



ROWING IRELAND SELECTION POLICY Effective from August 7th, 2025:

1. AIM

1.1 The aim of the Rowing Ireland Selection Policy (the **Policy**) is to select the most competitive athletes and crews to represent Ireland in all international rowing events/regattas.

1.2 This Policy covers flat water and coastal events.

1.3 For Olympic and Paralympic Games, using this Policy, Rowing Ireland will nominate athletes to the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) and Paralympics Ireland, as they are the bodies who are responsible for selecting athletes and crews for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games respectively.

1.4 The Policy will use the criteria set out in the attached appendices, which will be reviewed at the end of each season.

2. SELECTION PANEL

2.1 The Selection Panel (the **Panel**) will be comprised of:

- an independent chair who is responsible for the conduct of the Panel;
 - the Head of Performance¹;
 - the Head Coach;
 - Two coaches nominated by the Head of Performance¹; and
 - a nominated reserve.
- 2.2 At the start of each selection meeting all members of the Panel shall declare any conflicts of interest. The Panel chair is responsible for managing any conflicts of interest which includes requiring a Panel member to recuse themselves from voting

¹ In the absence of the Head of Performance, the Rowing Ireland HPC will nominate a replacement

on an individual selection, or a complete withdrawal and to be replaced by the nominated reserve.

2.3 Where a vote is required, it will be by a majority: in the event of a tie the chair shall have the casting vote.

2.4 The Athlete Support Manager will be invited to be an independent observer, to provide the athletes with the assurance the Policy has been followed.

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 To be eligible for selection, an athlete must comply with the High-Performance Programme Athlete Agreement. Paralympic Athletes must be classified nationally and internationally prior to the selection trials.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

4.1 The Selection Criteria used by the Selectors in selecting rowers and coxes for the National Team is set out in Appendices A – D.

5. SELECTION PRINCIPLES

5.1 The Panel shall adhere to the following principles:

- **Fairness:** the Policy will provide all eligible athletes with the same opportunities to be selected. It will be overseen by an independent chair and athletes may appeal a decision of the Panel where they can establish grounds.
- **Effective:** the Policy will select the best athletes/crews. Where an athlete/crew is selected for development reasons, this will be an agreed objective.
- **Transparency:** All decisions will be published, and the independent observer shall provide assurance to the athletes that the Policy was followed.
- **Timeliness:** Selections shall be made and communicated as quickly as possible.
- **Clarity:** All Panel members, coaches and athletes must understand and be familiar with the operation of the Policy, including the selection criteria.
- **Confidentiality:** the deliberations of the Panel are confidential and shall not be disclosed outside the Panel meeting.

6. SELECTION AUTHORITY

6.1 The final authority for athlete/crew selection is the Rowing Ireland HPC, which will ratify the decisions of the Panel, subject to any appeals.

7. ATHLETE AGREEMENT

7.1 All athletes wishing to be considered for National selection must have signed the Athlete Agreement. The Athlete Agreement form will be available on the RI website and must be signed and submitted on the RI website.

8. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

8.1 If, because of injury, illness, or personal extenuating circumstances (e.g., unforeseen family circumstances, academic calendar, etc.), an athlete is unable to meet any of the criteria set out in this document, an athlete may still be considered for selection.

8.2 If an athlete, who has been selected for an event becomes injured or ill, and in the opinion of the Head Coach (with advice of the Chief Medical Officer where relevant), is deemed unable to compete, the athlete may be replaced with another athlete from the reserve list. The choice of replacement is at the discretion of the Head Coach, in consultation with the Panel chair. If an athlete becomes injured or ill after selection by the OFI/Paralympics Ireland for the Olympic/Paralympic Games, the relevant 'Fit to Compete' Policy will come into effect as members of Team Ireland.

9. APPEALS

9.1 If an athlete wishes to appeal a selection decision of the Panel, they shall use the [Selection Appeals Procedure](#). Before making an appeal, they should contact the Athlete Support Manager first discuss their concerns and grounds for an appeal (asm@irishsport.ie).

10. COMMUNICATION

10.1 The Head of Performance¹ and Head Coach are responsible for communicating the results of the Panel to all the athletes as soon as possible after the Panel has concluded proceedings. The results are to be considered provisional until any appeals have been heard; at which point they are ratified by the HPC and then published on the Rowing Ireland website.

10.2 Any change or addition to the Selection Policy must be approved by the RI Board and notified to Athletes via email or such other form of communication notified to the Athletes. The change or addition will take effect at 9am on the next day following communication to athletes.

11. Removal of Athletes

A selected athlete may be removed from the Team for any of the following reasons:

- 11.1 A voluntary withdrawal notified in writing by the athlete to Rowing Ireland;
- 11.2 Injury or illness certified by a medical practitioner approved by Rowing Ireland
- 11.3 A violation of the High-Performance Programme Athlete Agreement;
- 11.4 A failure to adhere to anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures;
- 11.5 The athlete's eligibility status changes so that the athlete is ineligible to participate in the Competition;
- 11.6 An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to an appeal.

Appendix A

Selection and Olympic/Paralympic Nomination Criteria for Senior Ireland Rowing Team
(Flat water)

Appendix B

Selection and Olympic Nomination Criteria for Senior and Junior Ireland Rowing Teams
(Coastal)

Appendix C

Event Requirements for The U23 Ireland Rowing Team

Appendix D

Event Requirements for The Junior Ireland Rowing Team

Notes 1. Until the appointment of a Head of Performance, the High-Performance Committee is the de facto Head of Performance. The HP committee shall nominate a representative from its number to fill this position.