

## **Introduction**

This Policy provides the avenue by which an athlete can be selected to the Ireland Water Polo National Team for the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships.

This Policy will only apply if:

1. The 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships are held on the existing dates of 18-24<sup>th</sup> Aug (boys) and 31<sup>st</sup> Aug-7<sup>th</sup> Sept (girls)
2. The 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships are held in the existing location of Rio Maior, Portugal (boys) and Gzira, Malta (girls)
3. The 2025 Irish Senior Cup is held on the existing dates of 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May

If there is any postponement of the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships or the 2025 Irish Senior Cup, beyond this period and/or a change of location, a new Selection Policy may be required.

This Policy sets out the Ireland Water Polo process for selecting athletes, coaches and/or team managers to:

- (a) be considered eligible for nomination for selection which involves meeting the '**Eligibility Criteria' in Section 3**
- (b) be nominated for selection and;
- (c) be selected to the Ireland Water Polo National Team for the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships

The role of each Head Coach for the under 18 National Squad (boys & girls) is to compile the names of athletes who meet the criteria for nomination for selection and to make recommendations to the National Head Coach.

The role of the National Head Coach is to select athletes to the Ireland Water Polo National Team.

The role of the National Water Polo Committee is to ratify the selection of athletes, coaches, team managers to the Ireland Water Polo National Team. The National Water Polo Committee will also appoint an appeals sub-committee to determine the outcome of any appeals made in relation to selection to the Ireland Water Polo National Team

European Aquatics is the European federation/governing body for aquatic sports. World Aquatics is the international federation/governing body administering international competition in aquatic sports. European Aquatics is affiliated to World Aquatics

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### **1.0 Athlete Nomination Procedure**

- II. All members of the Irish Water Polo Under 18 (2007) National Squad will be eligible for nomination for selection to the Ireland National Water Polo Team attending the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships
- III. Each Head Coach for the (2007) under 18 National Squad (boys & girls) is to nominate athletes for selection and to make recommendations to the National Head Coach
- IV. The nominated athletes must be submitted by each Head Coach for the (2007) under 18 National Squad (boys & girls) to the National Head Coach by Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May
- V. Athletes not making the nomination list will be notified as soon as reasonably practicable after the National Head Coach receives the nominations from each of the National Squad Coaches (boys & girls)
- VI. Athletes not making the nomination list are still entitled to attend National Programme training sessions and would be encouraged to keep training with their squad

### **2.0 Athlete Selection Procedure**

- I. The National Head Coach will select athletes to the Ireland Water Polo National Team for the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships from the list of nominated athletes received by each Head Coach for the (2007) under 18 National Squads
- II. The National Head Coach will follow the '**Selection Considerations**' in **Section 4**
- III. The National Head Coach agrees to notify the National Water Polo Committee of the selection or refusal to select any nominated athlete as soon as reasonably practicable
- IV. National Head Coach selection decisions may be completed over two stages, with the first stage completed no later than Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May and the second, and final stage, completed no later than one month before the championships dates set out in the **introduction to this Policy**
- V. A maximum of 13 players will be selected for each National Team travelling to the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships
- VI. Athletes not making selection are still entitled to attend National Programme training sessions and would be encouraged to keep training with their squad to maintain fitness in the case that a replacement is required closer to date of competition as per '**competitive readiness**' in **Section 9**
- VII. All selection decisions will be ratified by the National Water Polo Committee
- VIII. The selection decision of the National Head Coach shall be subject to an **Appeals Process Section 14**

### **3.0 Athlete Eligibility**

At the time of selection athletes must meet the following criteria to be considered to be eligible for selection:

- i. Be an Irish citizen at the time of entries being submitted to European Aquatics
- ii. Be eligible to represent Ireland as per European Aquatics Competitions Regulations at the time of entries being submitted to European Aquatics
- iii. Hold an Irish passport at the time of entries being submitted to European Aquatics
- iv. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2024-2025 season
- v. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland
- vi. Be available to fulfil all the Ireland National Water Polo **Team Obligations in Section 8**
- vii. Not be the subject of an anti-doping ban, a doping violation and/or a pending doping violation

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#### **4.0 Selection Considerations**

When making selection decision to the Ireland Water Polo National Team for the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships, the National Head Coach will consider the following:

- a. Attendance at National Programme training sessions and camps
- b. Technical ability and physical fitness
- c. Attitude in National Programme training sessions
- d. Communication with National Programme team staff
- e. Playing position while participating in domestic league and cups
- f. Discipline record while participating in domestic league and cups

