

XXII Commonwealth Games

Birmingham, England
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Nomination Policy and Consideration Standards

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Athletics NI
Team Northern Ireland 2022: Birmingham Commonwealth Games
Athletics Nomination Policy and Consideration Standards

INTRODUCTION

1. This nomination policy has been agreed by the Board of Athletics NI (ANI). It includes Commonwealth Games Consideration Standards. This policy provides detail on the process by which Athletics NI will arrive at athlete nominations. These will be submitted to Commonwealth Game Northern Ireland (CGNI) for consideration and for final selection to Team Northern Ireland 2022 in accordance with the CGNI Athlete Selection Policy (Appendix 4).

Achievement by an athlete of individual Consideration Standards, detailed in this document, is only the first step by which nomination can be considered. The final selection decision to the 2022 Commonwealth Games team lies with CGNI.

ATHLETICS NI GENERAL NOMINATION POLICY AIM

2. Athletics NI will nominate a team with the below targets:
 - To achieve a medal
 - To maximise the number of top eights achieved by the team
 - Valuable experience to be gained by athletes who are on a trajectory towards achieving a top 8 in 2026.

NOMINATION PANEL

3. Nominations will be made by the Athletics NI selection panel comprising:
 - Athletics NI Chair (with casting vote)
 - Athletics NI Director of Coach and Athlete Development (voting)
 - One other voting panel member to be selected

Legal guidance and expert advice/statistics shall be provided by:

- Two external technical experts with a breadth and depth of knowledge in athlete trajectories and elite performance (non-voting).
- Independent Legal Advisor (non-voting)

The Chair of the Panel may also (at his/her discretion) seek assistance (in a non-voting capacity) from anyone else he/she feels may be of help.

4. The nomination of athletes to CGNI shall be conducted by the Nomination Panel in accordance with the nomination process outlined in Part 1 of this policy, and with reference to the Athletics NI Consideration Standards (set out in Part 2) and the Athletics NI Conditions (set out in Part 3). Final selection shall be determined by CGNI. Selection of all those nominated is not guaranteed. CGNI will select a given number of athletes according to the number of places allocated to athletics. Athletics NI may nominate a larger number than places allocated.
5. Athletics NI may amend this selection policy and shall publicise any change made to it at the earliest opportunity.

ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

6. The eligibility criteria of the Commonwealth Games Federation must be met by all nominees (see Appendix 1 – CGF Byelaw 17).

6.1. Where prospective team members do not automatically comply with the above criteria, they will only be nominated for final selection if they receive prior approval from the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) under their guidelines.

6.2. No applications will be considered after 24 April 2022 to allow any case sufficient time for review and any submission to the CGF.

7. In addition, to be considered for nomination athletes must:

7.1. Compete at the 2021 or 2022 NI & Ulster Senior Championships (Marathon and 10,000m may choose to compete in the cross country or road championships as an alternative). For the avoidance of doubt, athletes who do not compete in the 2021 Championships must compete at the 2022 Championships.

Dispensation requests for not competing in 2022, from an athlete who also did not compete in 2021, must be received by the Performance Lead in writing no later than one week before the 2022 Championships, except in the case of injury – this can be considered up to the date of the Championships where there is confirmation from a physiotherapist. Dispensation from not competing will be at the discretion of the selection panel and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. For the avoidance of doubt, athletes do not need to request dispensation from the 2021 Championships as any athlete who cannot compete must compete at the 2022 Championships.

7.2. Submit an expression of interest, no later than six weeks before the 2022 NI & Ulster Senior Championships, stating your wish to be considered for nomination to Team NI for the 2022 Commonwealth Games

7.3. Sign the Athletics NI Code of Conduct and abide by it in the lead up to the Games and at preparation camps

7.4. Sign the Team NI Team Members Agreement and abide by its terms and conditions

7.5. Agree to attend and subsequently attend the Athletics NI holding camp in Slovakia. Exceptions to this stipulation will only be made through agreement with the Team Leader. Failure to attend the holding camp (without prior agreement with the Team Leader) will result in the athlete being deselected pursuant to paragraph 20.

7.6. Meet the Clean Sport/Clean Games anti-doping education and other requirements for Team NI as determined by UK Anti-Doping; and

7.7. In the case of athletes in para sport events, hold a permanent international World Para Athletics (WPA) classification.

COMPETITION FORMAT

8. The Athletics competition comprises the events listed below. Note that some para events are only contested by men or women.

