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**Policy Owner: Chair of the Selection Committee**

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# **1. Overview**

## **1.1 Purpose of Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to set out the rules for the selection of the Irish Squash Senior teams.

## **1.2 Scope of Policy**

The scope is for the selection of Irish Senior Squash teams.

## **1.3 Objectives of Policy**

To ensure that the selection of teams is clear and fair to all players.

# **2. Policy Guidelines**

## **2.1 Team selection**

Team selection is based on ranking points earned in qualifying Irish Tour events.

Irish ranking points are based on finishing positions achieved by players at the Irish Senior Nationals and Irish Senior Provincial Opens.

## **2.2 Selection Criteria**

The selection criteria for the Irish Senior team for European and World Championships will be based on the last published rankings prior to the selection date. The selection date will be determined by the selection committee but will be dependent on the date required for team nominations provided by the European or World Squash Federation. The date of the rankings used for selection and the actual team selection date will be published in this document as soon as it is known. It is the responsibility of individual players to find out what the selection dates are and understand how this will affect their eligibility and impact their ranking at the time of selection.

The ranking points will be used to select the members of the team. In exceptional circumstances only, the selectors may use up to two wildcards in selecting the team. A wildcard selection will be based on, but will not be constrained to:

- Ranking, current form, commitment & recent results
- Attendance at squads, results of fitness tests (both maybe compulsory before/after the selection of the team)

- Consideration in this category will be given to the required profile, and the overall expected performance and prospects of the Irish Team which includes the age and experience of the players to be selected.
- The format of the event, the size of the team and the number of matches to be played.

It is in each player's best interest to forward any additional relevant results from head to heads, closed events or PSA tournaments to the selection committee. This is particularly relevant for overseas players.

If a number of players have the same ranking points at selection time, then the following will apply:

- Head-to-head matches will be taken into account for the season in question (from the start of the season up to the selection date). Whichever player has won the most head to heads. If the number of head to heads is even, then whichever player won the last head-to-head match.

The team to travel will be selected using these criteria, but the team order and player selection for each match at the European/World Championships will be decided by the coach.

If a Wildcard is used to select a player to play in the European or World Championships, then the player who missed selection due to the wild card selection shall be granted free entry all ranking events for the following 12 months.

## 2.3 Qualifying Events

### Selection Process for Men's WSF World Team Championships 2024

#### WSF World Team Championships Hong Kong

#### China

December 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

Due to the curtailed selection window for the WSF Team World Championships, the following selection criteria will apply. The selection panel will closely monitor player performance in the following events and will select the strongest team to represent Ireland:

- PSA Curragh Open – September 14-15th
- Munster Senior Open – October 5-6th
- PSA East of Ireland Sutton Open – October 18-20th
- Connacht Senior Open – November 2-3rd

*Players are advised to compete in all the tournaments listed above, with a minimum requirement of two.*

- PSA Challenge Tour 6 Tournaments (or higher) – between August 1 and October 31

## Selection Process for Women's WSF World Team Championships 2024

### WSF World Team Championships Hong Kong

China

December 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>

Due to the shortened selection window for the WSF Team World Championships, the following selection criteria will apply. The selection panel will closely monitor player performance in the events listed below and will select the four (4) best-performing players to qualify for the Irish Team Trials, scheduled for the weekend of October 26–27 in Dublin. Following these playoff matches, the top two (2) players will be selected for the Irish Team.

**Criteria Exemption:** Any Irish player, whether living abroad or at home, who is an active member of the PSA and has achieved a world ranking in the top 150 will be subject to different criteria. To qualify under this exemption, players must be actively participating in events both at home and abroad and competing in PSA Challenge Tour 6 Tournaments (or higher) between August 1 and October 31, 2024. Once they meet these requirements, they will be exempt from the home-based player criteria and the team trials planned for October 26–27 and will be selected to represent Ireland at the World Championships.

#### Events:

- PSA Curragh Open – September 14–15
- National Team Selection Training – September 28–29
- Munster Senior Open – October 5–6
- PSA East of Ireland Sutton Open – October 18–20
- National Team Selection – October 26–27 (Playoffs)

All home-based players are advised to compete in all the events listed above, with a minimum requirement of three, one of which must be a tour event. Please note that the playoffs will take place in Dublin on the weekend of October 26–27. All eligible players must be available for this.

