



Cycling Ireland 2024 Paralympic Games Nomination Policy

1. Vision

This nomination policy communicates Cycling Ireland's High Performance Unit (HPU) process to achieve the nomination of individuals and teams to Paralympics Ireland towards selection for the Paris Paralympic Games 2024.

2. Aim

Cycling Ireland has a clear mandate from Sport Ireland to focus our resource on being more competitive at Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"In conjunction with the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland, set stringent qualification targets to ensure all qualifying athletes are competitive across Olympic and Paralympic teams (even if this results in a smaller team for future Games)"

It's been clearly articulated that resourcing will be more targeted in future cycles.

"Focused investment in medal potential high performance systems should be reflected in investment decisions across the next two Cycles."

The aim of this document therefore is to support the Cycling Ireland HPU implement a nomination policy that safeguards and promotes the high standards required by our funding partners and our own ambition to send the most competitive team possible to the Paralympic Games in Paris 2024.

3. Introduction

The Paris 2024 Paralympic Games are to be held in Paris, France from 28th August 2024 to 8th September 2024. Cycling Ireland will nominate riders in some or all the cycling disciplines to the Paralympics Ireland (PI) by w/c 15th July 2024 once all NPC quota spots have been allocated. This date may change for operational reasons, and any revised date will be included in any amended policy (see 11.0 below). (With the amended racing calendar already experienced in early 2024, there is every possibility quota allocation date will be brought forward, and with it the nomination timeline.)

This policy articulates processes for nominating athletes for

- 3.1 Paralympic Games Track events and,
- 3.2 Paralympic Games Road and time trial events.

Nomination to PI does not guarantee selection for Paris 2024. PI must ratify all nominations made by Cycling Ireland before the selection is confirmed.

All events supported by this policy will be published via the Cycling Ireland and PI websites.

All processes laid out herein are consolidated by stipulating relevant PI selection aims, and supported by CI nomination criteria for each event which will be adjudged by a panel or staff as articulated below.

4. Paralympic Selection

Selection by Paralympics Ireland to represent Ireland in Paris 2024 will be based off the desire to fulfil one or more of the following selection aims as articulated in Paralympic Team Ireland Selection Policy doc V2.1, article 5.2:

4.1 Selection Aims:

- 4.1.1 Podium Performance – the Athlete demonstrates potential for podium and final places*
- 4.1.2 High Performance Progression – the Athlete can demonstrate performance improvements and/or performance standards over the Paris Cycle. The Paris 2024 Games are deemed a key performance milestone (for individual or team). Their selection will positively impact their performance trajectory.
- 4.1.3 Performance Pathway/Potential – the Athlete has demonstrated performance improvements over the Paris Cycle. It may be their first Games experience, and/or they may be early in their Paralympic career. Paris 2024 is a performance milestone towards LA2028. Their selection will positively impact their performance progression.

(* denotes major/minor final for medals, not top 6 run-offs)

4.2 Selection Criteria

The PI Selection Committee shall take the following into account when selecting an Athlete to Team Ireland:

- 4.2.1 The NGB Partnership Agreement has been approved by the relevant NGB Board and PI prior to publication.
- 4.2.2 The NGB CEO has formally communicated the PI Nomination List to the Chef de Mission.
- 4.2.3 The nominated Athlete and Support Staff meet the Pre-Participation Criteria.
- 4.2.4 The nominated Athlete and Support Staff meet the NGB Nomination Criteria.
- 4.2.5 The nominated Athlete has achieved an MQS if this is a requirement for selection by the International Federation.

4.3 All prospective team members may be asked to complete a medical assessment by the CMO at his request or at the request of the PI Selection Committee. To remain eligible for selection the CMO must certify to PI that, in their opinion, there is no illness or injury reason that would prevent the Athlete from competing at the necessary high performance competitive level at the Games.

4.4 In sports where the Athlete quota slots offered to an NGB are gender specific, PI will apply such quota requirements on the selection process. Because of these requirements, in some cases a lower ranked/performing Athlete of one gender may be nominated and selected ahead of a higher ranked/performing Athlete of the other gender.

5.0 Eligibility

5.1 Athletes must meet all pre-participation criteria in 2.0 of the 2024 Irish Paralympic Team Selection Policy and NGB nomination Guidelines V2.1 or later.

5.2 Additionally; athletes must:

- 5.2.1 Hold a valid UCI licence for 2024
- 5.2.2 Be of minimum age of 14yrs by 31st December 2024
- 5.2.3 Meet all sport specific athlete eligibility criteria as laid out in Paris 2024 Paralympic Games Qualification Regulations, version March 2024 or later.

6.0 Cycling Ireland Nomination Criteria

6.1 In conjunction with the PI selection aims and criteria set out in 4.1-4.2 Cycling Ireland have some team and sport specific criteria to consider in their nominations.

