

TEAM IRELAND

It is the aim of the NCCFI to provide equal opportunity for its members as we select sporting teams chosen for the best of their ability to achieve medal winning status for Ireland. The NCCFI will present Team Ireland as ambassadors to Irish angling sport worldwide.

In the interests of clarity surrounding the selection process and safety this section of the document has been updated and approved by the Executive in January 2022.

1 ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive of the NCCFI delegates the responsibility for Team Ireland selection to the International Team Managers to include, but not limited to the responsibilities listed.

- 1.1 The Committee will seek applications for Manager(s) and decide on the candidate(s) who will then go before the next AGM or EGM for adoption.
- 1.2 Managers will be appointed for three championships seasons which may be extended at the behest of the NCCFI Executive.
- 1.3 The decision to present Team Ireland at any overseas event remains with the Executive.
- 1.4 The NCCFI will at the request of the Team Manager will invite all clubs to nominate members for selection.
- 1.5 The Committee will ensure teams as identified by the Team Manager are selected within the guidelines and will adopt accordingly.
- 1.6 The NCCFI Executive reserves the right to withdraw Team Ireland from a championship due to changing circumstances.
- 1.7 The NCCFI reserves the right de-select any angler who does not meet the standards of the behaviour expected as an ambassador of our sport and the federation.
- 1.8 The Executive will submit the official entry, and payment (where funds allow) to FIPS-ed on receipt of all required documentation from the Team Manager.
- 1.9 Letters will be provided on request to those Team Members who can avail of grant funding.
- 1.10 Official team wear will be approved by the Executive.
- 1.11 The Executive, based on information provided by the Team Managers will arrange suitable insurance cover.
- 1.12 The media coverage will be managed by the NCCFI Public Relations team who will administrate NCCFI social media in accordance with any sponsorship requirements.

2 REPRESENTATIVE TEAM MANAGERS

The National Team Manager(s) will be bound by the general principles contained in this document and is charged with the following additional responsibilities:

- 2.1 The Manager will conform to the selection criteria/eligibility and be resident on the island of Ireland.
- 2.2 The Manager may request Expressions of Interest in advance of registration to assess which championships to attend.
- 2.3 The Manager will present to the Executive his intentions for representation and the NCFFI share the invitation to apply with all clubs and in the public domain.
- 2.4 The Manager will report his/her activities to AGM for review annually.
- 2.5 The Manager will ensure all applicants considered meet the eligibility under this policy.
- 2.6 The Manager is responsible for selection of the team implementing a clear and fair selection process without bias. Any declaration of interest, including the nominated on the Manager themselves, will be shared with the Selection Committee for a decision.
- 2.7 The Manager will apply the selection criteria fairly and consistently and will keep factual records.
- 2.8 The Manager may seek guidance from the co. manager and/or other experts as required. Any person involved in providing advice or guidance during the selection process must declare any conflict of interest.
- 2.9 The Manager has full autonomy on his decision based on the selection criteria.
- 2.10 The Manager will present the team to the NCFFI Executive for adoption before informing the successful applicants.
- 2.11 The Manager will communicate with every applicant to inform them of his/her decision before a team is publicly announced. He shall be prepared to discuss his decision.
- 2.12 The Manager will always communicate his decisions respectfully.
- 2.13 All fixtures and match reports including photography and results must be provided to the Public Relations Officer, pre, during and post the championships for publishing.
- 2.14 The Manager has a duty of care to the anglers and may, in his/her best interests, withdraw them from a competition during the event.
- 2.15 Anglers may be substituted in prior to or during competition if the Manager deems this to be appropriate.
- 2.16 The Manager will give notice of team practice, training, or meetings no less than 14 days in advance.
- 2.17 The Manager is responsible for team funds and expenditure keeping Team Members informed of costs.
- 2.18 Team Managers will submit reports on all activities pertaining to the team, management, and finance to the Executive Committee after each event or as requested.
- 2.19 The Manager is responsible for the coordination of travel and accommodation arrangements and must carry out a risk assessment prior to all training and competition at home or overseas.
- 2.20 On the occasion that a Team Manager is unable to attend an International Event a co-Manager who meets may be appointed and approved by the Committee.
- 2.21 In the event of an emergency the Team Manager should designate himself to fish.

