



Irish Athletic Boxing Association, trading as Boxing Ireland

Selection Policy

Futures Cup 2026 –

An eligibility tournament for the Youth Olympic Games

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1. Introduction

1.1.1 The Futures Cup forms part of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Youth Olympic Games (YOG) country quota allocation process, with quotas allocated by the IOC to the National Olympic Committee (NOC) and will be finalised on or before 23 May; these allocations are not wholly performance-based and are informed by the YOG participation principles of universality, continental representation, and host nation participation, with athlete eligibility capped at 17 years of age at the time of the Games. For clarity, the Olympic Federation of Ireland is Ireland's NOC.

1.1.2 This policy sets out the process by which the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) will select boxers to represent Ireland at The Futures Cup in Bangkok, Thailand from March 7th to 14th 2026, noting that participation in the Futures Cup is a mandatory eligibility requirement for any boxer who may later be considered for the YOG, however participation alone does not guarantee YOG selection. Upon confirmation of quota allocation, the Olympic Federation of Ireland will publish a separate YOG boxing nomination policy, and will only accept a boxing quota place in a given weight category where an Irish boxer has reached at least the quarter-final stage at the Futures Cup.

The YOG will take place in Dakar, Senegal from the 31st of October to the 13th of November, 2026.

2. Participation Principles

2.1.1 Under the Dakar 2026 YOG Participation Principles, quota places for boxing at the YOG are allocated to National Olympic Committees (NOCs) by the IOC, in collaboration with World Boxing, and are not owned by individual boxers; if a quota is awarded, the NOC may nominate any eligible boxer who has attended the Futures Cup in that gender/weight category, in line with IOC and World Boxing regulations. The purpose of this policy is therefore to provide an objective and transparent framework that enables IABA to select a Futures Cup team capable of strong international performances, with the intention of maximising Ireland's prospects of winning medals or, at minimum, achieving top-eight finishes, while also positioning the NOC to make the required nominations should a YOG quota be allocated.

3. Timelines and Invitational Selection Event

3.1.1 The selection process is shaped by the strict entry deadlines set by World Boxing, with all boxers required to be fully registered for the U19 Futures Cup by the end of January 2026.

3.1.2 The IABA will organise and deliver an invitational competition for eligible semi-finalists and finalists from 2025 National Championships, who fall within the relevant age eligibility category for the YOG (born between 14 November 2008 and 31 December 2009 – see 4.1.9 for more information). Participation will be by invitation only, and

boxers may elect to move up one weight category but will not be permitted to move down in weight.

4. Eligibility

4.1.1 To be considered for selection, all boxers must have the following criteria in place.

- a) Have entered the Invitational event and won the relevant weight category.
- b) Be eligible to represent Ireland under World Boxing eligibility regulations.
- c) In line with World Boxing Competition Rules on nationality, all Boxers entering and competing at World Boxing international competitions must hold a valid Irish passport with at least six months' validity remaining.
- d) Be born within the following dates – between 14 November 2008 and 31 December 2009, inclusive (see Age Eligibility 4.1.9).
- e) Have reached, at a minimum, a National Championship Semi Final in 2025.
- f) Be a registered IABA member in good standing for the 2025–2026 season.
- g) Have signed the IABA Athlete Agreement for World Boxing Championships Selection Declaration.
- h) Comply with all applicable IABA rules and the World Anti-Doping Code (WADC).
- i) Not be currently disqualified or suspended, whether provisional or otherwise, by the IABA, World Boxing or under the WADC.
- j) Agree to comply with all pre-competition preparation requirements, including medical screening, technical and tactical training, and sparring.

Note: Boxers born in Northern Ireland may identify as Irish, British, or both under the Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Good Friday Agreement).

4.1.9 Age Eligibility

The World Boxing U19 Futures Cup and the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) use different age bands, and it is important to understand the distinction.

4.2 World Boxing Age Bands for the Futures Cup:

- Boxers must be born between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2009.
- This means boxers can be 15 to 18 years old during the event.

