

## **Policy re participation of Irish teams in international competitions**

Irish Squash policy is, subject to financial capacity, to send teams to all international team competitions (Europeans, Worlds, junior, senior and masters), if the majority of our top players are available, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Participating in European team events will be a priority over World team events.

Playing for Ireland at any level is a great honour and achievement. Competing in the tour events throughout the season provides a platform for players to improve their game and gain ranking points putting them in contention for a place on a team. Without the goal of getting on to an Irish team, the tour events will become meaningless.

Team selectors are responsible for selecting teams in accordance with Irish Squash selection policies. The board's role is to provide policy guidance to the selectors; the board is not responsible for selecting teams.

For senior competitions, where a junior is selected on the team, those involved in the selection process shall be the senior manager and selectors, in consultation with the Junior Administrator and the Child Protection Officer.

In the event of a junior player being selected simultaneously on a senior team and junior team where the dates of both competitions coincide, Irish Squash will arrange for a meeting between all involved parties, i.e. the junior player and his/her parent, one senior selector and one junior selector and one other board member. The player will then make an informed decision as to which team he/she will play for following this meeting.

It was agreed that for junior team selection, those responsible are the Junior Administrator, manager, selectors (and Child Protection Officer if the junior is playing 2 age groups higher than their current age group).

Where funding for these events is concerned, the Irish Squash budget will not cover all costs. Therefore, fundraising is essential. For World team events, Irish Squash should concentrate on fundraising activities, rather than all the costs being covered by parents/individuals paying their way. This avoids the notion that 'caps' may be 'bought' by players.

Fundraising activities need to be carried out by the whole squad in contention for places on the team, i.e. those players that will be in the training sessions and competing in play-offs for team positions. (Funds raised will go into a central 'pot' which, for example, may also support the cost for junior players who fail to get on the team but who wish to play in the individual event at a World championships.)

Fundraising activity should be led by the relevant team managers, selectors and Irish Squash board members.

By aiming to participate in all international team competitions, it will provide a structure for coaches over a 2 year cycle to manage the players on an ongoing basis.