Men		Women
✓	100m	✓
✓	100m T11/T12	✗
✗	100m T33/34	✓
✓	100m T37/38	✓

✓	100m T45-47	✗
✓	200m	✓
✓	400m	✓
✓	800m	✓
✓	1500m	✓
✓	1500m T53/54	✓
✓	5000m	✓
✓	10000m	✓
✓	Marathon	✓
✓	Marathon T53/54	✓
✓	10,000m Race Walk	✓
✓	3000m Steeplechase	✓
✓	110m/100m Hurdles	✓
✓	400m Hurdles	✓
✓	High Jump	✓
✓	Pole Vault	✓
✓	Long Jump	✓
✓	Discus	✓
✓	Discus F42-44/F61-64	✓
✓	Triple Jump	✓
✓	Shot	✓
✗	Shot F55-57	✓
✓	Hammer	✓
✓	Javelin	✓
✓	Decathlon / Heptathlon	✓
✓	4 x 100m Relay	✓
✓	4 x 100m Mixed Relay (Para)	✓
✓	4 x 400m Relay	✓

8.1. The maximum number of athletes selected by any country for each individual event will be three for each gender.

8.2. The maximum number of relays selected by any country for each relay event will be one for each gender.

8.3. Para events do not count towards the maximum team size allocated to Athletics NI by the CGNI.

8.3.1. Para-Sport athletes will receive an invitation to compete from the CGF, based on a quota system adopted by the CGF in line with WPA Commonwealth rankings.

QUALIFYING PERFORMANCES

9. The following sets out the conditions which shall determine whether a performance is a qualifying performance for the purpose of the Selection Process:
 - 9.1. Where an athlete achieves multiple performances in the same individual event in a single day the following shall apply:
 - 9.1.1. At an official British or Irish Championship level or higher all performances will be counted
 - 9.1.2. In a field event only the best trial in the final and the best trial in the pool, if held, will count.
 - 9.2. In all other cases only one performance per day will be counted as follows:
 - 9.2.1. In track events only the fastest legal result of the day will be counted
 - 9.2.2. In throwing events, only the best legal trial of the first competition of the day will be counted
 - 9.2.3. In horizontal jumping events only the best legal trial of the first competition of the day will be counted unless every mark achieved by the athlete was wind assisted in which case the best trial in a second competition held under non wind assisted conditions will count
 - 9.2.4. In vertical jumping events only the result of the first competition of the day will be counted unless the competition was abandoned for safety reasons in which case a second competition held under safer conditions will count.
10. Performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by the WPA, World Athletics (WA), its Area Associations or its Member Federations. Domestic competition performances will only be recognised if they are achieved in a British Athletics Level 2 Permit competition or higher, or in an Area or County Championship.
 - 10.1. See <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/competitions/rules/> for an explanation of British Athletics' competition permit levels.
 - 10.2. Marathon and race-walking qualification performances must be achieved on World Athletics accredited courses (as listed on the World Athletics website).
 - 10.3. Performances at non-WPA sanctioned National Disability Sport Organization (NDSO) competitions will not be accepted.
 - 10.4. Performances in mixed events between male and female participants, held completely in a stadium, may be accepted under specific circumstances (see WA rule 147): <https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information>
 - 10.5. Wind assisted performances shall not be accepted. For the Combined Events at least one of these conditions must be met:

- The wind velocity in any individual event shall not exceed plus 4 metres per second.
- The average wind velocity (based on the algebraic sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) shall not exceed plus 2 metres per second.

10.6. Hand timed performances shall not be accepted in any event except the marathon in the event of electronic timing failure.

10.7. Indoor performances for all field events and for races of 400m or longer shall be accepted.

PART 1: NOMINATION PROCESS

QUALIFICATION PERIOD

Where dates are provisional, 'date tbc' is placed in brackets beside it. We will continue to update the policy as information becomes available.

11. Athletics NI will consider athletes for nomination on the basis of performances achieved in the Qualification Period, which shall commence on 1 April 2021 except for the marathon, which will commence on 1 January 2021, and expire at midnight (BST) on 05 June 2022.
12. Marathon athletes should note a performance priority window that will be given precedence for marathon performances. This window will not be applied to half marathon performances where these are being considered pursuant with paragraph 14.1

12.1. Performance Priority Window - 01 January 2021 – 28 February 2022.

This window is designed to allow for maximal performance and recovery / preparation time for athletes ahead of Birmingham 2022. Proof of fitness prior to the nomination process will be required. The fitness protocol will be agreed by the Athletics Performance Lead and Athletics NI Physiotherapist.

Marathon performances after 01 March 2022 will be weighted with a risk factor that will be taken into consideration by the nomination panel based on the following:

- Limited time to recover
- Limited time to prepare for a major Games marathon

ATHLETE NOMINATIONS AND OVERALL TEAM SIZE

13. CGNI will allocate Athletics NI a maximum team size covering all disciplines listed in section 8 but not including the nine para sport events, which will be in addition to the CGNI allocation.

