



PADDLESURF IRELAND

SELECTION POLICY WORLD WAVESKI SURFING TITLES

HUANCHACO PERU 20TH TO 28TH OF

OCTOBER 2026

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Purpose of this selection policy is to outline the procedures for the selection of the best athletes to represent Ireland at the ***World Waveski Surfing Titles Huanchaco Peru 20th to 28th of October 2026*** for

- Cadet Men (10–16) • Cadet Women (10–16)
- Junior Men (17–20) • Junior Women (17–20)
- Senior Men (21–34) • Senior Women (21–34)
- Master Men (35–49) • Master Women (35–49)
- Grand Master Men (50–59) • Grand Master Women (50–59)
- Legend Men (60–64) • Legend Women (60–64)
- Grand Legend Men (65–69) • Grand Legend Women (65–69)
- Ultra Legends Men (70+) • Ultra Legends Women (70+)

The selection policy is designed to allow athletes to maximise preparations and performances.

This selection policy will outline a robust system that athletes can benchmark their progress on. This 2026 selection policy has been developed by the Canoeing Ireland Performance and Pathways Director (*PPD*) with input from the relevant sub-committee. It has been ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO and the Board of Directors.

2. ATHLETE ELIGIBILITY

2.1 To be eligible to compete for Ireland, athletes must meet and maintain for the duration of the 2026 competition season the following athlete eligibility criteria:

2.2 Eligible athletes must:

- Be a current member of Canoeing Ireland who is eligible to represent Ireland at international events in accordance with WWSA rules and have no outstanding debt to Canoeing Ireland or any of its technical committees.
- Hold an Irish passport or be eligible to hold an Irish passport.
- Not be under a doping violation investigation or serving a suspension/sanction for a doping violation.
- Attend a Canoeing Ireland Anti-Doping education course prior to team selection events.
- Be fit to perform to the best of their ability
- Sign the athlete agreement and any subsequent athlete contract

3. THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS AND PROCESS OUTLINE

- 3.1 The Performance and Pathways Director (PPD) and High Performance Pathway Representative consulting with the relevant sub-committee, is responsible for the development of selection policies.
- 3.2 Where possible, athletes will be consulted, and their input sought on the first and final draft of the selection policy prior to publishing
- 3.3 The CEO and the CI Board will all have oversight of this Selection Policy for 2026. The Board will have ultimate authority in approving all Selection Policies for publication.

4. 2026 SELECTION POLICY TERMS & CONDITIONS

- 4.1 Previous selection policies or criteria can have no bearing on this 2026 selection policy.
- 4.2 No athlete can be considered for selection for any Canoeing Ireland team if they do not meet and maintain the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2 above.
- 4.3 An athlete who for any reason fails to maintain eligibility may be removed from the 2026 team. Eligibility issues will be communicated in the first instance by the PPD. Any athlete who has been removed from the 2026 team will be replaced by the next ranked athlete, if applicable.

- 4.4 Athletes for all major international events must comply with the World Waveski Surfing Association (WWSA)
- 4.5 In Ireland, the affiliated National Governing Body is Canoeing Ireland.
- 4.6 The selection of an athlete for inclusion on the 2026 team shall be confirmed to that athlete in writing by the PPD or the relevant sub-committee within 7 days of the official team being agreed on and all appeals, if any, have concluded.
- 4.7 If an athlete's selection is made subject to that athlete meeting further conditions, such further conditions will be communicated as soon as possible to the athlete.
- 4.8 All entries of Irish Waveski Athletes to events must be made through the Canoeing Ireland office following the selection of athletes pursuant to the 2026 selection policy.
- 4.9 Proposals to amend this 2026 selection policy may be put forward if amendments are necessary and such amendments are determined to be in the best interest of athletes and Canoeing Ireland. Proposals to amend this 2026 policy will be submitted to the PPD. All proposed amendments must be ratified by the Canoeing Ireland CEO in the first instance and approved by the CI Board. All final amendments will be clearly identified and will be binding on all athletes.
- 4.10 Canoeing Ireland reserves the right to deselect or suspend an athlete who is under investigation for disciplinary offences under Canoeing Ireland /ICF rules. Any athlete who is serving an active sanction arising from a disciplinary matter will not be eligible for team membership. This includes doping offences.

5. COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 All official event details, updates, or schedule changes will be published on the Canoeing Ireland website and/ Or official Paddlesurf Ireland social media channels.
- 5.2 Registered athletes (and parents/guardians where relevant) will receive direct notifications via Tournr or equivalent, and through the official Paddlesurf WhatsApp group.
- 5.3 Key dates, deadlines, and policy changes will be clearly announced in advance through these same channels.
- 5.4 Any unforeseen alterations (e.g. surf conditions or weather-related rescheduling) will be communicated promptly and consistently across all platforms.