## Selection Process for European Championships 30<sup>th</sup> April – 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025

Venue: Wroclaw

Ranking points will be awarded at the following events:

Level 1 event

- Irish Senior Nationals (7-9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025)

Level 2 Events

- Munster Senior Open (5-6<sup>th</sup> October 2024)

- Connacht Senior Open (2-3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024)
- Ulster Senior Open (23-24<sup>th</sup> November 2024)
- Leinster Senior Open (11-12<sup>th</sup> January 2025)

## 2.4 Non-Qualifying Events

Ranking points will not be awarded at the following events, however match results may be taken into consideration for selection purposes.

- Curragh Senior Open (September 2024) (PSA event)
- Mount Pleasant Open (January 2025) (PSA event)
- Limerick Senior Open (March 2025) (PSA event)
- Any other Irish PSA events

## 2.5 Explanation of Scoring and Ranking points

Scoring

The number of ranking points available will be dependent on the level of the event being played:

### Level 1 Event

Posn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pts	1000	950	900	850	800	750	725	700	675	650	625	600	575	575	525	525

Posn	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Pts	475	475	425	425	375	350	325	300	275	250	225	200	175	150	125	100

### Level 2 Event

Posn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pts	750	725	700	675	650	625	600	575	550	525	500	475	450	425	400	375

Posn	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Pts	350	325	300	275	250	225	200	175	150	125	100	85	70	55	40	25

Ranking points will only be awarded to players who qualify to play for Ireland, under Irish Squash governing body rules. For example, if a non-Irish player were to compete in an Open event and finish 3<sup>rd</sup>, the points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place would be awarded to the Irish player finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> position.

If a "Home Player" is unable to play in a mandatory event due to an international squash commitment (i.e., representing Ireland at the World Team Championship or the European Team Championships or the equivalent junior or master's events), then they will be awarded their average points for that mandatory event based on the 5 qualifying events over the preceding 12 months. Other player types are not covered by this rule.

The various player types and the number of events that they have to play are set out in the Definitions sections of this document.

This year, there will have been 5 qualifying events played over 12 months at the time the final rankings are calculated for the Senior Europeans.

To ensure all players, regardless of type, can achieve maximum points, a weighting is calculated for each player type based on the number of events they must play. The Home Player scoring calculation is used as the baseline to calculate the multipliers for all player types.

For the 2024-25 season there will be 5 qualifying tournaments before the selection date. Based on 5 tournaments run by the end of the season, the rankings are calculated over the 12-month period as follows:

- For a Home, UK and European Player, they must play 1 Level 1 and 3 Level 2 events
- The maximum points a Home Player can achieve in the 4 events is:
  - Winner of Level 1 event = 1000
  - Winner at 3 Level 2 events =  $3 \times 750 = 2250$
  - Total points that can be achieved is 3250
  - This is used as the baseline for other player types, therefore multiplier is 1

- The maximum points a Top 60 Professional player can achieve in 1 event is:
  - Winner of Level 1 event = 1000
  - Total points that can be achieved is 1000
  - Multiplier is calculated as Home Player total points achievable divided by Top 60 Professional player points achievable =  $3250/1000 = 3.25$

Multipliers for all players based on the 5 tournaments to be played over 12 months are calculated as:

Player Type	Qualifying Events	Maximum Points	Multiplier
Top 60 Professional	1	1000 (1 <sup>st</sup> Level 1 event)	3.25
Top 150 Professional	2	1750 (1 <sup>st</sup> Level 1 event, 1 x 1 <sup>st</sup> Level 2 event)	1.86
Home, UK and European Player,	4	3250 (1 <sup>st</sup> Level 1 event, 3 x 1 <sup>st</sup> Level 2 event)	1.00
Overseas Player	1	1000 (1 <sup>st</sup> Level 1 event)	3.25
Student Overseas Player	1	N/A	

If a player enters a tournament and has not played in a ranking event before, they will be assigned a player type and corresponding multiplier. It is expected that all players will strive to play the minimum number of qualifying tournaments that applies to their player type to achieve a proper ranking.