#### **5.0 Team Staff Nomination and Selection Procedure**

- I. In all cases, the Head Coach for the Ireland Water Polo National Team attending the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships will be the Swim Ireland National Head Coach for Water Polo
- II. If the Swim Ireland National Head Coach is not available to attend the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships (boys and/or girls) then the National Head will make a recommendation to the National Water Polo Committee for selecting a replacement Head Coach.
- III. In all cases, the National Head Coach will select an assistant coach to the Ireland Water Polo National Team attending the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships (boys and/or girls). Other than in exceptional circumstances, the selected assistant coach will have provided first hand service or support as a coach as part of the National Programme
- IV. In all cases, the team manager for the Ireland Water Polo National Team attending the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships will be the appointed team manager from the Ireland Water Polo National Programme for the under 18 squads (boys and girls)
- V. If the appointed team manager from the Ireland Water Polo National Programme is not available to attend the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships (boys and/or girls) then the National Head will select a replacement team manager and other than in exceptional circumstances, the selected team manager will have provided first hand service or support as a team manager as part of the National Programme
- VI. The National Head Coach may make a recommendation to the National Water Polo Committee to select additional staff to undertake Sports Science/Sports Medicine roles during the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships

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### **6.0 Team Coach Eligibility**

To be eligible for selection to the Ireland Water Polo National Team attending the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships, any team staff must meet the following criteria:

- I. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2024-2025 season
- II. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland
- III. Be a full-time resident within Ireland
- IV. Be a practising coach within an Irish Water Polo Club
- V. Be holders of the Swim Ireland Level 2 Coaching Water Polo Certificate or actively working towards the Level 2 Certificate
- VI. Be a registered coach on the Swim Ireland Register of Aquatic Professionals;
- VII. Be available to fulfil the Ireland National Water Polo **Team Obligations in section 8**
- VIII. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided first hand service or support as a coach as part of the National Programme
- IX. Have not acted in such a manner to bring himself/herself, Swim Ireland and/or the sport into current disrepute. For the avoidance of doubt, the evaluation of this requirement is at the sole discretion of the National Water Polo Committee for the purposes of identification: the public disrepute referred to within this clause includes potential and/or actual disrepute

### **7.0 Team Manager Eligibility**

To be eligible for selection to the Ireland Water Polo National Team attending the European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships, any team staff must meet the following criteria:

- I. Be a registered Swim Ireland member for the 2024-2025 season
- II. Be in good standing with Swim Ireland
- III. Be a full-time resident within Ireland
- IV. Be holders of the relevant Swim Ireland Team Managers qualification
- V. Be available to fulfil the obligations of the Ireland National Team
- VI. Other than in exceptional circumstances, have provided direct service or support as a team manager as part of the National Programme
- VII. Have not acted in such a manner to bring himself/herself, Swim Ireland and/or the sport into current disrepute. For the avoidance of doubt, the evaluation of this requirement is at the sole discretion of the National Water Polo Committee for the purposes of identification: the public disrepute referred to within this clause includes potential and/or actual disrepute

### **8.0 Ireland National Water Polo Team Obligations**

In accepting a selection to the Ireland Water Polo National Team for the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships, athletes accept and agree that training with/competing for the Ireland National Team takes precedence over training for/competing in any other competition, including that for another Team/Club or University programme in Ireland or anywhere in the world. Any athlete, coach, or team manager who has been selected to represent the Ireland Water Polo National Team at the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships must meet and fulfil a suite of obligations, where non-adherence is subject to **Section 10**

All selected athletes and, where relevant, all Ireland Water Polo National Team staff shall:

- I. Agree not to disclose any selected Ireland Water Polo National Team members name to the press or any other media (including their own social media) until Swim Ireland Water Polo have themselves announced this to the press and other media
- II. Comply with the Swim Ireland Code of Conduct
- III. Complete a Swim Ireland Water Polo Medical Form prior to competing at the 2025 European Aquatics Under 18 Water Polo Championships
- IV. Adhere to all prescribed travel arrangements which might involve different travel dates to other members of the Ireland National Water Polo Team
- V. Make themselves available for National Programme training sessions as designated by the National Head Coach
- VI. Only in exceptional circumstances and with the express permission of the National Head Coach, miss National Programme training sessions
- VII. Communicate in advance, in writing, via email, to the National Head Coach and National Programme Head Coaches & Team Managers for the under 18 National squads (boys or girls), the reason for missing National Programme training sessions
- VIII. Agree to wear the provided team uniform as directed by the team staff