4.2.1 Youth Olympic Games (Dakar 2026):

- Boxers must be born between 14 November 2008 and 31 December 2009.
- This means boxers can be 16 or 17 years old at the YOG. **Boxers cannot be 18.**

Because the Futures Cup allows older boxers than the YOG, some boxers who are eligible to compete at the Futures Cup (those born from 1 January 2008 to 13 November 2008) are too old for the Youth Olympic Games and cannot be nominated, even if Ireland receives a quota place.

4.2.2 Therefore the selection of boxers to the Future’s Cup will be guided by the age eligibility factors of the YOG only – born between the 14th of November 2008 and 31 December 2009.

5. Governance and Oversight

5.1.1 This Policy has been developed by the IABA, it is the responsibility of, and has been approved by the IABA Board of Directors.

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

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

6. Weight Categories

6.1.1 The Youth Olympic Games (Dakar 2026) will be contested in five men’s and five women’s weight categories, as defined jointly by the IOC and World Boxing. These categories are fixed and will be used for any quota places allocated to Ireland.

Men’s Weight Categories				
50kg	55kg	60kg	65kg	70kg

Women’s Weight Categories				
48kg	51kg	54kg	57kg	60kg

6.1.2 These categories must be strictly adhered to when considering nominations for any YOG quota places that may be allocated by the IOC to the OFI. Only boxers who competed at the Futures Cup in the appropriate gender and weight class may be considered for nomination.

7. Rules

6.1.1 The World Boxing U19 Futures Cup operates fully under the World Boxing Competition Rules, as confirmed in the official event information document. All technical regulations, age definitions, weigh-in procedures, equipment standards, gender-testing rules, and competition formats are those of World Boxing, and all Technical Officials appointed for the event are World Boxing certified.

8. Selection Panels for Olympic-Related Competitions

8.1.1 As per Rule 32 of the IABA Rulebook, any competition that falls under the Olympic banner—including the Youth Olympic Games, the IABA uses a dedicated High Performance Selection Committee.

8.1.2 Composition of the Olympic Selection Panel

8.1.3 The selection panel for all Olympic-related events consists of the following five members:

- National High Performance Director
- High Performance Head Coach
- Two High Performance Coaches (appointed by the NHC)
- One nominated representative of the IABA Board of Directors (voting)

8.1.4 Conflicts of Interest

8.1.5 Conflicts of interest within the Selection Process and the Selection Panel are managed by the IABA in accordance with established governance standards to ensure fairness, transparency, and integrity in all decisions.

8.1.6 Conflicts may arise where a Selection Panel member has a direct coaching relationship with a Boxer under consideration, a family or personal connection, or any vested interest that could influence impartial judgment.

8.1.7 All Selection Panel members are required to declare any potential or perceived conflicts prior to appointment, and on a continuing basis, including in particular when deliberations take place.

8.1.8 No member of a Selection Panel will participate in any Selection where he / she has a Conflict.

8.1.9 Where a Selection Panel member declares a Conflict, they must recuse themselves from all discussion and decision-making related to that Boxer or weight category.

8.2 Where necessary, an independent observer or alternate Selection Panel member may be appointed by the NPD to maintain quorum and procedural integrity.

8.2.1 To ensure full accountability and compliance with IABA governance protocols, all declarations and actions taken will be recorded in the official Selection Panel minutes.

9. Selection Factors

Selection for the U19 Futures Cup will be informed by an invitational competition organised and delivered by the Irish Athletic Boxing Association (IABA) for eligible semi-finalists and finalists from the National Junior 1, Junior 2, U17 and U19 age group who

fall within the YOG age band (born between 14 November 2008 and 31 December 2009). Participation in this competition will be by invitation only, with boxers permitted to move up a weight category but not down.

In addition to meeting the age and invitational eligibility requirements, boxers must demonstrate clear podium potential at international youth level and, at a minimum, the capability to secure a top-eight finish at the Futures Cup, ensuring that selected athletes possess the requisite performance standard to compete effectively at this level and to support Ireland's strategic objectives should a YOG quota place be awarded to the NOC. 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 Boxers.