13.1. Within the spirit of this policy, Athletics NI will nominate to CGNI the maximum possible number of athletes, prioritising those athletes who have achieved the Consideration Standards and are most likely to contribute to our aim of winning a medal and maximising the number of top eight positions at the Games.

13.2. The number of athletes nominated both per event and overall will be in accordance with the CGNI allocation.

13.3. Should more athletes achieve the Consideration Standards than the total number of places allocated by CGNI, then Athletics NI will rank athletes in priority order in accordance with its overall policy aims and nomination criteria outlined in section 145. The final decision on team selection will then lie with CGNI.

13.4. The choice and prioritisation of athletes will be decided at a single nomination meeting. This meeting will be held on 6 June 2022. Places for the marathon will also be decided at this meeting. The nominated athletes for team places and reserves will be announced on 7 June after the selection meeting. The final team nominations will be given to CGNI on the 15 June 2022

PRIORITISATION OF NOMINATED ATHLETES

14. In the event that the numbers of athletes achieving the consideration standards (on the required numbers of occasions, within the Qualification Period, and at suitable events), exceeds the numbers of Athletics team places available, Athletics NI will use the criteria below to prioritise athletes for nomination.

15. The criteria below are not listed in any order of priority and those involved in selecting will exercise discretion fairly and without bias in making selection decisions.

15.1. Commonwealth ranking, using the athlete's single best performance during the selection window, on the 05 June 2022. This ranking will be based on three athletes per nation.

15.2. Number of performances above and close to the Consideration Standard

15.3. Consistency of performances

15.4. Current form. Performances achieved closer to the selection date are given increased priority and athletes may be asked to undertake health and fitness checks prior to nomination to CGNI or any period thereafter prior to the Games, as required

15.5. Performance history at major championships (Irish and British Championship level and above)

15.6. Performance Trajectory – upward or stable

15.7. Head to head performances for athletes in the same event. Priority is given to head to head competitions that occur at major championships.

16. At the end of the nomination meeting, Athletics NI will rank athletes in priority order from highest priority to lowest priority, according to the rounds outlined in section 17 and by using criteria outlined in section 14. The nomination quota will then be filled by athletes in priority order. Athletes that fall outside the quota will be reserves, ranked in priority order. Reserves will be called upon in the case of injury, see section 20.

17. The Nomination Panel will select and rank athletes for nomination in four rounds as follows: Athletes nominated in a round will be placed on the nomination list ahead of athletes nominated in subsequent rounds. Athletes who are considered in a round but not nominated in that round, will still be eligible for nomination in later rounds, provided they meet the relevant criteria for that round.

Round 1: Athletes that are likely to achieve a top eight performance

17.1. In this round the Nomination Panel will consider (but not necessarily nominate) the following:

- 17.1.1. Athletes who have achieved the nomination standard against the criteria in section 15.

Round 2: Athletes tracking towards top eight in 2026

17.2. In this round the Nomination Panel will consider (but not necessarily nominate) the following:

- 17.2.1. Using the criteria in section 15, athletes who have not achieved the standard but have demonstrated an upward performance trajectory towards a top eight in 2026.

Round 3: (Relays)

- 17.3 The selection panel may add athletes to the team to create relay squads for the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m at this stage. Relay runners do not need to hold the individual qualification guideline standard. Teams will be selected on the basis of top 8 potential as with individual selections. Further details of the relay selection procedure can be found in Appendix 2.

Round 4: Remaining spaces on the team and reserves

17.4 In this round the Selection Panel will consider (but not necessarily nominate) the following:

- 17.4.1 Using the criteria in section 15, athletes who have not achieved the standard.

At the conclusion of the nomination rounds:

Consideration will then be given to athletes who wish to enter additional events other than their primary discipline. They will be allowed to do so only if in the Head Coach's opinion this will not detract from their performance in their primary event, including the relays.

A reserve list will then be compiled based on the previously outlined principles.

Following the meeting athletes will be informed if they are to be nominated for team selection or if they are on the reserve list. However, the actual submission of the final nomination list will not occur until 15 June 2022.

FINAL TEAM NOMINATION – 15 JUNE 2022

18. On 15 June 2022, Athletics NI will submit the final list of nominations to the CGNI. All athletes chosen for the team will be nominated provided they can show fitness.
19. If the CGNI accept an athlete's nomination that athlete will have been selected for the team.

