



# IRELAND YOUTH TEAM

## SELECTION FRAMEWORK 2024

YOUTH B (U16), YOUTH A (U18), JUNIOR (U20)

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# SELECTION

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## 1 PURPOSE OF THE IRELAND YOUTH TEAM

1. To develop a team of athletes by providing a team culture and environment that all those involved are proud to be a part of.
2. To support and encourage Long Term Athlete Development, supporting and assisting athletes to be the best they can be, achieving great things both on the climbing wall and in their life beyond.
3. To develop athletes with skills to enable them to have a positive impact on society through representing Ireland on the world sporting stage.
4. To assist in athletes' progress and develop their climbing skills, capabilities, and standards. Help athletes determine (and support them towards) their own specific ambitions.
5. To help athletes determine (and support them towards) their own specific ambitions, and to provide opportunities which aid these ambitions, as well as provide opportunities to broaden an athlete's knowledge and skill set.

## 2 PURPOSE OF THE SELECTION FRAMEWORK

This framework outlines the approach that Mountaineering Ireland will undertake when selecting eligible athletes to compete at IFSC Sport Climbing competitions, in the Youth B, Youth A and Junior categories, in the disciplines of Lead and Boulder.

## 3 PURPOSE OF THE SELECTION DOCUMENT

1. To provide information on the selection criteria and to assist athletes, parents, and coaches in understanding the criteria that will be used in the decision-making process.
2. To communicate the criteria by which athletes will be selected to the Ireland Youth Team.
3. To outline the Selection process, and the Appeals process.

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## 4 NATURE OF SELECTION DECISIONS

1. Ireland is at an early stage in its Sport Climbing pathway development. Under present conditions and with the resources available for the Talent Development pathway, Mountaineering Ireland does not consider it possible to select the Ireland Youth Team based purely on hard-edged criteria. Such an approach would not consider factors such as future performance potential; team performance dynamics; the limits on coaching numbers and budgets; or injury or illness which may affect attendance to events.
2. Selection decisions will be based on the factors set out below in this document, taking account of Section 3.1 above.
3. All selection decisions will be made by the Selection Panel outlined in this document.
4. There are a maximum of quota places available per IFSC age category and following IFSC policy (3 per gender in Youth B, Youth A and 2 per gender in Junior), but all of these may not be filled.

## 5 PURPOSE OF THE SELECTION DECISIONS

The objective of each selection decision is to select athletes with the best chance of achieving outstanding performances at IFSC international events in the Youth B, Youth A and Junior categories in line with the strategic objectives for the Mountaineering Ireland Youth Team.

## 6 ELIGIBILITY

1. Athletes holding a current full Irish Passport are eligible for selection in Youth categories B, A and Junior.
2. Athletes must maintain membership of Mountaineering Ireland whilst competing and comply with Mountaineering Ireland procedures and policies.
3. Athletes must be born in the relevant year for their competition category.
4. Athletes must make their desire to compete at IFSC and/or UIAA competitions formally known to Mountaineering Ireland using the 'Request to Compete' form.
5. Athletes must present records of competition results to Mountaineering Ireland using the 'Request to Compete' form.
  - a. Two to four competitive seasons will suffice; these records must include evidence of achievement in Mountaineering Ireland climbing championships in Lead and Bouldering disciplines as well as
  - b. international achievement relative to development stage at open competitions.
6. Athletes must demonstrate that their level of performance would consider them viable competitors at IFSC and or UIAA competitions.
7. Athletes must attend an Anti-Doping workshop.

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## 7 SELECTION PROCESS

1. Selection decisions will be made following the conclusion of the 2023 competition season (December-January), and/or by the voting panel's discretion with 6 month review.
2. The Panel members will be made up of the Head Coach, representatives of Coaches, and by the Development Officer.
3. Athletes will only be selected if the Panel believes they have clear potential and intention to compete at IFSC and/or UIAA competitions.
4. Athletes will be informed of the Selection Panels decisions via email, following the conclusion of the 2023 competitive season.
5. As an Olympic sport, Sport Climbing currently requires high commitment and achievement of athletes in both disciplines, and since Mountaineering Ireland is itself committed to moving towards qualification of Irish athletes for the Olympics, athletes on the Youth Team are expected to compete in both Lead and Boulder.
6. Performances in the youth events listed will be considered as part of Team selection: YCS Grand Final; G- Force; Irish Bouldering Championships; Irish Lead Championships; Junior British Bouldering Championships; Junior British Lead Climbing Championships; Scottish Championships (Lead and Boulder disciplines); Welsh Championships (Lead and Boulder disciplines); English Championships (Lead and Boulder disciplines). Results from other open international competitions (for example, the Youth Color Climbing Festival; CWIF; Plywood Masters, etc.) can also be submitted.
7. All athletes should be aware that achieving selection standards is not a guarantee of selection. If more athletes satisfy all the criteria outlined above than there are places available due to either the IFSC quota or due to available resources, athletes will be selected based on the Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria (which are not listed in priority order):
  - a. 2023 performance record and consistency;
  - b. 2023 European ranking;
  - c. Current form;
  - d. Future individual medal potential at competition events;
  - e. Injury/illness status.
7. Injury/illness status will also be considered as required.

# SELECTION

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## 8 APPEALS

Any appeal against a decision made in relation to selection to the Ireland Youth Team must follow the procedures detailed in this appeals process.

Mountaineering Ireland will nominate an external appeals committee, headed by the Chair of the Mountaineering Ireland Climbing Committee.

An athlete does not have the right to appeal against any judgement or discretion exercised while making a selection decision.

