 goalkeepers (where sufficient number attend a trial). National squads will be selected by the National Head Coach and the relevant National Age Group Coaches.

1014. National junior squads will be structured in two-year age bands. National junior squads may select up to five players who are eligible to play in a younger age band. The maximum number of years allowed to play up to a more senior team is four years. An example is for the year band 2002/3, up to five athletes from the 2004/5 band may be included.

Age Bands

1015. Age bands will be determined by the National Water Polo Committee annually in advance of the national squad selections in consideration of anticipated international competitions.

National Teams

1016. National teams will normally consist of a minimum of 13 (or 15) athletes/players inclusive of at least one goalkeeper, competition dependent. It is envisaged that two goalkeepers will normally be selected, coach selection dependent.

1017. National team selection will be made from each national squad and approved, announced and published by the National Water Polo Committee, where possible, 28 days in advance of each tournament. The selection of teams from national squads will be conducted by the National Head Coach and the relevant Age Group National Coach. Only players who are national squad members may be selected for national teams. The national coach will advise squad members of their non-selection for any team and provide detailed feedback to each player verbally.

1018. Spare

Athlete Eligibility

1019. All athletes/players must qualify under the following criteria prior to consideration:

For non-LEN/FINA organised events

- Hold an Irish passport, or a UK passport showing the holder's birthplace to be in Northern Ireland. At the time of selection or where an athlete/player is aged under 18, he/she must be eligible and qualify to apply for Irish Citizenship. Under Department Foreign Affairs & Trade Citizenship Rules and Regulations Athletes/players must provide documentary proof of eligibility to the NWPC prior to selection on a national squad

For ALL LEN/FINA organised events

- Be an Irish citizen and hold an Irish passport at the time of entries being submitted

For ALL events

- Be eligible to represent Ireland in accordance with FINA General Rule 2.5 which states that *"Competitors, who have more than one nationality according to the laws of the respective nations must choose one "Sport Nationality" and be affiliated to one Member only"*

- Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the season during which selection is being made.

- Be available to fulfil national squad and team commitments.

Team Commitments

1020. Full team commitments will be confirmed following the selection of the national squad. All national squad and national team members will be required to:

- Comply with the Athlete Commitment Agreement in the Swim Ireland Code of Conduct. A breach of the Swim Ireland Code of Conduct will result in de-selection from the squad/team
- Complete a Swim Ireland Medical Form on or prior to commencement of squad training
- Comply with Swim Ireland and FINA regulations.
- Make themselves available for all squad and team activities designated by the relevant national coach.

Replacements

1021. Replacements of athletes who withdraw from the national squad may be considered at the discretion of the National Head Coach and the relevant National Age Group Coach if viewed to be in the best interest of over-all squad cohesion and performance. Prior approval of the National Water Polo Committee is required prior to any athlete being invited into a national squad as a replacement.

1022. Replacement of players/athletes who withdraw from a national team will only be made from the relevant national squad by the national coach and only with prior approval of the National Water Polo Committee.

1023. The Secretary of the National Water Polo Committee will issue formal notification to the player/athlete concerned.

Queries

1024. Any queries should be directed to the National Water Polo Committee