WITHDRAWAL AND REPLACEMENTS

20. Athletes who become unfit due to illness or injury at any time following their nomination must notify Athletics NI immediately and will be required to undertake a full medical examination by Sport Northern Ireland Sports Institute (SNI SI) Medical Staff, which may result in the athlete being de-selected from the team at the complete discretion of the Head Coach.
 - 20.1. Athletes may be subjected to training observation sessions and/or medical tests at any time following their nomination and/or selection. Any athlete judged to be unfit by Athletics NI, following tests conducted by Athletics NI, or their authorised representatives, may be de-selected from the team at the complete discretion of the Head Coach.
21. At any time prior to the Team NI team being formally entered into the Games Athletics NI reserves the right to withdraw an athlete's nomination should they no-longer be eligible or be deemed unfit to Participate. Ineligibility includes but is not limited to: Bringing the sport into disrepute; Failure to attend the Athletics NI holding camp (without prior permission from the Team Leader), Failure to abide by the ANI Code of Conduct; Failure to abide by the Team NI TMA; or Failure to meet the Clean Sport/Clean Games anti-doping requirements of Team NI.
22. If an athlete is de-selected from the team prior to the final nominations being submitted to the CGNI, then the highest priority athlete on the reserve list will be nominated to take their place.
 - 22.1. When selecting late replacements, priority will be given to athletes on the reserve list drawn up during round four, see section 17
23. Once the final team is selected by the CGNI, late replacements will be at the complete discretion of CGNI to replace the withdrawn athlete. That athlete may be from a different sport but is deemed to have a better chance of meeting the criteria within CGNI Athlete Selection Policy.
 - 23.1. Last minute replacements are at the discretion of the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and Organising Committee. In this case, a replacement may only be made in the same event and gender that the withdrawing athlete was entered in. CGNI will apply the criteria within the Selection Policy. A potential replacement would also have to show the capability to finish in the top 8 in Birmingham or in 2026.

APPEALS

24. Athletes may appeal their non-selection but only after the prioritisation and nomination of athletes on the 06 June 2022. and only according to the procedure laid out in the 'Athletics Nomination Appeals Policy' which can be found on the Athletics NI website.

PART 2: ATHLETICS NI CONSIDERATION STANDARDS

25. The Athletics NI Consideration Standards for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham are shown below. The methods for applying these standards will be used. The criteria for eligible marks are documented in Part 1: the "Nomination Process" and Part 3: "Athletics NI Conditions".

25.1. Rationale for Consideration Standards

Standards have been calculated based on top 8 performances from previous Commonwealth Games as well as Seasons Best performances of athletes placed 7th – 9th in previous Games. Thereby demonstrating what it takes to achieve a top 8.

25.2. Achieving a Consideration Standard does not guarantee nomination.

25.3. If there is an official electronic 1500m split in a mile race then the 1500m time will be taken, not the mile time.

Male Standard	EVENT	Female Standard
10.25	100m	11.45
20.65	200m	23.35
45.75	400m	52.30
1:47.50	800m	2:02.06
3:39.67	1500m	4:08.30
13:30.00	5000m	15:39.00
28:30.00	10000m	32:37.00
2:13:00	Marathon	2:32:00
41:30	10,000m W	46:00
8:35:00	3000SC	9:49.50
13.67	Sp Hurdles	13.39
50.00	400mH	56.90
2.21	HJ	1.86
5.20	PV	4.19m
7.84	LJ	6.33m
16.19m	TJ	13.32m
18.90	SP	16.32m
59.69m	DT	55.60
68.20m	HT	61.50m
75.23m	JT	53.80m
7400	Dec/Hept	5550
39.44	4x100m	44.70

3:06.87	4x400m	3:34.35
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PART 3: ATHLETICS NI CONDITIONS

NI & ULSTER SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

26. Any athlete wishing to be nominated by Athletics NI for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Team must compete at the 2021 or 2022 NI & Ulster Senior Championships (Marathon and 10,000m may choose to compete in the cross country or road championships as an alternative). Dispensation requests for not competing must be received by the Director of Coaching & Athlete Development in writing no later than one week before the championships. Dispensation from not competing will be at the discretion of the selection panel and will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.
27. Any athlete wishing to be nominated by Athletics NI for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Team must submit an expression of interest no later than six weeks before the 2022 NI & Ulster Senior Championships.

ANTI-DOPING

28. Athletes suspended by their governing body as a result of ongoing or concluded anti-doping violation allegations, will not be considered for selection, and if previously selected, will be deselected from the team.
29. All nominated athletes and reserves must undertake approved anti-doping education provided by Athletics NI before the 15 June 2022. Athletes who fail to attend this compulsory anti-doping education (or refuse to follow up by way of a webinar if out of the country for legitimate training or competition reasons) will not be nominated for selection to the CGNI.
30. Late replacements to the team appointed after 15 June 2022 must undertake anti-doping education before flying to the holding camp.

