

SELECTION POLICY & CRITERIA: Irish Table Tennis Teams

1. Basis and rationale for **Selection Policy** is built on the aspiration that 'Table Tennis Ireland (TTI), its players and coaches seek to achieve their best performances by design, involving sound and sustained (good) attitude, application of all sports services and regular attendance at training leading to consistent and strong performance in competition'.

2. This **general policy** is underpinned by two independent and mutually supporting values:

- **Player Values** of professionalism, consistency, competitiveness and dedication;
[These values should always be evident in players, especially of a high playing standard]
- **Selection Values** of fairness, transparency, independency and integrity
[These values will be evident in the actions and attitudes of Table Tennis Ireland Selectors, Coaching Staff and its Board]

3. The **Criteria for Selection** to represent Ireland at any level and across all disciplines are as follows:

a. Awards - Performance

- Significant and high level performances at Irish and Provincial ranking tournaments, typically top 6 finishes (minimum) – see *Age or Discipline additional requirements below*;
- Note-worthy performances at external and/or international tournaments;
- Inclusion on TTI High Performance Squad.

b. Attitude

- Sustained and good quality Attitude to Training, including a minimum of 3 supervised technical coaching sessions and 1 physical session per week, as well as full engagement with relevant and prescribed sports sciences;
- Attendance at Summer and Winter Camps, & regular contact with National and/or Squad Coach;
- Professional and mannerly approach to all within and outside sport.

c. Application

- Evidence of coaching and sports science advice being applied;
- Available for physical and technique testing;
- Competing in the National and 1 Provincial Open Championships (minimum)
- Willing to take challenges, alter style and pursue continuous improvement.

These three selection criteria are of equal importance and will be applied by the relevant Selection Panels; also unusual or exceptional circumstances will be considered to ensure that all players are treated fairly.

4. Implementation of the Selection Policy and Criteria:

- By the Selector Panels, Juniors and/or Seniors; these panels have authority, under the chairmanship of the High Performance Committee (or similar) to finalise selections;
- National Coach(es) has predominant comment;
- Normally includes Selections being reported, via HPC, to the TTI Board – this can be waived in times of tight deadlines or entry requirements;

- Needs both an Agreed Budget and financial approval by TTI;
- Annual review of the Policy and Criteria, agreed by HPC and the TTI Board;
- Selection Panels, as recommended by National Coach and HPC Chair, to be approved at the commencement of each season.

5. Additional performance criteria for age categories, in addition to ‘Criteria for Selection’ above (*Exceptions such as illness, playing abroad etc, may be discussed with the High Performance Committee*):

SENIOR & Under 21	Juniors & Cadets	U 13's
Play in 2 (min) provincial Opens	Play in 4 (min) provincial Opens	Play in 2 Provincial under-age events & 3 TTI events
Seek to compete in UK (GP, BL, Club)	League play for club at suitable level and preferably in 2No. UK Events	Schools engagement Attend Futures Squads
Weekly sessions: 14+ hours	Weekly sessions: 12+ hours	Weekly sessions: 10+ hours
TTI Top 6 ranking (min)	TTI Top 6	TTI Top 8

Disability Sport - Walking	Disability - Wheelchair	Special Olympics
Selection for these categories and disciplines will be organised and administered by the respective bodies; however the principles of this TTI Selection Policy should be adhered to, with the long-term aspiration of total integration.		

6. The following **Selection Appeals Process** exists to allow players and/or their coaches to challenge any selection decision:

- Any appeal can only be based on the application of the Policy and its Selection Criteria;
- An Appeal must be lodged with the TTI Company Secretary within 10 days of the Selection announcement;
- An Appeal must be supported with: i. Reason for Appeal; ii. A full supporting overview of the appellant; iii. Supporting evidence; iv. Any medical or counselling document when the appeal is based on medical or other similar circumstances; v. a Deposit of 20 euro (refundable if the Appeal is upheld);
- TTI Board must appoint, within 10 days of receiving the Appeal, an Appeals Panel whose members have no ‘conflict of interest’ with either selected players or the Appellant;
- The Appeals Panel has independence, must apply all the policy and report back with a decision to the Appellant within 21 days of the lodged appeal;
- A decision on an appeal cannot be reversed.

7. It is normal that the **Selection Panels** (Senior & Junior separately, and with adequate overlap) will have experience, knowledge and a gender balance, and have no more than five members. It will normally be chaired by the High Performance Chair (or similar) and be fully informed by the National Coach, will meet at least three times per year, report to TTI HPC and contribute to the annual High Performance Report to the AGM.

Epilogue: *Ranking schemes* apply player performances, in a systematic manner, from a range of events; after weighting these results based on the event status, the Ranking List gives player ratings based on Performance only. *Selection Policy* considers both quantitative (results) and qualitative (attitude, application) data in order to make a balanced judgement on the suitability and timeliness of player selections for Ireland. This sits within an overall High Performance Strategy and has a medium and short term timeframe, with a distinct Player-Centred approach.