- 2.22 When dealing with youths under the age of 18 the Team Manager and all his assistants/those travelling must have vetting in date with the NCFFI via the National Vetting Bureau or ACCESS NI.
- 2.23 The Youth Team Manager must have Safeguarding 1, Basic Awareness (ROI) or Safeguarding Children in Sport NI as a minimum.
- 2.24 A risk assessment must be carried out for each overseas championships for approval of the executive. Where necessary this should be shared with the travelling team members.
- 2.25 The Team Manager will provide the secretary with copies of signed agreements/Code of Conduct and next of kin details for all those travelling prior to the entry fees being paid to FIPS-ed.
- 2.26 The Team Manager will keep all information in accordance with GDPR.
- 2.27 Where a championship takes place less than 12 months from the previous championship the Manager with the approval of the Executive may choose to present the same team for two championship seasons.

3 SELECTION CRITEREA/ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Anglers wishing to be considered for selection must meet the following,

- a) To be a member of the NCFFI
- b) To hold a valid Island of Ireland Passport (ROI or UK/Nl)
- c) To have been born on the island of Ireland, **OR**

To have been born outside the island of Ireland to island of Ireland parent(s). The child of any one parent who was/is an Irish Citizen born on the island of Ireland will qualify for citizenship irrespective of their place of birth. Eligibility will require proof by way of parent's birth certificates and/or other official documents, **OR**

To have been born outside the island of Ireland but have lived on the island of Ireland continuously for no less than five years. Eligibility will require proof by way of official documents or Affidavit.

3.2 To have not fished for another country's national team.

3.3 When team selection is for competition run under the auspices of FIPS-ed, the criteria as published from time to time by FIPS-ed will take precedence over article 1, above.

3.4 Anglers must be able to self-finance entry and travel to each event. It is important to be aware that international competition is an expensive affair with costs between €1000 and €2000 dependent on the championship destination and availability of funding.

3.5 Anglers must have the flexibility to attend championships overseas. Including travel and practise this could take you away from home for up to 9 or 10 days.

3.6 Anglers will have read and agreed to abide by the NCFFI Code of Conduct.

3.7 Anglers must meet the specific age requirements as specified and provide proof of date of birth as requested.

3.8 Anglers under the age of 18 will have approval from a parent/guardian available to accompany them to the championships.

3.9 Anglers must comply with Anti-Doping rules as published by Sport Ireland and WADA.

4 SELECTION PROCESS – COARSE, FLOAT, FEEDER, U25

- 4.1 Anglers will be invited to register their application for a place on Team Ireland.
- 4.2 The most up to date information related to the location and date of the championships will be provided at the time of registration but is subject to change later. Anglers may be asked to specify a specific event or register for all. There will be no fees to register or qualify.
- 4.3 Registration will only be accepted on-line within the timescales published.
- 4.4 Qualifiers will be held if more than the following numbers register for a place on the team, 30 Float, 15 Feeder, 10 U25.
- 4.5 Where necessary two qualifying matches will be held over one weekend in accordance with the current FIPS-ed rules and advertised in a timely manner.
- 4.6 Teams usually consist of five anglers and one reserve.
- 4.7 At the end of the qualifiers the top 16 Float, 8 Feeder, 6 U25 (or 50% of those taking part) will form a panel from which the Manager will select his team.
- 4.8 The Manager will base his selection fairly and without bias, on the discretionary factors to include, but not limited to the following,
 - Technical skills and knowledge
 - Inclusion and diversity
 - Performance at National, league and open competition
 - Experience at world championship events
 - Talent spotting; the potential for development
 - Team dynamics, the ability to fit in and work as a team and not an individual
 - Attendance and cooperation at training events
 - The ability to uphold NCFFI values and uphold the Code of Conduct
- 4.9 Providing the selection criteria is met the Team Manager may, with the permission of the Selection Committee, award themselves a position on the team.
- 4.10 Anglers may be selected for teams at more than one championship but no more than three persons may be present on two or more championship teams.
- 4.11 Any changes to this selection process will be published in advance of registration.
- 4.12 Selection will be discretionary and based on the judgement of the Team Ireland Manager who has full autonomy on his decision.
- 4.13 A Selection Committee will comprise a minimum of 2 other International Managers plus 1 member of the Executive to endorse the team selection based on all criteria.
- 4.14 Any appeal must be made within 48 hours of public notification of the team and will be heard by the Selection Committee. Sole grounds for appeal are that this policy is not followed correctly or implemented.
- 4.15 Anglers may request further feedback for non-selection to support future development.
- 4.16 Complaints can be sent to secretary@ncffi.ie and will be handled according to the Complaints & Disciplinary Policy.