ATHLETE AGREEMENT

31. All nominated athletes must attend the Athletics NI holding camp in Slovakia. Exceptions to this stipulation will only be made through agreement with the Team Leader. Athletes who do not agree to attend the holding camp will not be nominated for selection to the CGNI
32. All nominated athletes and reserves must sign the Athletics NI Code of Conduct and Team NI TMA. In signing the agreement, athletes commit to attending mandatory team meetings, anti-doping education, and abiding by all policies related to the games including those associated

with the use of social media and holding camp attendance. Athletes who do not agree to be bound by the terms of this agreement will not be nominated for selection to the CGNI.

AMENDMENT

- 33.** Athletics NI reserves the right to amend this policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.athleticsni.org.

APPENDIX 1

Eligibility Criteria for Birmingham 2022

Queries should be directed through ANI for clarification with CGNI

BYELAW 17 ELIGIBILITY

1. It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 17.

2. PRIMACY

- 2.1 Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and (17)(7), a competitor shall be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them where they satisfy at least one of the following requirements:
 - a. Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them; or
 - b. Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them.
 - c. In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: -
 - I. Guernsey, Jersey, and Isle of Man. The governments of these three Crown Dependencies do not define citizenship. For these Affiliated CGAs, citizenship shall be defined as three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"* date of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee ("Continuous Residency") and the competitor must be in possession of a current valid UK passport.
 - II. Northern Ireland. Byelaw 17 will defer to the Belfast Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland athletes who meet birth right criteria are to be treated equally regardless of their possession of either a current valid UK or Irish passport (but must hold one of these). This right is enshrined within the Constitution Issues (iv) of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.
 - III. Norfolk Island. Any individual who was in possession of a current valid New Zealand passport and was also deemed eligible to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games for Norfolk Islands may continue to compete for Norfolk Islands at future iterations of the Games.

3. SECONDARY

- 3.1 Subject to Byelaw 17(4) 17(5) 17(6) and 17(7), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country which has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the

competitor may represent either:

- a. the Commonwealth Country of their birth; or
 - b. the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent; or
 - c. where the relevant IF recognises grandparents as part of its eligibility criteria, the competitor may represent the Commonwealth Country of birth of their grandparent; or
 - d. the Commonwealth Country where they have completed a minimum period of three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the “final entries deadline”* of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee.
- 3.2 Subject to the other provisions of this Byelaw 17, where a competitor is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated CGA due to common passport privileges they may choose which Affiliated CGA to represent. For the avoidance of doubt, if an individual has competed at a Commonwealth Youth Games this will not be deemed to be a choice of country, and the competitor may choose to represent a different Affiliated CGA at a Commonwealth Games.
- 3.3 For the avoidance of doubt subject to Byelaw 17(4) and 17(5) any competitor of a common passport area who competes for their common passport country (i.e. Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia) at either the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and/or any World Championships or any other major sporting event shall be entitled to choose to represent their home Affiliated CGA (e.g. Turks and Caicos) at the Commonwealth Games.

4. DISQUALIFICATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

- 4.1 A competitor shall not be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:
- a. are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by the Federation; and/or
 - b. are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective Affiliated CGA; and/or
 - c. are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective IF, National Federation and/or
 - d. are currently under disqualification or suspension under the World Anti-Doping Code.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 5.1 A competitor shall only be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if

they:

- a. Satisfy and comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation; and
 - b. Satisfy and comply their respective IF rules and regulations (including but not limited to, complying with respective IF eligibility rules as applied within each respective edition of the Commonwealth Games Athlete Allocation Systems); and
 - c. Satisfy and comply with the World Anti-Doping Code as applied within the Federation Anti-Doping Standard to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.
- 5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between respective IF Nationality rules and regulations and those of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Federation Bye Law 17 shall prevail.

6 TRANSFER OF ALLEGIANCE

- 6.1 After having established eligibility status under this Byelaw 17 a competitor who has previously represented one Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Games may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless they also receive the prior approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Byelaw shall not apply if an individual has represented a Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Youth Games. Applications under this Byelaw 17(6) must be submitted to the Executive Board two calendar months before the “final entries deadline”* for the respective Commonwealth Games. Applications must include formal confirmation of the prior approval of the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA.
- 6.2 All applications for transfer of allegiance under Byelaw 17(6) and/or discretionary eligibility dispensation under Byelaw 17(7) including all relevant paperwork and documentation must be submitted no later than two calendar months prior to the published “final entries deadline”*, as outlined by the respective Organising Committee.

