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Policy Name: Junior Selection Criteria for 2024-2025 Season

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Contents

1. Policy Statement	3
2. General Criteria	3
2.1. Age Specific Criteria	3
2.2. Selection Criteria for Overseas Players	4
3. National Ranking points	5
4. Anti-Doping Training	6
5. Squad Sessions	6
5.1. Selection to the Squads:	6
5.2. Squad Communication	7
6. Communication between players/parents and Irish Squash:	7

1. Policy Statement

It is the policy of Irish Squash that for national team selection, our aim is to field the strongest possible team at all levels. Those responsible for junior team selection are the Junior Committee, team coach(es) and national head coach. If there is a conflict of interest with any member of the selection committee then an impartial provincial junior rep will replace the member where the conflict exists. In the exceptional event of a junior player being selected on a team which corresponds with playing 2 age groups higher than their current age, the Irish Squash Child Protection Officer will also have a role in the selection process.

Teams are announced within 2 weeks of the final qualifying tournament.

2. General Criteria

Players must

- be eligible to play for Ireland (<https://www.irishsquash.com/eligibility-to-play/>)
- be under the relevant age on the final day of the relevant competition
- comply with the Irish Squash Code of Conduct
- attend squad training sessions/adhere to guidance provided by team coaches and managers throughout the season

Wild card selection is used in exceptional circumstances only at the discretion of the selection committee. As detailed later in the document, players playing up an age group will **not be considered** for a wild card unless expressly agreed with the selection committee at the start of the season

2.1. Age Specific Criteria

Selection on a team is not solely based on a player's total national ranking points

A player's best results from a defined number of tournaments in the previous 12 months is used in team selection:

Compulsory Events for U13/15/17 teams:

- best 3 results from provincial junior open tournaments, **and**
- Irish Junior National (Closed) Championship, **and**
- Irish Junior Open (no points awarded for this event)

Compulsory Events for U19 European team:

- best 2 results from provincial junior open tournaments, **and**
- Irish Junior National (Closed) Championship, **and**
- Irish Junior Open (no points awarded for this event), **and**
- Senior National Closed Championships (no points awarded for junior ranking)

U19 World team:

- Selection of the U19 team to compete in world events will be at the discretion of the selection committee and the team may include players from both U19 and U17 cohorts.

Players competing in higher age group than their own must:

- notify Junior Committee in writing (by email) of intention to play in higher age group before start of season (before first Junior Tour event), and
- the Junior Committee will determine whether this is appropriate for that individual in consultation with that player's parents/guardians, and
- if agreed, that player will compete in the higher age group in all tournaments for the season including the Irish Junior National (Closed) Championship

Please note that where a player competes at a higher age category throughout the season and yet remains eligible by age to be selected for the national team in the younger age group, they will **not be considered** for a wild card unless expressly agreed with the selection committee at the start of the season.

2.2. Selection Criteria for Overseas Players

Applies to junior players who are eligible to play for Ireland and whose primary place of residence is outside Europe and more than a four-hour flight from Dublin Airport, Ireland.

Compulsory tournaments in own age group:

- 1) The Junior Nationals **and**
- 2) Two Junior provincial open events

Overseas Players must fulfill these criteria to be eligible for team selection:

- Be eligible to declare for Ireland

- Register their intention to play in Irish Junior Tour events with the Irish Squash junior committee and/or Irish Squash staff at start of season (before first Junior Tour Event)

3. National Ranking points

- National Rankings are based on a 12-month rolling ranking system
- Qualifying events are the Irish Junior Nationals and the 4 provincial opens (**U19's are based on 3 qualifying events, all other age groups are based on 4 qualifying events**).
- A player's total points accumulated in the preceding 12 months from their best 4 events (in one age category) is used to calculate their ranking for that age group in under 11, 13, 15 and 17 events.
- Note the total of a player's best 3 results is used for under 19 rankings.
- On moving to an older age category following a birthday, a player will carry 40% of the value of their ranking points in the lower age group 'up' with them; these points are then preferentially replaced by points gained at the new age group with each subsequent event played in.

The points to be earned in this season's junior tournaments are shown in the table below:

Placing	National	Provincial Open
1	2000	1500
2	1750	1300
3	1550	1150
4	1400	1050
5	1250	950
6	1100	850
7	1000	750
8	900	675
9	800	600
10	700	525
11	600	450
12	500	375
13	400	300
14	300	225

15	200	150
16	100	75
17	80	60
18	60	45

- No points are awarded where a draw has less than 3 players (round robin format/combining age groups should ensure this does not occur)
- Ranking points are updated within 2 weeks after each tournament.

4. Anti-Doping Training

Juniors of any age who are selected to play for Ireland must complete the anti-doping training.

Please see the Irish Squash anti-doping page (<https://www.irishsquash.com/anti-doping/>) and link to the e-training on <http://www.worldsquash.org/adel-the-anti-doping-e-learning-platform/>.

5. Squad Sessions

Representing your country is the highest honour that can be bestowed on a sportsman or sportswoman. Any player that aspires to represent Ireland is expected to participate in the national squads as part of the training and development programme of Irish Squash.

The dates for the squad sessions will be published on the Irish Squash website, email notification will be sent to the players and their parents. Failure to attend squads may lead to a player not being selected on a team.

The squad sessions are heavily subsidised by Irish Squash. The duration of training sessions is estimated and can change at the discretion of the Irish Squash Board.

It is the policy of Irish Squash to run National squads at the following age categories:

- U13, U15, U17, U19

5.1. Selection to the Squads:

The coach and team manager responsible for the relevant age group will select the squad of players to attend the sessions. The selection is based on the Irish Junior ranking and will be subject to the following criteria:

- **Irish Ranking**

The top eligible 4 boys and 4 girls automatically qualify for the squads and invites will be extended to other players as space allows.

If in the event that these players are unavailable then the coach can invite the next Irish ranked players.

- **Venue Capacity**

Depending on the capacity of the squash venue this squad might get expanded further again based on National ranking.

- **Development Squads**

It is the aim of Irish Squash to organise and run development squad sessions at each age group during the forthcoming season. Further details will follow.

Venue:

- 2/3 Court Venue Top 4 Boys and Top 4 Girls
- 4 Court Venue Top 6 Boys and Top 6 Girls

5.2. Squad Communication

Irish Squash will agree the squad with the coaches and issue the invitations. Irish Squash will manage the payments on-line for the squads – these must be paid in advance of squad participation and no cash should be paid to the coaches on the day.

It is the responsibility of the coaches to keep in touch with their players so they are fully up to date with potential players coming in and out of the age category and they must reflect this in their squads if appropriate.

There will be no refund of coaching fees in the event that coaching times are changed or reduced.

6. Communication between players/parents and Irish Squash:

Any queries must be directed to the National Coach in the first instance.