5 SELECTION PROCESS – COARSE U15 & U20

- 5.1 Anglers will be invited to register their application for a place on Team Ireland.
- 5.2 When under 18 at the time of registration applications must be made by the parent/guardian.
- 5.3 The most up to date information related to the location and date of the championships will be provided at the time of registration but is subject to change later.
- 5.4 Registration will only be accepted on-line within the timescales published.
- 5.5 There is no fee to register or take part in the qualifiers.
- 5.6 Four qualifying matches will be held over one weekend in accordance with the current FIPSeD rules and advertised in a timely manner. In extraordinary circumstances the number can be reduced two with the approval of the Executive.
- 5.7 Qualifying matches will be divided into sections U15 & U20. Each angler will draw for his/her relevant age group. Position points will be awarded for each section.
- 5.8 Agreed penalty points will be issued for non-attendance.
- 5.9 A substitute, reserve angler will be included with each team.
- 5.10 The Manager will base his selection fairly and without bias, on the discretionary factors to include, but not limited to the following,
 - Technical skills and knowledge
 - Inclusion and diversity
 - Performance at National, league and open competition
 - Experience at world championship events
 - Talent spotting; the potential for development
 - Team dynamics, the ability to fit in and work as a team and not an individual
 - Attendance and cooperation at training events
 - The ability to uphold NCFFI values and uphold the Code of Conduct
- 5.11 Any variation or event specific criteria will be identified at registration.
- 5.12 Any changes to this selection process will be published in advance of registration.
- 5.13 Selection will be discretionary and based on the judgement of the Team Ireland Manager who has full autonomy on his decision.
- 5.14 A Selection Committee will comprise a minimum of 2 other International Managers plus 1 member of the Executive to endorse the team selection based on all criteria.
- 5.15 Any appeal must be made within 48 hours of public notification of the team and will be heard by the Selection Committee.
- 5.16 Sole grounds for appeal are that this policy is not followed correctly or implemented.
- 5.17 Anglers may request further feedback for non-selection to support future development.
- 5.18 Complaints can be sent to secretary@ncffi.ie and will be handled according to the Complaints & Disciplinary Policy

6 SELECTION PROCESS – PREDATOR, BOAT

- 6.1 Anglers will be invited to register their application to attend the qualifiers to seek selection for Team Ireland.
- 6.2 Match dates and venues for the qualifying matches will be communicated to all clubs with a minimum three months' notice.
- 6.3 When under 18 at the time of registration applications must be made by the parent/guardian.
- 6.4 Registration will only be accepted on-line within the timescales published along with payment and receipt will immediately be confirmed.
- 6.5 The team will be selected by a series of six qualifying matches, held over three weekends with results to count including the All-Ireland Predator Boat Championships. Only in extraordinary circumstances may the Team Manager with the approval of the Executive reduce the number of qualifying matches to four.
- 6.6 Anglers may only enter in pairs and for eligibility purposes at least one person in each boat must meet the criteria as identified in article 1.
- 6.7 An entry fee will be charged for each of the qualifying matches. This will be €25 (or sterling equivalent), with the funds raised going towards the travelling team costs.
- 6.8 The qualification process will select 4 anglers and 1 reserve.
- 6.9 All matches will be held on venues suitable for FIPS-ed events.
- 6.10 Points will be awarded in centimetres squared in accordance with FIPS-ed rules, but the length of the species considered may vary by venue i.e., perch.
- 6.11 All predator species will count but only if they are in season and as identified by the Team Manager. pike and perch are the main species, trout, shad, zander are not.
- 6.12 All fish will be measured on supplied boards along with markers provided and recorded immediately on the score sheet. Verification will be by steward or photo process at the discretion of the Team Manager.
- 6.13 All fish must be returned to the water immediately alive and unharmed. Only fish that swim away can count for scoring purposes.
- 6.14 On every qualifier a pair of anglers will be awarded points according to their position, 1st = 1pt, 2nd = 2pts, 3rd= 3pts and so on.
- 6.15 Anglers will be disqualified if they are not holding the necessary licenses (boat and rod) or not wearing a life jacket.