7. DISPENSATIONS

- 7.1 The Executive Board shall delegate authority to the Governance and Integrity Committee (GIC) who have the power to grant dispensations to Byelaw 17 in exceptional circumstances and to consider any matters relating generally to Byelaw 17. Each application for dispensation under Byelaw 17 shall be considered on its own merits and will not create a precedent for any future applications. Decisions made by GIC are subject to the right of appeal directly to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

*“final entries deadline” means the final date that an individual athlete may be entered in a particular event(s) for the relevant Commonwealth Games, usually completed via an online entry system. Such date to be communicated for each relevant Commonwealth Games in the Sport Handbook.

APPENDIX 2

RELAY TEAMS

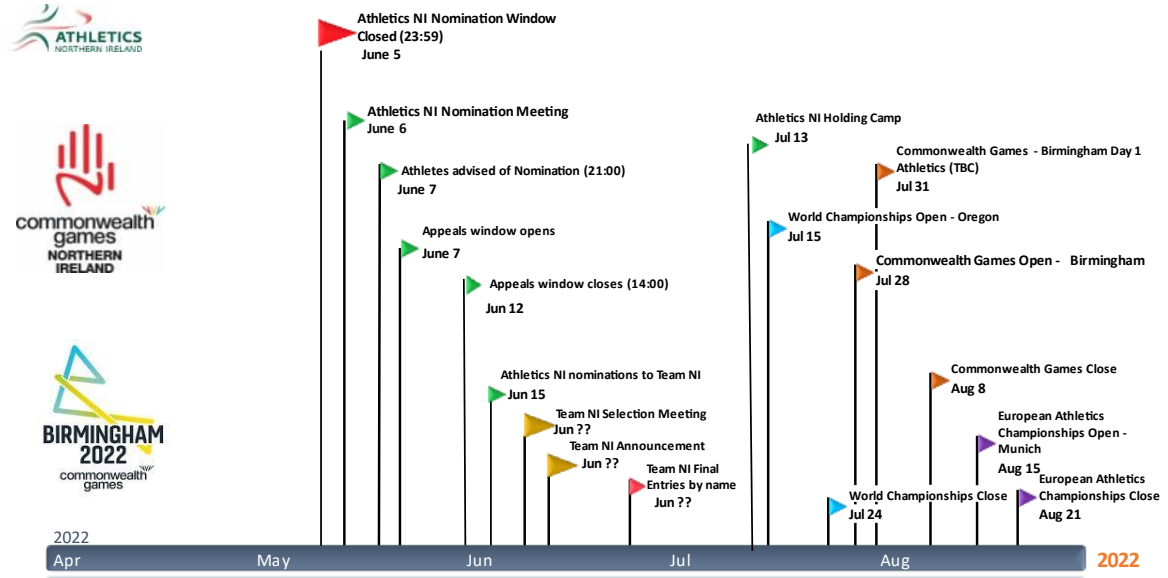
When selecting a relay team:

1. Relay teams are selected in Round 3 after all athletes who have achieved a Consideration Standard have been evaluated. Therefore, athletes who have not achieved individual Consideration Standards will not be taken in the relay ahead of an athlete with an individual Consideration Standard.
2. A relay team may be nominated if it can be made up of athletes who have already been nominated for individual events.
3. If during Round x there are still places available on the team then athletes without individual Consideration Standards can be nominated to make up a relay team that is capable of achieving a top 8 finish, in line with the aims of this nomination policy, see section 2.
4. For a team to be selected that includes one athlete who has not achieved an individual Consideration Standard:
 - 4.1. The team must have achieved the relay Consideration Standard during the Qualification Period.
5. For a team to be selected that includes two athletes who has not achieved an individual Consideration Standard:
 - 5.1. The team must have achieved the relay Consideration Standard during the Qualification Period and be ranked two places higher in the Commonwealth than any individual athlete who has not achieved the Consideration Standard. For example, if an individual athlete is ranked 8th in the Commonwealth the relay team must be ranked 6th to be nominated ahead of the individual.
6. A team will not be selected if it requires more than one athlete who has not already achieved individual Consideration Standards.

APPENDIX 3

NOMINATION POLICY TIMELINE

Commonwealth Games 2022 Draft Timeline



APPENDIX 4



CGNI Athlete Selection Policy for Birmingham 2022

Introduction

For most of Northern Ireland's athletes, the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games will be the pinnacle of their career. The purpose of this document is to outline the selection process to be used to ensure that every athlete is treated fairly. It must be remembered that selection for a representative team usually follows years of hard work and the disappointment for those not selected can be severe.

