



Boxing Ireland
U23 Selection Policy
2026

Board Approved

Contents

2. Objectives of the policy	3
3. Governance and oversight	3
4. Weight Class and rules	3
5. Eligibility	4
5.1 The Selection Panel	4
6. Selection Factors	5
Medical Assessment	5
7. Deselection	6
8. Timelines of the selection process	6
9. Appeals	7
Schedule 1: Athlete Agreement and Declaration	9

1. Introduction

This Selection Policy has been developed to ensure a transparent, fair and evidence-informed process for selecting athletes to represent Ireland at the U23 European Boxing Championships, to be held in Poreč, Croatia, from 14–25 November 2026.

2. Objectives of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure a transparent, objective and performance-led process for the selection of athletes to represent Boxing Ireland at the 2026 U23 European Boxing Championships in Poreč, Croatia, from 14–25 November 2026. The policy is designed to identify and select the athletes who are best prepared to achieve competitive success at the Championships, while recognising the National U23 Championships as the primary mechanism for identifying the best boxers within each eligible weight category in Ireland.

Selection will be based on performance against the criteria outlined in this policy, with the objective of selecting the strongest and most competitive team capable of representing Boxing Ireland at the Championships.

3. Governance and oversight

This Policy has been developed by Boxing Ireland. It has been approved by the Boxing Ireland Board of Directors.

This Policy is enacted under the authority of the Boxing Ireland Board of Directors and is aligned with Rule 32 of the Boxing Ireland Rulebook.

This Policy may be amended or updated by Boxing Ireland where necessary, including in circumstances not expressly covered within these criteria. All amendments must be approved by the Boxing Ireland Board of Directors and will be communicated in writing to the relevant stakeholders.

4. Weight Class and rules

Boxing at the 2026 Boxing Ireland National U23 Championships and all subsequent targeted competitions will be conducted under the auspices of World Boxing competition rules available [here](#).

Men's Weight Categories									
50kg	55kg	60kg	65kg	70kg	75kg	80kg	85kg	90kg	+90kg

Women's Weight Categories									
48kg	51kg	54kg	57kg	60kg	65kg	70kg	75kg	80kg	+80kg

5. Eligibility

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- A) Be eligible to represent Ireland under [World Boxing eligibility regulations](#)
 - B) In accordance with the World Boxing Eligibility Rules, to be eligible to compete for Ireland at the European Championships, an athlete *must* hold a valid Irish passport.
 - a *“To be eligible to compete in World Boxing Competitions, an Athlete must be a national of the country that the Member represents and hold a valid passport of that country”* (Section 3.2.1 – World Boxing Eligibility Criteria)
- NB:** Please note that boxers born in Northern Ireland may choose to identify as Irish, British, or both, in accordance with the provisions of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (commonly known as the Good Friday Agreement).
- C) Be born between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007.
 - D) Be a registered Boxing Ireland member, in good standing, for the 2026 season.
 - E) Have competed and registered a result in the Boxing Ireland 2026 U23 National Championships.
 - F) Have signed the Boxing Ireland Athlete Agreement and Selection Declaration available at Schedule 1 (below).
 - G) Comply with all applicable rules and regulations of Boxing Ireland and the World Anti-Doping Code.
 - H) Have completed all required anti-doping e-learning obligations.
 - I) Not be currently disqualified or suspended, or provisionally disqualified or suspended, by Boxing Ireland for any reason including rules and regulations pertaining to the World Anti-Doping Code.
 - J) Agree to comply with a pre-championship preparation programme, including a medical screening, boxing-specific technical and tactical training and sparring.

5.1 The Selection Panel will be made up exclusively of the following:

1. National Performance Director, Jon Mackey
2. National Head Coach, Damian Kennedy
3. One High Performance Coach, nominated by the National Head Coach
4. Two Central Council nominated representatives

Any known or potential conflicts of interest within the Selection Panel must be declared in writing before the selection process commences and managed appropriately by Boxing Ireland.