- (a) Eligibility.
- (b) Results at the IABA Invitational Event.
- (c) Previous international Performance if applicable (ability to secure a top 8 finish).
- (d) Conduct and Behaviour.
- (e) Injury and Health Status; and
- (f) Weight Management and Boxer Health;

10. Duty of Care

9.1.1 The IABA prioritises Boxer welfare above all else, and all national team selections are guided by this principle.

9.1.2 Boxers who are not deemed to be of the required or suitable standard to compete safely will not be put forward for Selection.

11. Injury / illness and Medical Assessment

11.1 In instances where a Boxer has been subject to further appraisal opportunities and is rehabilitating an injury, the NPD may request a medical certificate from a GP.

11.1.2 A decision by a Boxer not to provide a medical certificate within the specified timeframe will be considered an automatic withdrawal from the Selection Process.

11.1.3 In instances where a Boxer has been granted ongoing further appraisal opportunities and is or becomes ill, the onus is on the Boxer to provide the NPD with a medical certificate from a GP.

11.1.4 As part of the Selection Process or after Selection is made, a boxer may be required to undertake an IABA arranged medical assessment to determine fitness, or continued fitness, to perform.

12. De-selection

12.1 Boxers may be withdrawn from the Selection Process at any stage for the following reasons:

12.1.1 Ineligibility

(a) Where information identifies that a boxer is not eligible to compete for Ireland, or fails to maintain the eligibility requirements set out in this Selection Policy, the Boxer may be withdrawn from the Selection Process

12.1.2 IABA Policies

(a) Boxers found to be in breach of IABA policies, including this Selection Policy and the Boxer Code of Conduct, and any other codes of conduct or Boxer agreements may be withdrawn.

12.1.3 Preparation and Training

(a) Where a boxer's attitude towards training and preparation for any targeted event is deemed by the designated coaching team as below the standards expected and/or the Boxer fails to participate in scheduled squad training or adhere to their obligations in the Boxer Agreement, the Boxer may be withdrawn from the Selection Process in accordance with the 'three strikes rule'.

(b) The Athlete Agreement will be provided to the boxer once Selection has been completed.

12.1.4 Fitness to perform

(a) Boxers may, at the discretion of the NPD, be required to undergo a fitness assessment after being selected where there are concerns over the boxer's capability to train and compete to the level required for international level competition; or to safely make and maintain weight.

(b) The fitness assessment format will be determined by the NPD and the NHC and may include input from medical staff.

(c) Any selection decision, following such a test, will be final.

13. Confidentiality

13.1 When boxers and their clubs receive notification of official Selection, they must not make any official public announcement to the press or on social media until after the official team announcement by the IABA.

14. Appeals

14.1 A boxer may appeal his or her non-Selection to an Appeals Panel appointed by the IABA.

14.1.1 The costs of an Appeal will be borne by the appellant Boxer.

14.1.2 The only grounds for Appeal are that this Selection Policy was not properly followed and / or implemented.

14.1.3 No Appeal can be made on the following grounds:

14.1.4 a decision / recommendation of the Selection Panel was wrong; and

14.1.5 a decision of a referee and / or judges at any event used to inform selection, was wrong

14.1.6 Appeal Procedure

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

14.1.7 The appellant boxer must submit his or her Appeal in writing to the CEO of the IABA within 48 hours of the Selection decision being announced or communicated to the successful and unsuccessful boxers;

14.1.8 A fee of €200.00 must accompany the written Appeal, refundable if the Appeal is upheld; and

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

14.2 The Appeal Panel

14.2.1 The IABA will appoint an Appeal Panel comprising of the following:

- (a) A barrister or solicitor who will act as the Chairperson;
- (b) A person with a thorough knowledge of amateur boxing; and
- (c) A person from another sport who has experience of international selection processes.

14.2.2 No Person is eligible to be appointed to the Appeal Panel if he or she is a member of the Selection Panel or by reason of any Conflict.

14.2.3 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.

14.2.4 The Appeal Decision

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

14.2.6 At the same time, the Appeal Panel will provide the IABA, the appellant boxer and other relevant parties (i.e. the appellant Boxer's club) affected with a written decision.

14.2.7 The decision of the Appeal Panel will be final and binding.

ENDS.