Team selection is a difficult, and often thankless, task. It is, however, an essential part of sport which should be treated with certainty and consistency. This is no different from the standards set on-field where an athlete will seek certainty and consistency in equipment, venues, officials etc. Athletes expect, and deserve, a selection process which is clear, transparent, unambiguous, and administered fairly and consistently.

This selection policy is in place to support the objectives of Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland's (CGNI) Strategic Plan which is aimed at delivering athletes to the Commonwealth Games who are capable of top 8 finishes either at Birmingham 2022 or at future Games.

The Birmingham Nomination and Selection Process

Each Governing Body (NGB) will make a number of presentations to CGNI during 2020, 2021 and 2022. These presentations will outline the relative strengths of the sport and give an indication of athletes who may be included. CGNI recognises that some sports may wish to include younger athletes who are on a developmental pathway.

The NGB is required to implement a robust process to identify those who will be nominated to CGNI. Final selection to the Northern Ireland team will be made by CGNI based upon the nominations provided by the sports.

Places Available

The number of athlete places allocated to Northern Ireland is limited, and at the behest of the Commonwealth Games Federation and the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee. These athlete places are awarded under three distinct schemes.

1. Open allocation. For Gold Coast 2018, CGNI was awarded 70 athlete places which were distributed across member NGBs. Initial indications are that 59 open allocation places will be available for Birmingham 2022.
2. Team sports. This is based upon Commonwealth ranking which may be subject to adjustment to accommodate participation from global regions. High ranked teams receive an invitation, from the CGF, to participate. The inclusion of team sports does not affect the number of open allocations.
3. Direct invite. This is based upon Commonwealth ranking. For Birmingham 2022, this will be used for all Para-Sport, Table Tennis and Weightlifting. Named athletes receive an invitation, from the CGF, to participate. The inclusion of these athletes does not affect the number of open allocations.

Updated 16/11/2020

CGNI Athlete Selection Policy for Birmingham 2022

Principles of the Selection Policy

The policy sets out the basis for making decisions while taking into account the rights of governing bodies and athletes. The policy is in writing and will be distributed to all NGBs entitled to be involved in the Birmingham Games. It will also be more widely available to those within member sports.

CGNI relies on nominations being made by NGBs. CGNI will therefore be restricted to communicating with NGBs and will not communicate directly with athletes regarding the selection process. Any athlete who has a query regarding nominations made by their NGB should contact the NGB directly.

Natural Justice

The principle of natural justice is core to the selection policy. Natural justice within this process requires the following:

- The NGB must know exactly the selection process. This means ensuring that they are aware of the criteria that have to be met.
- The NGB will be given an opportunity to appeal a decision.
- The selectors, and those involved with any subsequent appeal, must act without bias. They must not allow external pressures to influence their decision making. This is seen as 'acting in good faith'.

Transparency

A 'fair' system can only be applied when the entire process is transparent and accountable. Therefore, all elements of the process are available in an easy to understand format so that NGBs and athletes know exactly what is expected. There are certain actions that will undermine transparency:

- with-holding information from NGBs, athletes and coaches
- changing the rules during the process
- applying inappropriate criteria
- implementing anything that is outside of the written policy
- asking NGBs or athletes to do anything that is unreasonable

CGNI will give consideration to the points above to ensure that a transparent process is evident.

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Timescales

This Policy has been published more than two years before the Birmingham 2022 Opening ceremony. This ensures that NGBs, athletes and coaches have an opportunity to seek clarification on anything within the Policy on which they may be unclear. March 2020
September 2020
December 2020/ January 2021

December 2020/ January 2021

January 2021

July 2021
July 2021

December 2021

January 2022

May 2022

June 2022 – date TBC

Publication of a draft Selection Policy. A two-week window will be available for feedback from NGBs before the Policy is ratified by the CGNI Board.

Games Preparation Meeting – Round 1
Selection guidance workshop for NGBs. This will involve external expertise and will promote good practice and offer advice on the development of a Nomination Policy. Information session at which the process will be presented to NGBs. Opportunity for NGBs, coaches and athletes to seek clarification on any aspect of the Policy.

Games Preparation Meeting – Round 2
NGBs are provided with an indicative number of athlete places

Athlete ‘Long List’ opens.

Games Preparation Meeting – Round 3
NGBs are provided with an updated indicative number of athlete places

Games Preparation Meeting – Round 4
NGBs are provided with an updated indicative number of athlete places

Selection by CGNI begins, based upon nominations received from NGBs

Games Preparation Meeting – Round 5
NGBs are notified with a final number of athlete places. Appeals to the number of places allocated to a NGB will be dealt with within 7 days of notification to CGNI.

