



Snowsports Association of Ireland

Beijing 2022 Games Nomination Policy

Cross Country Skiing

1. INTRODUCTION

This policy outlines the process through which the Snowsports Association of Ireland (SAI) will nominate athletes to the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI) for selection for the Beijing 2022 Irish Olympic Team (Games Team).

The nomination decision will be the responsibility of the SAI Nomination Committee with the final selection being the sole responsibility of the OFI.

SAI reserves the right to amend this policy if required. Any amendments will be communicated to all athletes on the Beijing 2022 Long List.

This Nomination Policy supersedes any previous correspondence, discussions, and representations (whether written or oral) by SAI regarding nomination and selection for the Games Team.

The Purpose of the Policy

- The primary purpose of the Policy is to select athletes to maximise high performance capability at the Games.
- The secondary purpose of the Policy is, and where quota places allow, to provide opportunities for the long-term development of athletes who are, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, capable of being competitive at future Olympic Winter Games, meaning in the case of Cross Country Skiing achieving a top 30 finish.

2. SELECTION PROCESS

Selection to the Games Team in a Snow Sports event is a three-step process:

- (i) Each athlete on the long list must meet the eligibility criteria set out in Clause 4 of this policy;
- (ii) SAI will nominate athletes to the OFI in accordance with this policy and the National Federation Agreement (entered into between the OFI and SAI);
- (iii) The OFI will select athletes to the Games Team in accordance with the NF Agreement and any other relevant policies or conditions it deems appropriate

SAI Nomination Process: In order to allow for any potential appeal, the qualification period for Nomination consideration will be from the 1st July 2020 to 10th January 2022.

The Nomination Committee will meet on the 10th January 2022. Following this meeting, athletes on the longlist will be informed of their Nomination Ranking subject to number of quota slots being received. The Nomination Ranking will be based on athlete performance and the factors set out in section 6 below.

Final nominations to the OFI will be made in the order of the Nomination Ranking to the maximum number of quota slots received by Ireland or the number of athletes who meet the eligibility criteria if this is lower than the slots received.

3. ATHLETE QUOTAS

The selection of athletes for its allocated quota places is at the discretion of the OFI. SAI may only nominate athletes to the OFI for selection to the Games Team where, pursuant to the qualification system, the International Federation has awarded athlete quota positions.

Qualification is achieved through meeting the minimum International Federation (FIS) standards as outlined below.

Please note that due to the continuing impact of COVID-19 on the international competition season, qualification criteria as set by international federations, or as set out in this policy, may be altered.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligibility criteria is the minimum criteria that must be met by an athlete in order to be considered for nomination. Meeting the eligible criteria entitles an athlete to be considered in the nomination process but does not assume automatic nomination.

In order to be eligible for nomination, athletes must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be an Irish citizen and hold a current Irish passport
- Be committed to and compliant with the anti-doping requirements of WADA, SAI, Federation Internationale de Ski (FIS) and Sport Ireland
- Have completed the OFI Team Member Agreement and any requirements contained therein
- Have completed the IOC Condition of Participation Form
- Must be registered with SAI for the season 2021/2022
- Must have signed the SAI Athlete Agreement
- Have obtained the minimum Olympic qualification standard in accordance with the FIS Rules during the qualification period from 1st July 2020 to 16th January 2022 as outlined below
- Acted in such a manner that aligns with the expectations and ideals of SAI, and not brought themselves, the sport, SAI, the OFI or any other relevant body into disrepute;
- Have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the SAI that they are fit, and will be fit, to perform to their fullest capability in the Games;
- Have co-operated with and/or provided any other particulars as requested by the SAI or the OFI.

Cross Country Skiing

- Distance FIS points <=100.00 points Skiathon and 30/50km Mass Start (A standard)
- Sprint FIS points <=100.00 distance points (A standard) or <=300 sprint points (B standard)
- 10/15km <=300.00 distance points (B standard)
- Relay <=300.00 distance points (B standard)
- Team Sprint <=300.00 distance points or <300.00 sprint points (B standard)

5. NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Nomination will be decided by the Nominations Committee who will consider all eligible athletes against the Nomination Criteria.