7 SELECTION PROCESS – PREDATOR, SHORE

- 7.1 Anglers will be invited to register their application to attend the qualifiers to seek selection for Team Ireland.
- 7.2 Match dates and venues for the qualifying matches will be communicated to all clubs with a minimum three months' notice.
- 7.3 When under 18 at the time of registration applications must be made by the parent/guardian.
- 7.4 Registration will only be accepted on-line within the timescales published along with payment and receipt will immediately be confirmed.
- 7.5 The team will be selected by a series of four qualifying matches, held over two weekends with results to count. Only in extraordinary circumstances may the Team Manager with the approval of the Executive reduce the number of qualifying matches to two.
- 7.6 An entry fee will be charged for each of the qualifying matches. This will be €25 (or sterling equivalent), with the funds raised going towards the travelling team costs.
- 7.7 The qualification process will select 4 anglers and 1 reserve.
- 7.8 All matches will be held on venues suitable for FIPS-ed events.
- 7.9 Points will be awarded in centimetres squared in accordance with FIPS-ed rules, but the length of the species considered may vary by venue i.e., perch.
- 7.10 One point is awarded for all fish caught and returned to the water alive and unharmed. Only fish that swim away count for scoring purposes.
- 7.11 Anglers will be awarded points according to their position, 1st = 1pt, 2nd = 2pts, 3rd = 3pts and so on.
- 7.12 The main predator species is Trout, with the option to record Pike or Perch; all must be in season and agreed by the Team Manager
- 7.13 All anglers are obliged to provide one non-fishing steward to be allocated to the other competitors, unless otherwise specified.
- 7.14 Anglers will be disqualified if they are not holding the necessary rod license and permit.

8 ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TEAM IRELAND MEMBER

Selected team members are bound by the general principles contained in this document and charged with the following responsibilities,

- 8.1 In accepting selection, the Team Member will have read and agrees to abide by all NCCFI policies and sign the NCCFI Code of Conduct.
- 8.2 Team members are required to will enter into a contractual agreement per championship season whereby they agree to abide by management and executive decisions.
- 8.3 Team Members will strive to serve the team to the best of their ability, unselfishly and with pride.
- 8.4 Team Members will make themselves available for training in accordance with the Manager. Failure to attend less than 50% of those requested may result in deselection.
- 8.5 Team Members must be compliant with the NCCFI Anti-Doping Policy. Failure to comply will result in non-selection or de-selection.
- 8.6 Entry to the championships is governed by the conditions of the NCCFI, CIPS and FIPS-ed (and other relevant bodies). Team Members must meet any such criteria to be considered for selection.
- 8.7 Team Members are responsible for any medication they may take and must comply with the CIPS Therapeutic Use Exemption, TUE procedure.
- 8.8 Travelling team Members must be aware that a positive test (Covid or other) during competition may deem the entire team unable to compete.
- 8.9 Team Members must agree and comply with any destination entry regulations, which for all selected anglers, plus others travelling, may include the requirement to undergo a Covid (or other) test.
- 8.10 Any Team Ireland angler who refuses to participate in a team match, negatively impacting on the result of the team or the opportunity for the team members to compete and gain experience; may forfeit their right to compete on Team Ireland for a period as agreed by the NCCFI Executive.
- 8.11 Youth Team Members and parents should be conversant with the NCCFI Safeguarding Policy
- 8.12 Team Members must observe bio-security processes, and check, clean, dry equipment, always including boats.
- 8.13 Team members are on duty at international events as representatives of their country. In this respect, dress code and appearance should be of a high standard on and off the bank. Team Management will advise on the suitable attire to be worn at official functions.
- 8.14 In selection Team Members authorise the use of images and video for the promotion of the NCCFI and sport fishing in accordance with the NCCFI Filming & Photography policy.

9 TEAM IRELAND – DESELECTION

The Manager has the right to deselect any member of the team in accordance with the following.

- 9.1 Nonattendance at 50% of training sessions and/or meetings as requested within the normal timescales.
- 9.2 Nonpayment of travelling costs six weeks prior to the championships

10 COMPLAINTS & DISCIPLINE

Breaches of the Constitution and Protocol rules will incur disciplinary action, please refer to the NCFFI Complaints & Discipline Procedure Document as amended by the AGM of the NCFFI from time to time.