Examples of conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to, club, coaching, family or professional relationships with an athlete, or any known historical or current dispute with an athlete. This list is not exhaustive, and any circumstance that could reasonably be perceived to compromise the impartiality or independence of a Selection Panel member may also constitute a conflict of interest.

6. Selection Factors

While winning the U23 2026 Boxing Ireland National Championships at the respective weight class will carry significant weight towards selection, it does not guarantee selection.

The Selection Panel reserves the right not to select an athlete if, in its judgment, the boxer's current developmental stage raises concerns from a health and safety perspective, in line with Boxing Ireland's duty of care. The rationale for not selecting a national champion shall be documented and shared with the athlete during their non-selection feedback meeting.

In the above scenario, where a boxer is deemed not to be at the appropriate standard, further opportunities to appraise their readiness may be provided. These may include international sparring camps, bouts, or sparring sessions at the High Performance Unit, subject to existing plans and budgetary constraints. Such opportunities will be offered at the sole discretion of the NPD and the NHC. The boxer's coach will be allowed to attend these further appraisal opportunities where relevant.

Where discretionary decisions are made (e.g., regarding further appraisal opportunities, team size, or non-selection), a brief written rationale shall be recorded and made available to the Selection Panel and, if requested, to the Appeals Panel to ensure procedural transparency.

The Selection Panel will have regard to the following initial factors, which will be objectively weighted prior to the selection process commencing and applied uniformly to all Athletes.

- (a) Eligibility
- (b) Results at the National U23 Championships in 2026
- (c) International Performance (from U23 or Elite level competitions in 2025)
- (d) Conduct and Behaviour
- (e) Injury and Health Status
- (f) Weight Management and Athlete Health

NB: Boxing Ireland prioritises athlete welfare above all else, and all national team selections are guided by this principle. Boxers who are not deemed to be of the required standard to compete safely will not be selected.

Injury / Illness

In instances where a boxer has been subject to further appraisal and is rehabilitating an injury the Head Coach may request a medical certificate from a GP. A decision by the boxer to not provide a medical certificate within the specified timeframe will be considered a withdrawal from the selection process.

In instances where a boxer has been selected for ongoing evaluation and is or becomes ill, the onus is on the boxer to provide the National Head Coach with a medical certificate from a GP.

Medical Assessment

As part of the selection process or after selection is made, any athlete may be required at the request of the NHC to undertake a medical assessment to determine fitness to perform.

To be considered for selection, an athlete must be certified as being medically fit to train and/or compete.

7. Deselection

Athletes may be deselected at any stage for the following reasons:

- a) **Anti-doping:** Athletes that are suspended as a result of on-going or concluded anti-doping investigations or charges will be deselected.
- b) **Performance:** An athlete may be deselected where there is clear evidence of a significant decline in performance that, in the reasonable opinion of the NHC, materially affects their ability to meet the objectives of this Selection Policy. In making such a determination, the Selection Panel will consider objective performance evidence, including training and competition performances, and whether the observed decrement raises legitimate concerns regarding the athlete's ability to perform to the standard required for selection and contribute to the achievement of the programme's performance objectives at the championships.
- c) **Fitness:** Athletes may, at the discretion of the National Head Coach, be required to undergo a fitness assessment after being selected where there are concerns over the athlete's capability to train and compete to the level required for the relevant international championships or to safely make and maintain weight. The format will be determined by the Selection Panel and may include input from medical and coaching staff.
- d) **Attitude:** Where an athlete's attitude towards training or preparation falls below the standard expected, or they fail to participate in scheduled squad training or comply with the obligations contained within the Athlete Agreement, they may be deselected.
- e) **Boxing Ireland Policies:** Athletes in breach of Boxing Ireland policies, including this selection policy and the Athlete Code of Conduct, and any other codes of conduct or athlete agreements may be deselected.
- f) **Ineligibility:** Where information confirms that the athlete is no longer eligible to compete for Ireland.