Rankings will be published at the start of the season, and then subsequently calculated after each event and published 1 week afterwards. They will be calculated as follows:

- The number of qualifying events played within the 12 months will be determined.
- The multiplier will be determined for each player dependent on their player type.
- The highest points achieved at the number of qualifying events for the player will be aggregated.
- The total for the player will be multiplied by their multiplier.

Note: A Top 60 Professional player will be automatically placed at the top of the Irish rankings. Where there is more than one Top 60 Professional, their position will be determined by their PSA ranking at the time the rankings are calculated.

## 2.6 Seeding in events

The selectors will seed the players for the 5 mandatory events. Seeding for events will be based on the last published rankings. Exceptions may be made for non-Irish players. Selectors may use up to 2 wildcards in each event for Irish players.

Note: When an event is a PSA event, then the PSA seeding rules apply. This means that the PSA players get seeded at the top based on their current PSA ranking.

Irish Senior Nationals might be a PSA event; however, the seeding will be based on the last published rankings not PSA rankings.



## 2.7 Tournament withdrawals

If a player withdraws from an event after the withdrawal date (Monday before the tournament starts) or during a tournament or doesn't show for a match, a one tournament ban is imposed on the offending player, and they will receive no points for the tournament.

The Senior Secretary (or selectors) shall liaise with the Tournament Director and if the Senior Secretary (or selectors) and Tournament Director are happy that the withdrawal is legitimate, due to injury or other etc., then the Senior Secretary (or selectors) will not follow up. However, if the Senior Secretary (or selectors) finds that this is not the case, then a medical certificate will be requested to avoid a one tournament ban. A medical certificate if requested must be produced within 1 week of the withdrawal/no-show.

If the offence occurred in a level 1 or 2 event then the ban will be from the next level 1 or 2 event. If the offence occurred in a PSA event then the PSA rules will apply.

## 2.8 Selection Committee

The Irish senior men's Selection committee is Eoin Ryan, Niall Rooney and Steve Richardson. The Irish senior women's selection committee is Deirdre Byrne, Jennifer Dillon and Ken Flynn.

## 2.9 Dates or team tournaments

The dates for team tournaments are as follows:

- 9 to 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – WSF Men's World Team Championships – Hong Kong (final selection after Connacht Senior Open 2024)
- 30<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 – European Team Championship Division 1 & 2, (men's & women's team to be selected after Irish Senior Nationals 2025)

Depending on the dates a major tournament is being held, the selection committee reserves the right to set additional criteria and/or run play off matches to confirm form e.g., following the end of season summer break where no events have been played and there is a need to select and nominate a team before or soon after the season commences.

## 3. Definitions

### 3.1 Player Types

Players must be aged 14 or over on the first day of tournament.

Each player will be categorised by a player type, which will be determined at the start of each season, set as 1st September. The different player types are as follows:

Player Type	Description
Top 60 Professional	A player ranked within the top 60 in the published PSA world rankings on 1 <sup>st</sup> September
Top 150 Professional	A player ranked within the top 150 in the published PSA world rankings on 1 <sup>st</sup> September
Home, UK and European Player,	A player where their primary place of residence is in Ireland, UK or Europe.
Overseas Player	An Overseas Player whose primary place of residence is outside Europe and more than a four-hour flight from Dublin Airport, Ireland.
Student Overseas Player	A full-time student overseas player who is studying outside Europe and more than a four-hour flight from Dublin Airport, Ireland

### 3.2 Players and Mandatory Events

The following events are mandatory to be considered for team selection:

Player Type	Compulsory events
Top 60 Professional	Irish Senior Nationals
Top 150 Professional	Irish Senior Nationals and 1 of the 4 Irish Senior Provincial Opens
Home, UK and European Player,	Irish Senior Nationals and 3 of the 4 Irish Senior Provincial Opens
Overseas Player	Irish Senior Nationals
Student Overseas Player	1 of the following - the Irish Senior Nationals or the 4 Irish Senior Provincial Opens and perform well