The Cycling Ireland nomination panel shall take the following into account when nominating an Athlete/Bike to PI:

- 6.1.1 Notwithstanding 6.1.2 below, performances during the course of the Paralympic qualification period on road and track events in all paralympic events that contribute to quota allocation at the conclusion of the qualifying period (currently 1st Jan 2022-30th June 2024). This is the key criteria underpinning PI selection aims 4.1.1. Performances will be considered in a priority order according to the scale of the event; ie World Track and Road Championships the highest considered event, World Cups the next, then Continental Championships, followed by Track and Road GP's and lower level International races. Please note that 'performances' in this context is not purely results. This enables the nomination panel to account for varied levels of event attendance, competitiveness of the field, the time attained where relevant, and environmental conditions under which results were achieved. Additionally, performances in non-Paralympic disciplines/events will not be considered.
- 6.1.2 When assessing the athlete/bike performances during the course of Paralympic qualifying consideration will be given to the likely result outcomes should a classification be merged with another at the Paralympic Games, and the end result 'factored'. This is a critical analysis when determining the likely competitiveness of the athlete or bike being considered which goes deeper than what their results might first 'suggest' if achieved in a non-factored class.
- 6.1.3 Commitment to professional training and racing behaviours throughout the course of the Paris Paralympic cycle, including engagement with staff, adherence to training programme, commitment to feedback and communication regarding training, progress, health status etc.
- 6.1.4 The nominated athlete/bike has demonstrated their ability during the Paralympic qualification period to contribute positively to the team environment in training camps and competitions.

- 6.1.5 The nominated athlete/bike has consistently demonstrated during the Paralympic qualification period they are psychologically ready to compete and are on course to continue this for Paris 2024. Expert opinion may be sought in order that the nomination panel are suitably informed.
- 6.1.6 The nominated athlete/bike have consistently demonstrated during the Paralympic qualification period they are physically and technically/tactically ready to compete and are on course to continue this for Paris 2024. Expert opinion may be sought in order that the nomination panel are suitably informed.
- 6.1.7 The nominated athlete/bike are able to commit to the training programme, planned Team training camps, and travel pre-Paralympic Games.
- 6.1.8 The ability to race competitively (meet PI selection aim 4.1.1) in more than one event, e.g. Pursuit and Kilo, or more generally, Track and Road. In the event of an athlete or bike considered by the panel to be evenly matched with another under consideration, the ability to race competitively in another event or discipline will favour that athlete/bike.
- 6.1.9 The athlete/bike's capability to excel in the specific nature of the Paris 2024 Road and TT courses and likely environmental conditions.
- 6.1.10 Athlete/bike trajectory - training history, age, recent performances, injury, readiness to compete will influence nomination (ref PI selection aims above 4.1.2 & 4.1.3)

The nomination panel shall be under no obligation to nominate an athlete/bike to fulfil a quota allocation if it believes that doing so is unlikely to achieve PI selection aims listed under 4.1 (above), or if nominating an athlete/bike would contravene the duty of care owed that athlete or athletes, or pose an unreasonable risk to an athlete, team or 2024 Irish Paralympic Team (Team Ireland).

6.2 Reserves and De-selection.

- 6.2.1 The nomination panel may also consider reserve places if all of the quota allocations are fulfilled when nominations are complete.
- 6.2.2 Reserves will only be considered from those that have submitted their expressions of interest outlined in 6.0 below.
- 6.2.3 Any reserves nominated must still meet the PI and CI selection aims and criteria articulated in 4. and 5. above, and will still be subject to the quota allocations.
- 6.2.4 Reserves may be placed in priority order whilst respecting our quota allocations.

- 6.2.5 The process of identifying reserves is solely an internal process of CI nomination and is not a formal recognition of such status from IPC. In the event of a nominated rider being unable to a) maintain adequate health or fitness prior to selection by PI, the and/or b) fails to comply with this policy or the criteria herein, CI will withdraw their nomination, and replace them with a nominated reserve where it fits the quota allocation to do so.
- 6.2.6 In the event of a rider selected by PI being unable to a) maintain adequate health or fitness and/or b) fails to comply with this policy or the criteria herein prior to the Sport Entry Deadline (5th August) they may be withdrawn/de-selected and subject to the discretion of PI be replaced by a nominated reserve where it fits the quota allocation to do so.
- 6.2.7 After the Sport Entry Deadline on August 5th the Late Athlete Replacement Policy (LARP) is only mechanism by which an athlete/bike can be replaced by a reserve athlete/bike. The LAR must be for the identical category medal discipline, in accordance with IPC procedures for replacing an athlete/bike due to inability to take part. (eg once entered, beyond this deadline a C4 athlete couldn't be replaced by a C3 athlete etc..)

7.0 Nomination Process:

Cycling Ireland nominates it's athletes/team to Paralympics Ireland for selection.

All long listed athletes wishing to be considered for Championship selection will be invited to complete an expressions of interest document in advance of the nomination panel convening. The timing of this exercise will vary depending on the timeline generated by the quota allocation and sport entry process required ahead of the event.