Athlete nominations close

These timings will be updated as information becomes available from the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee. If the timings change, the amended Policy will immediately be circulated to the named Commonwealth Games Liaison Officers and Lead Coaches within each sport.

With agreement of both parties, a governing body and CGNI may agree on a final number of athlete places earlier than the Round 5 meeting stated above.

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Criteria

CGNI will select athletes based upon nominations made by NGBs. Only athletes nominated by a member NGB will be considered.

The Commonwealth Games is a world class sporting event and athletes representing Northern Ireland will therefore be required to demonstrate their ability to perform at this level.

CGNI will select athletes based upon the following ranked criteria:

1. Potential Birmingham 2022 medallist
2. Potential top 8 position at Birmingham 2022
3. Developmental athlete, on an upwards trajectory within a NGB performance system, with the potential to obtain a top 8 position at the 2026 Commonwealth Games

During the Games Preparation Meetings, NGBs will be required to provide information to support the potential inclusion of named athletes.

The criteria will be applied to all individual entries, team sports and directly invited athletes.

If more athletes meet the criteria than places available, the ranked criteria order will apply, and the panel will exercise subjectivity in allocating places to sports within the lowest criteria used.

Athletes must meet the eligibility criteria of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Athletes must be in good standing with their respective NGB.

Athletes must be in good standing with WADA.

Athletes must have signed a Team Member Agreement prior to selection. The Agreement will become active 4 hours after CGNI has notified the NGB of selection.

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the CGNI Safeguarding Policy and Team Member Agreement.

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The Selection Process

At each round of Team Preparation Meetings, NGBs will have the opportunity to discuss the merits of their respective athletes. From round 2 onwards, an indicative number of places will be provided to each NGB. This number may alter from meeting to meeting as more information becomes available, new athletes are discussed, form alters, injury occurs etc.

The meetings will be conducted by the Chef de Mission, with support from the General Team Managers and staff from Sports Institute Northern Ireland. Following the round 5 Games Preparation Meetings, the Chef de Mission will make a recommendation to the CGNI Board regarding the final number of places allocated to each sport. Once approved by the CGNI Board, this number will be confirmed by email to each NGB.

The number of places recommended for each sport will be based upon the numbers deemed likely to meet the published criteria. This is the subjective view of the panel hosting the Games Preparation Meetings based upon the information presented to them.

If more athletes meet the criteria than places available, the ranked criteria order will apply, and the panel will exercise subjectivity in allocating places to sports within the lowest criteria used.

If insufficient numbers of athletes meet the criteria to fill all the places offered by the Organising Committee, the panel may decide to recommend that places are offered to sports which do not meet the criteria. This will be a subjective decision based upon the benefits to be gained by that sport.

Running concurrently with the Team Preparation Meetings, each NGB is required to develop and implement a process for identifying athletes suitable for nomination to CGNI. The NGB is solely responsible for this nomination process.

For administrative reasons, CGNI may ask NGBs to provide a 'Long List' of athletes during 2021. These are athletes who may possibly be nominated by the NGB. It must be made clear to athletes that being 'Long Listed' is not an indication of selection.

Nominations can be submitted by NGBs to CGNI from January 2022 onwards. To be considered valid, nominations must be accompanied with all relevant paperwork, including signed Team Member Agreements. The CGNI Board will make selections based upon the number of places awarded to sports and the ranked nominations received from those NGBs.

Confirmation of athlete selection will be made by email to the address provided by NGBs on the nomination paperwork.

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Appeals Process

The first indicative number of athlete places awarded to NGBs will be provided after the second round of Games Preparation Meetings in March 2021. Rounds 3, 4 and 5 of the Games Preparation Meetings act as an ongoing appeals process as the NGB has an opportunity to present new information to justify the inclusion of more athletes. Following Round 5 of the Games Preparation Meetings, each sport will be notified by email of the final number of athlete places offered.

Any appeal to this final number of athlete places must be made in writing to CGNI within 48 hours of notification. The appeal should consider whether the published selection process has been followed and whether the stated criteria has been applied.

Only a NGB can appeal the number of places that it has been offered.

Athletes cannot appeal against decisions made by CGNI. Any athlete appeal should be directed to their NGB. Experience shows that athlete appeals are most likely to relate to the ranked order of nomination devised by the NGB.

The appeals panel will consist of a CGNI Board member and two persons drawn from member sports not connected to the appeal. This appeals panel will be co-ordinated by the NI Sports Forum.

If a NGB is dissatisfied with the outcome of an appeal, the case should be taken to Sport Resolutions UK, which is recognised as the final arbitrator regarding selection to TeamNI.