8. Timelines of the selection process

- The Selection Panel will meet within ten days, where possible, after the U23 National Championships.
- Athletes deemed selected will be formally contacted by the NPD, and their intention to compete for Ireland will be confirmed.
- Athletes not selected will be contacted and met by the NPD and NHC to explain the decision. The athlete is welcome to have their club coach present. Where appropriate, a plan will be agreed to further appraise the athlete within a defined timeline.
- Following the outcome of the above, a 48-hour appeal window will open. All appeals must follow the official appeals process.

- Once all appeals have been resolved, the national team will be formally announced.

9. Appeals

An Athlete may appeal his or her non-Selection to an Appeals Panel appointed by Boxing Ireland.

The costs of an appeal will be borne by the appellant.

The only grounds for Appeal are:

- That this Selection Policy was not properly followed and / or implemented.

No Appeal can be made on the following grounds:

- (1) A decision / recommendation of the Selection Panel was wrong; and
- (2) A decision of a referee and / or judges at the U23 National Championships was wrong.

Appeal Procedure

An Appeal will generally be conducted on the basis of the written submission of the appellant and the Selection Panel's records, and will accord with the following procedure:

The appellant must submit his or her Appeal in writing to the CEO of Boxing Ireland within 48 hours of the selection decision being announced or communicated to the successful and unsuccessful Athletes.

A fee of €200.00 must accompany the written Appeal, refundable if the Appeal is upheld.

The written Appeal must set out a detailed account of the grounds of Appeal including the manner or way the appellant Athlete alleges that this Selection Policy was not followed. The written Appeal should be as detailed as possible.

The Appeal Panel

Boxing Ireland will appoint an Appeal Panel comprising the following:

- (a) A barrister or solicitor who will act as the Chairperson.
- (b) A person with a thorough knowledge of amateur boxing (not a current athlete).
- (c) A person from another sport who has experience of international selection processes.

No member of the Selection Panel is eligible to be appointed to the Appeal Panel.

The Appeals Panel may call witnesses or ask for the giving of oral evidence, if it feels it is necessary and in the interests of reaching a decision.

The Appeal Decision

The Appeal Panel will give its decision as soon as reasonably practicable after considering the evidence

At the same time, the Appeal Panel will provide Boxing Ireland, the appellant and any other relevant parties (i.e. the appellant's club) with a written decision.

The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final.

For more details on Sport Dispute Solutions visit <http://sportdisputesolutions.ie/>

This document may be amended or supplemented by Boxing Ireland especially where matters arise which have not been provided for in these criteria. Any variation or amendment will be in writing and issued to all athletes who have signed the Athlete Selection Declaration (see Schedule 1 attached).

Schedule 1: Athlete Agreement and Declaration

Athletes are required to complete the following declaration prior to the selection panel meeting.

Completed declarations must be returned to National Secretary (secretary@boxingireland.ie) by the above date. Please do not send this declaration to any other party as your agreement may not be recorded.

Boxing Ireland Athlete Agreement and Declaration

I, _____, of _____ Boxing Club,

competing in the 2026 Boxing Ireland U23 National Championships, a Boxing Ireland tournament through which my level of performance will be utilised within the framework of the applicable Boxing Ireland selection policy and process, wish to nominate for selection on the Irish boxing team for the U23 European Championships, declare that I have read, understood and will abide by the following:

- a) I understand and have read the Selection Policy and understand the mandatory eligibility criteria, selection factors and timelines relevant to selection;
- b) I understand that winning in my weight at the U23 National Championships does not guarantee selection for the Irish Team chosen to compete in the U23 European Championships.
- a) I understand that the overall team size and selection is at the ultimate discretion of the NPD and the Selection Panel, and that I agree to participate in any training processes as outlined in the Selection Policy and associated with selection decisions, and
- b) I understand the composition and operations of the Selection Panel, and the communication of all specific selection information and decisions.

Athlete name:	Weight Class:	Club:
Athlete email:	Athlete phone number:	Date of Birth:
Name of Club Coach:	Contact Number for Club Coach:	Next of Kin: Name: Number:

Athlete Signature:	Date:
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OFFICIAL BOXING IRELAND STAMP:

