

Policy on Acceptance/Non acceptance of Irish Selections

The ITTA wishes to ensure that there is a broad understanding in relation to selections for an Irish team/squad, and as such has adopted the following, reasonably broad, guidelines in this area. These parameters are not necessarily exhaustive and will be amended from time to time and where necessary. Where difficulties arise not explicitly covered by these guidelines, the Performance Manager/National Coach will consider each situation on its own merits and may make such arrangements as may be necessary, while at the same time seeking to remain consistent with the existing policies.

- ❑ All players are expected to accept Irish selections if they are serious about being part of the National Squad.
- ❑ Where a player has a previous commitment, e.g. academic/travel/medical, this should be communicated to the appropriate person from the ITTA as outlined in the selection letter. The ITTA will seek additional confirmation of such commitment, e.g. medical note, travel documents, school letter etc. Where players wish to make themselves unavailable for selection for an event or defined period, due to academic/work/medical/personal issues, it is expected that this is communicated to the ITTA well in advance of any possible trip or training camp for which that player might be considered. Where appropriate, the ITTA may agree specific arrangements with individual players, arising from specific circumstances, regarding their acceptance or otherwise of selections. Players should not absent themselves from Camps unilaterally and are expected to engage appropriately with the ITTA Performance team.
- ❑ Where a player has a previous significant family commitment, this should be communicated to the appropriate person from the ITTA outlined in the selection letter.
- ❑ Where an emergency situation develops, e.g. injury, bereavement etc, this should be communicated to the appropriate person as outlined in the selection letter, or, if the notice is very late, directly or via a third party to the lead coach or Performance Manager. If such a situation or injury develops during the course of an event or Camp, withdrawal should be discussed with the lead Coach. In either case, in the event of an injury a medical note should be forwarded to the ITTA.
- ❑ It is expected that both the ITTA and selected players/parents will be honest and transparent regarding selection availability. Players who are found not to have met this threshold, i.e. to have provided inaccurate or untrue reasons for non attendance/non availability, will not be considered for selection for a defined period.
- ❑ National Squad members are expected to accord their involvement in the National Squad a high priority. As such, early departure, late arrival or absence in whole or in part from selections or camps for other events or sports, or for dilatory reasons, will be considered an expression of disinterest.
- ❑ Where no reason for absence from a selected event is offered and/or where there is no communication, a player will ordinarily not be considered for

selection for the subsequent Camp/event. Where such behaviour is commonplace, the player concerned will not be considered for an extended period.

Players should be aware that, if necessary, sanctions such as future non selection may be imposed. However, and just as importantly, attendance at a Camp or a selection event should be considered both an honour and an opportunity. Players who do not accept selections should be aware that the alternate who is called in may then impress sufficiently to retain their place. As such, if a selection is not accepted, it may not be a case that a sanction of non-selection is imposed, it may simply be that the alternate has impressed in the place of the missing player and that non selection simply comes about.

ITTA Board
30 August 2012