The Nomination Committee will comprise the following people

- SAI Board Member
- SAI High Performance Director
- SAI Performance Lead and

- Independent Member from another NGB (Chairperson)

In the event of any deadlock the Chairperson will hold the casting vote.

The Nomination Committee will take all necessary steps to avoid conflicts of interest. Where a conflict of interest is declared or arises, that member will abstain from the relevant decision-making process.

The Committee reserves the right to request advice from any expert, but that person will have no voting rights at the meeting. The meeting must be clearly minuted.

The Committee has total discretion to make nominations appropriate for the Games, but in accordance with the purpose of the Policy stated above. It will use, in conjunction with its own assessment, the most recent published discipline specific criteria as a guide to its deliberations and conclusions. Any Appeal made against a decision of the Selection Panel cannot challenge the exercise of discretion unless the Appellant can establish either or both grounds of appeal listed below.

6. NOMINATION FACTORS

When considering nominating athletes who have met the eligibility criteria, the Nomination Committee shall take into account any one or more of the following factors about an athlete:

- Consistency in performance during the qualification period;
- Adherence to a full and comprehensive Training and Competition Programme;
- Demonstrated commitment and attendance at all trainings;
- Demonstrated ability to take personal responsibility for self and their results;
- Previous results in major competition;
- Ability to compete across a number of events where FIS Olympic points have been achieved.
- The rate of the athlete's progression;
- Potential to deliver a notable result in a major competition;
- Willingness to promote SAI and the sport in a positive manner;

In considering any one or more of the above factors, the Nomination Committee and/or SAI may make such enquiries of the athlete, or other persons, as it sees fit.

The Nomination Committee may give weight to any one or more of the Nomination Factors. No particular factor shall be weighted more or less significantly by reason only of the order in which that factor appears in this Criteria.

7. FITNESS TO COMPETE / FITNESS TO PERFORM

- Any injury must be notified to the Performance Director as soon as possible after it occurs. Any illness must be notified to the Performance Director as soon as identified or suspected. If an athlete is ill / injured at the time of nomination, the SAI reserves the right to require the athlete to undergo medical/fitness testing to determine their fitness to compete
- Should an athlete become ill / injured after selection by the OFI, a decision on her/his fitness to perform to her/his ability will be made jointly by the OFI Medical Team and the SAI performance team in line with the OFI Fitness to Compete policy which is included in the Team Member Agreement.

8. WITHDRAWAL AND REPLACEMENT

In the case of an Athlete's withdrawal due to Injury, anti-doping violations or for any other reason, selection of a replacement will be in accordance with the nomination criteria above.

In the case of a withdrawal that occurs after nomination, selection or Delegation Registration Process (DRP) deadline, any replacement must be in line with the IOC Late Athlete Replacement (LAR) policy.

9. APPEAL

Any appeal to the decision of the Nomination Committee must be made strictly in accordance with the SAI Appeals Procedure available on the SAI website. The grounds for an appeal are limited to:

- Failure to follow this nomination policy and procedures
- Bias

10. COMMUNICATION

The announcement of the Irish Olympic Team is the sole responsibility of the OFI. In line with the Team Member Agreement, athletes are not permitted to announce their nomination and/or selection to the team on any channel/social media outlet prior to the announcement being made by the OFI and SAI.

11. TIMELINE (*SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Date	Event / Action
1 st July 2020 - 16 th January 2022	Olympic Qualification Period
1 st July 2020 - 10 th January 2022	Irish Qualification Period
10 th January 2022	Nomination Committee Meeting
10 th January 2022	Longlist athletes informed of their Nomination Ranking
24 hours after Nomination Committee communication	Deadline for submission of Notice of Appeal Form (see Schedule 1 in Appeals Policy)
17 th January 2022	OFI/SAI informed of quota slot allocation
18 th January 2022	SAI Nomination to OFI subject to all appeals being concluded
TBA	OFI Selection committee meeting
TBA	OFI Team Announcement