6. THE SELECTION PROCESS

6.1 Athletes top **2 results** will be considered from the 4 Ranking Competitions in 2026

6.2 The four Ranking Competition 2026 will be held at the following locations

Ranking Competition 1	Copper Coast 28th of February 2026 - Postponed due to very high winds Re-Run Date 9th of May 2026
Ranking Competition 2	Clare Comp 11th of April
Ranking Competition 3	Kerry Comp 23rd of May 2026
Ranking Competition 3	Irish Open 10th of October 2026

6.3 In order to promote the highest level of athletes competing for Team Ireland, a minimum wave score has been put in place

- A surfer must score at least a combined **4 points** in their best **2 competitions**.

Example

Best 2 waves from Ranking Comp 1 – 2.6 points & 1.4 points ,

Best 2 waves from Ranking Comp 2 – 3.6 points & 2.5 points.

- If the team is not filled and an athlete does not meet the minimum score requirements, they can be considered for the team under a development athlete if they meet all other eligibility.

6.4 Ranking competitions are run as Open Waveski Class and Age Categories results will be taken from the open.

Example

- Master Athlete A finished 2nd in the Open and Senior Athlete B finished 1st in the Open
- Master Athlete A in their Age category of Masters are 1st place.
- Senior Athlete B in their Age category of Senior are 1st place.

6.5 After each Ranking Competition Athletes in each category must be awarded points based on their position in the competitions as per PaddleSurf Competition Rules.

Points are calculated according to this formula

A = competitor Rank. B = number of competitors

Points = $(B-A+1) \times (100/B)$

Example 1. 16 Competitors. Competitor Rank = 6 th Points = $(16-6+1) \times (100/16) = 68.75$

Example 2. 8 Competitors Competitor rank = 4 th Points = $(8-4+1) \times (100/8) = 62.5$

6.6 After each Ranking Competition Results will be shared through the official Paddlesurf WhatsApp.

7. REGISTRATION

- 7.1 Online registration for all four ranking competitions will be on the **Tournr website** and will be shared on official Paddlesurf Ireland social media channels and through the official Paddlesurf WhatsApp group.
- 7.2 All Waveski Athletes and parents/guardians where relevant should submit an expression of interest via email to the Paddlesurf Secretary. The closing date for Expression of interest will be **25/05/2026 at 21.00.**
- 7.3 It is the responsibility of the athlete to complete and parents/guardians where relevant their registration before the published closing date. **Late entries will not be accepted under any circumstances.**
- 7.4 Only athletes who register on or before the closing date will be allowed to compete in the ranking competitions.

8. CATEGORIES & SELECTION CRITERIA

8.1 The maximum number of athlete entries in each category is determined by the WWSA

8.2 For 2026, Canoeing Ireland may enter up to 5 athletes per category, subject to confirmation by the WWSA

*** Athletes must also meet the Minimum Points Requirement.**

Cadet Men (10–16)	Cadet Women (10–16)
Junior Men (17–20)	Junior Women (17–20)
Senior Men (21–34)	Senior Women (21–34)
Master Men (35–49)	Master Women (35–49)
Grand Master Men (50–59)	Grand Master Women (50–59)
Legend Men (60–64)	Legend Women (60–64)
Grand Legend Men (65–69)	Grand Legend Women (65–69)
Ultra Legends Men (70+)	Ultra Legends Women (70+)

8.3 Canoeing Ireland may enter up to the full quota allowed by WWSA provided athletes meet the minimum performance standards set out in this Selection Policy. Canoeing Ireland is **not obliged** to fill all available quota places if athletes do not meet the required standards.

9. TIE-BREAK PROCEDURE

9.1 In the event of two or more athletes finishing a **Ranking Competition** with equal wave totals their overall positions in the Competition will be determined using the following criteria. In a situation where competitors 2 wave totals are tied a **count back** is to be used.

9.2 **Count backs** are to go to the highest scoring wave from the best 2 waves and if required, continue to the next highest wave until the tie is broken. In the event that the tie cannot be broken in this manner, the count the best **3 waves**, the best **4 waves** and continue if required until the tie is broken

- 9.3 In the event that a tie can not be broken in this manner the count back goes to the **previous round** and continues back through the rounds until the tie can be broken.
- 9.4 In the event that a tie can not be broken in this manner the count back will go to results of a **third competition from the 2026 season**
- 9.5 At the end of the **4 Ranking Competitions** in the event that Athletes share the same ranking with the same points, the **highest position** with the highest number of competitors should be used to break the tie. **Example** Athlete A highest position is 1st with 20 competitors and Athlete B highest position is 1st with 15 competitors. **Athlete A** is deemed to rank higher.
- 9.6 In the event that the tie can not be broken in this matter results from a **third competition** from the 2026 season should be used.
- 9.7 In the event that the tie can not be broken in this matter results from a **fourth competition** from the 2026 season should be used.
- 9.8 In the event that the tie can not be broken in this matter and it is the difference between a team place and reserve place athletes will be required to compete in a **surf off heat** to determine who receives the team place.

10. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

- 10.1 Discretionary selection may be exercised; however, discretionary selection will only take place after team places have been decided by the selection process, but *before* the selection panel meets to ratify the selection results.
- 10.2 Athletes **must have registered for at least 2 of the ranking competitions** to be considered for discretionary selection
- 10.3 The selection panel may, following the completion of the selection process, consider written submissions from athletes who were unable to complete the selection process because of extenuating circumstances such as illness, injury, etc. Athletes who are unable to compete at the four selection events must inform the Irish Paddlesurf Chairperson and the High Performance Pathway Representative no less than **24 hours** prior to the Ranking Competition event starting. Applications for discretionary selection will not be accepted otherwise.
- 10.4 The selection panel will **only** consider submission for discretionary selection from athletes who have previously competed in competitions at a European or International level in waveski.

10.5 **This provision does not override or exclude 9. but provides discretionary options where team quotas remain unfilled and athlete development is a priority consideration.*

10.6 Contact Details

Michael Black	Performance & Pathway Director (PPD)	michaelblack@canoe.ie
James O'Connor	High Performance Pathway Representative	jamesoconnor@canoe.ie
Megan Gamble	Chairperson of Paddlesurf	paddlesurfchair@canoe.ie
Aisling Griffin	Secretary of Paddlesurf	paddlesurfsecretary@canoe.ie

10.7 If, after the completion of the selection process, the maximum team quota in any category has not been filled, the Selection Panel may also consider athletes who have demonstrated **international competitiveness in the preceding 12 months** (e.g., at European Championships, , or other recognised international competitions). Such athletes may be selected to unfilled places where this is deemed to support their long-term development and the future competitiveness of Paddlesurf Ireland.

11. DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

11.1 On completion of the selection process the following actions will occur:

- The High Performance Pathway Representative will convene the selection panel (SP)
- The final ranking list for the participant athletes will be presented to the SP
- The SP will review the results and select the team (provisional subject to appeals)
- All participants will be informed of the results of the selection meeting.

- Any non-selected athletes are permitted to appeal within the defined process.
- Athletes may appeal a selection decision within 7 days of written notification of selection outcomes. Appeals will be heard under the Canoeing Ireland Athlete Appeals Policy, overseen by an independent Appeals Panel, and the decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding.
- If no appeals are received within the time period allowed the team as selected is confirmed as final.
- The PPD will write to all successful athletes and inform them of their selection (provisional pending the signing of the athlete contract).

12. THE SELECTION PANEL

12.1 The SP will, after reviewing the results of the selection process, ensure that all proposed athletes meet the eligibility criteria prior to official selection confirmation. The SP can only consider an athlete who meets and maintains the athlete eligibility criteria set out in section 2, and therefore shall have the final determination, acting reasonably, as to whether an athlete meets the eligibility criteria.

13. CONSTRUCT OF SELECTION PANEL

13.1 The SP will be convened. The Canoeing Ireland CEO will ratify the selection panel. The SP will consist of the following 3 members:

- High Performance Pathway Representative (Board member)
- The Performance and Pathways Director
- One independent member*
- *Independent members can be from another sub-committee/NGB or a retired canoe sport athlete from any discipline who understands the process of team selection.

13.2 Any member of the SP shall declare any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest and shall refrain from participation in the discussion of and any vote in respect of any selection matter in which they have a material conflict of interest.

13.3 A conflict of interest might occur when, for example:

- A Selection Panel member is a club coach to a particular athlete vying for selection.
- A Selection Panel member is closely aligned to or is a member of a club for which an athlete vying for selection is also a member of.
- A Selection Panel member is a family member or close friend of an athlete vying for selection. Or any circumstance where a Selection Panel member has a personal relationship with an athlete or athletes vying for selection which could influence their decision or stands to gain in any way from the outcome of a selection decision.

14. KEY COMPETITION DATES

World Waveski Surfing Titles will be in Huanchaco, Peru, from 20 – 29 October 2026.

15. SELECTION APPEAL PROCEDURES –

The Canoeing Ireland Athlete Appeals Process can be found on the Canoeing Ireland website link: <https://www.canoe.ie/governance-documents/>

Revision history:

Version	Amended by	Reason	Date of revision

End of Document