An expression of interest document will be distributed to all eligible long list athletes via e-mail in advance of the nomination panel convening for them to complete with essential information to be put forward to the nomination panel. The purpose of this document is to enable all athletes bidding for selection to be afforded an equal opportunity to present all relevant data for the panel to consider.

By submitting the expression of interest form the athlete is declaring they fulfil all relevant PI eligibility criteria at the time it is submitted and agree to be bound by the terms of this policy.

Accordingly, after the closing date for expressions of interest, the High Performance Director (HPD) will determine if a preliminary meeting will be convened to appraise the panel of all the information contained within the expressions of interest. This meeting will always be convened if there's more candidate athletes to be considered than places available. This is the 'information gathering meeting'. This will precede the nomination panel meeting. The purpose of this is two-fold:

7.1 To ensure that when the nomination panel meeting takes place all information is accurate and complete on the part of each athlete wishing to be considered. The timing of this allows the HP Admin Manager to liaise with any athletes, or make checks after the closing date, so that when the Panel convenes all information is present and correct.

7.2 To enable the Coach/Lead of each discipline to distribute their recommendations for nomination to the Panel ahead of the nomination panel meeting.

These are then considered by the nomination panel as set out below and discussed at the nomination Panel Meeting.

The Chair will ask the panel at the outset to declare if any conflicts of interest exist, e.g. a panel member coaching a rider being considered for nomination. It will be at the chair's discretion to determine if a conflict exists. In the event of a conflict arising the panel member will not have a vote towards selection in that category/discipline, and additional panel member(s) will be invited to reach the quorum.

A quorum is three voting members from the below composition free of any conflicts:

- Chairperson (Usually the HPD, but the HPD may nominate a replacement if unavailable. Non-voting)
- HP Admin Manager (Notetaking, non-voting)
- Head Coach (voting member if/where no conflicts of interest)
- Coach/Lead of the related discipline(s) being selected (voting member if no conflicts of interest)
- A minimum of one further Cycling Ireland Coach with no conflicts of interest.
- Independent witnesses (non-voting)

We may additionally invite:

- Other High Performance coaches from relevant disciplines within Cycling Ireland's contractors. (Voting member if no conflicts of interest)
- One or more High Performance Management Group representatives (non-voting)

8.0 Communications

The outcome of the nomination panel meeting will be communicated to the candidate athlete via e-mail normally within a 24hr period. If a candidate athlete does not hear within the published timeframe, then it is their responsibility to contact selection@cyclingireland.ie in the first instance.

All nominations are strictly provisional until any appeals have been concluded. In the event of an appeal being upheld by the Appeals Panel, we will write to inform affected parties and reconvene a fresh nomination panel meeting at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

Candidate athletes are not to publicise their nomination or non-nomination until PI have conducted their selections and announced the Team.

9.0 Appeals

Once the provisional nominations have been communicated to the candidate athletes the appeals window commences. The Appeals policy may be found here:

[OGPGNominationAppealsProcedureAndFormFINAL.pdf \(cyclingireland.ie\)](#) Or alternatively via the 'High Performance' link from the main Cycling Ireland website homepage.

Once any appeals process has been concluded, the nominations are communicated to PI. All athletes that do not get nominated are offered the opportunity to discuss their non-nomination with the Coach/discipline lead with the intention of offering constructive feedback regarding areas that could enhance their potential for nomination/selection in future.

Please note, that meeting PI & CI selection/nomination criteria and presenting strong performance credentials is in itself no guarantee of nomination. Where we have more candidate athletes than places available it shall be at the judgement of the nomination panel to determine nomination from this cohort. Non-nomination is not a judgement of non-compliance of criteria or lack of performance criteria, it may be that the panel determine another athlete/bike to present more strongly. On this basis of judgement and the panel having appraised itself of all the candidate athlete information and reasonably discussed their expression of interest, non-nomination under these conditions is not grounds for appeal in line with CI Appeals Policy.

10.0 Quotas and Event Attendance

Quotas will be allocated by the UCI in accordance with published timelines – currently 1st July. We are aware however that this date may be brought forward due to the changes made to the racing calendar for 2024. CI will work together with PI to facilitate an earlier nomination process if this date is moved earlier. Under all circumstances however, it will not be before the conclusion of the final qualification event, the Maniago Rd World Cup (16-19th May) and will follow the official publication of the quota allocation.

W/C 17th June: CI HPU invite expressions of interest from long-list athletes

1st July: UCI confirm quota allocation to National Paralympic Committees (NPC's)

W/C 1st July: CI nomination panel convene for Information Gathering, and for Nomination meeting.

By w/c 15th July: CI communicates nominations to PI

In all cases if PI selection aims, criteria and CI nomination criteria are not met by any athlete/bike under consideration the full quota allocation will not be fulfilled.

11.0 Review

This policy will be subject to continuous review and may be subject to amendments where external stakeholder policy, regulations or timelines change. This can only be done with written approval from PI.

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