### **9.0 Competitive Readiness**

‘Competitive Readiness’ means the combined professional opinion of the National Head Coach and the appointed National Team coaches, following advice, where necessary, from a sport science/medical practitioners, as to the ability of an athlete who has been selected to represent this Ireland Water Polo National Team to perform at a level equal to their performance observed for selection

- I. Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Head Coach and the appointed National Team coaches do not remain Competitively Ready by reason of lack of fitness, injury, illness, application to training, performance behaviour or other reasons, may be removed from this Ireland Water Polo National Team
- II. Athletes and their home programme coaches shall immediately report any injury, illness, change in training, change in application to training and/or performance behaviour, that could affect their ability to perform at their highest level on this Ireland Water Polo National Team, to the National Head Coach in writing, via e-mail
- III. In the case of lack of fitness, injury or illness, it may be necessary for the National Head Coach to consider recommendations made by a sport science/medical practitioner
- IV. In the case of application to training, or performance behaviour or other reasons, it shall not be necessary for the National Head Coach to seek recommendations from a sport science/medical practitioner
- V. In the case of lack of fitness, injury or illness, such athletes may be subject to a ‘Proof of Readiness Test’ to be determined by the National Head Coach
- VI. Athletes who, in the opinion of the National Head Coach, are not Competitively Ready, may be replaced on this Ireland Water Polo National Team by another athlete, as outlined in **Section 10**
- VII. If the athlete is at the National Team tournament and the opinion is that the athlete is not Competitively Ready, then he/she may be required to return home immediately
- VIII. The opinion on Competitive Readiness made by National Head Coach is final

### **10.0 Withdrawal & Removals**

At any stage an athlete, team coach, or team manager may withdraw from the Ireland National Team but may only do so in extenuating circumstances

- I. An athlete, team coach, or team manager may be removed from nomination for selection or selection for the following reasons
  - a. Behaviour that is inconsistent with the National Team Code of Conduct. A copy of this document is available via the Ireland Water Polo website [Ireland Water Polo](#)
  - b. found to be in violation of any anti-doping policy or procedure as outlined by Swim Ireland, Sport Ireland and/or the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
  - c. unable or unwilling to fully comply with the Ireland Water Polo National **Team Obligations Section 8**
- II. An athlete may be removed from the Ireland Water Polo National Team before or after nomination for selection or before or after selection if he/she, in the opinion of the National Head Coach does not have Competitive Readiness **Section 9**

### **11.0 Replacement or Addition**

If an athlete, team coach, or team manager is removed from or withdraws from the Ireland Water Polo National Team, that individual may be replaced by another eligible individual who meets the requirements set out in this Policy

- I. Replacement athletes will be chosen from the Irish Water Polo Under 18 (2007) National Squad and will take into consideration the playing position of the athlete who needs replaced
- II. The National Head Coach, where in his opinion it is in the best interests of the Ireland Water Polo National Team, may recommend to the National Water Polo Committee, that any number of additional athletes, team coaches, team managers and/or sports science/sports medicine practitioners be added to the selected Ireland Water Polo National Team, subject to such additional individuals meeting the requirements set out in this Policy
- III. Any replacement or addition of an individual to the Ireland Water Polo National Team shall be made by way of nomination by the National Head Coach and ratified by the National Water Polo Committee

### **12.0 Unforeseen Circumstances**

- I. In the event that this Policy is silent on any matter which arises in the administration or application or interpretation of any selection process or decision, then the National Water Polo Committee shall have discretion to determine any issue as they deem fit so long as it is exercised fairly and quickly

### **13.0 Amendments**

- I. The National Water Polo Committee reserves the right to make changes to this Policy which, in its discretion, are necessary
- II. No such changes shall be made within one month of the date of the championships set out in the **introduction to this Policy**, unless the changes relate to the National Water Polo Committee exercising its discretion under the 'Unforeseen Circumstances' provisions **Section 12**

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- III. The National Water Polo Committee reserves the right to review and modify this Policy or a decision related to the selection process in the case of rule or policy changes from European Aquatics and/or World Aquatics that affect the criteria set out in this Policy
  - IV. Any changes to this Policy shall be communicated via the Ireland Water Polo website [Ireland Water Polo](http://irelandwaterpolo.ie)

#### **14.0 Appeals**

- I. Any appeal against a selection decision must be made to the National Water Polo Committee, in writing, via email to [waterpolo@swimireland.ie](mailto:waterpolo@swimireland.ie)
- II. The National Water Polo Committee shall appoint an appeals sub-committee to review any appeal made relating to a selection decision
- III. Any appeal so determined by the appeals sub-committee may not be further appealed
- IV. All appeals will be reviewed with the intention of resolving issues expediently and fairly