An athlete does not have the right to appeal against the content of the Selection 2024 document.

### AN APPEAL CAN BE MADE IF:

1. Selection and eligibility criteria were not followed; and/or
2. Selectors reached a decision based on an error of fact; and/or
3. The selection panel has shown bias.
4. There has been a failure to apply the selection criteria contained in the Selection Strategy 2024 document.
5. There has been a failure to follow outlined procedures properly.

### HOW TO APPEAL:

This appeals process is commenced when an athlete affected by a selection decision, or the athlete's representative, submits a formal written appeal ("the Notice of Appeal") to the external appeals committee via an email (email address TBC).

The appeal should contain:

6. Details of the decision which the athlete is appealing.
7. Details of the ground(s) upon which the athlete relies.
8. Details of the manner in which the athlete alleges that the selection criteria have not been applied.
9. Explanation of the ways in which the procedure set out in the selection policy has not been followed.
10. Any documents of evidence, specifically relevant to the grounds of appeal, upon which the athlete relies for support of their appeal.

The Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 72 hours of the selection decision being announced or communicated to the athlete (whichever is later).

If the athlete fails to submit the notice of appeal within the time limit set out in this appeals process, they will have lost their right of appeal, save in wholly exceptional circumstances. This will be agreed by the Appeals Panel in their discretion.



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## 9 APPEALS PROCEDURE

### APPEALS PROCEDURE:

1. Upon receipt of the Notice of Appeal, the Committee Chair will circulate it to all members of the Appeals Panel as soon as reasonably practicable.
2. The Chair of the Appeals Panel will convene a meeting to take place as soon as practical, aiming for within five working days of receipt of the Notice of Appeal.
3. The Appeals Panel will investigate the grounds set out in the Notice of Appeal and establish to their reasonable satisfaction whether there has been a failure in the process.

### APPEAL DECISIONS:

4. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be reached by a majority vote, and all members shall have one vote each.
5. The Mountaineering Ireland Development Officer will, in writing, inform all parties about the Appeal Panel's decision to either uphold or reject the appeal.
6. The Appeal Panel's decision shall be final and binding on all parties.
7. The Appeal Panel shall be entitled to:
  - a: Reject the appeal and confirm the original decision of the Selection Committee.
  - b: Allow the appeal under consideration, and either:
    - i. Substitute an alternative decision OR
    - ii. Refer the decision to the Selection Committee for reconsideration of the selection decision. Where a decision is referred to the Selection Committee, the Appeal Panel can give such directions as it believes are necessary to the Selection Committee as regards the selection decision.

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## 10 DESELECTION - SUBSTITUTIONS AND INJURY

Any athlete being considered for de-selection shall be notified by a member of the Selection Panel. Such notification must be in writing and must set out brief details of the reason(s) why the athlete is being de-selected ('De-selection Notice').

The replacement of athletes de-selected from the Youth Team will be considered at the discretion of the Selection Panel in accordance with eligibility and selection requirements in Sections 5 and 6.

1. An athlete may be de-selected from the Ireland Youth Team on the following grounds:
  - a. Ceasing to comply with the eligibility and selection criteria set out in this Selection Policy.
  - b. Failure to engage with Mountaineering Ireland's Climbing program and processes.
  - c. Failing to demonstrate the level of fitness and commitment expected.
2. Injuries, illness and changes in health status will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. Athletes will cease to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection policy if any of the following occur:
  - a. An anti-doping rule violation or receiving a provisional suspension due to anti-doping infringement; and/or
  - b. Serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct.

## 11 ACCOUNTABILITY AND ATHLETE COMMITMENT

1. Existing athletes must meet demonstrate and have clear evidence of:
  - a. working towards and/or achieving any set targets AND
  - b. engaging with their training programme (e.g., regular communication with Head Coach) AND
  - c. full training/ training camp attendance.
2. Athletes must attend an Anti-Doping workshop
3. Athletes must comply with Sport Ireland Anti-Doping rules and anti-doping blood/urine testing policies. Notified athletes in the National and/or International Registered Testing Pools, or in Ireland's Anti-Doping Domestic Testing Pool, will comply with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code and International Standard for Testing and Investigation with regards to ADAMS and their Whereabouts Information.
4. Athletes must read and sign the Athlete Agreement ("AA") and abide by its terms and conditions. An athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of Team training will have their selection withdrawn.
5. Selection to the Youth Team does not guarantee for IFSC Youth or Senior events. These selections will be made by the Head Coach prior to each competition.
6. Athletes must commit to competing in IFSC international events for which they are selected by the Head Coach. Costs of attendance are currently the responsibility of the athletes.

# ADDENDUM

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## 12 COACHES

Coaches will provide support and opportunities to athletes who have shown themselves to have climbing potential and ambition.

1. Approximately 8-10 sessions year-round, meeting for 5 hours each time, at climbing walls around Ireland.
2. Coach/ athlete ratio: approx. 1:8.
3. Coaches will provide support in aspects of tactical, technical, physical and psychological preparation for competitions.
4. Coaches will provide feedback within each session, providing athletes with elements to work on.
5. Coaches will engage with parents regarding feedback as required.

## 13 DISCLAIMER

This policy is subject to periodic review to ensure that the selection policy remains fair and efficient; considers any external rule or policy amendments; and includes any relevant feedback from selectors, athletes, coaches and parents as stakeholders.

The aim is to develop and increase the category capacity in the Ireland Youth Team in the coming years and to fill the allowable IFSC quotas, subject to resources and availability of coaching.