



Selection Policy for 2026 Commonwealth Games Team Northern Ireland

Introduction

This selection policy articulates the process by which athletes are selected to represent Team NI at the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. This policy is in place to support the objectives of Commonwealth Games Northern Ireland's (CGNI) strategic plan which aims to deliver athletes to the Commonwealth Games who are capable of top 8 finishes at either Glasgow 2026 or future Games. The CGNI strategic plan is available at www.teamni.org

Athlete Places

The number of athlete places allocated to Team NI is limited, and are awarded at the discretion of Commonwealth Sport, and the Glasgow 2026 Organising Committee. Track Cycling is one of seven sports that will jointly fulfil a maximum of 45 open allocation places.

Separately Para Cycling athlete places will be awarded to National Federations via the qualification pathway published here

[Para_Cycling_Track_G2026_CWG_Qualification_System_FINAL.pdf](#)

CGNI will receive an invitation from the CGF for named para cycling athletes to participate. This quota is separate from the open allocation places.

Nomination and Selection Process

As the National Governing Body (NGB), Cycling Ireland (CI) is required to implement a robust process to identify those who will be nominated to CGNI. Final selection to Team NI will be made by CGNI based upon the nominations received from CI.

As such there are two streams to the below timelines, 1) CI's obligations as nominating body to CGNI in accordance with requirements laid out for CGNI to perform their selections and meet sport entry deadlines etc, and 2) timelines pertaining to CI's own nomination process.

Due to the nature of the timeline associated with CGNI appraising sports' potential to fulfil it's strategic objectives at Commonwealth Games 2026 potential, athlete candidates are advised to log eligible performances as early in this process as possible. Once the final quota allocation is awarded to cycling we will have only those places to nominate for. For example, an influx of competitive performances in April 2026, against few in 2025 will likely leave many athletes for only a few places.

Timeline

January 1st 2025 – performances meeting criteria will be eligible for consideration in the nomination process from this point forwards and until May 2026, exact date to be confirmed in conjunction with official publication of the UCI track racing calendar 2026. This policy will be updated accordingly.

July-Aug 2025 – CI will begin to compile the athlete ‘long list’ comprised of athletes it believes have already met, or have the capability to meet the selection criteria. Any candidate athletes are welcome to express their interest in being added to the longlist by contacting selection@cyclingireland.ie in the first instance before October 2025. NI athletes that have represented Ireland during 2025 at a senior international track event will be added automatically. If in doubt please contact as the above e-mail address to confirm.

October 2025 - Selection meeting round 1. CI meets with CGNI with projections of potential athlete and team profiles. This is not a final long list, as performances can still be logged, and athletes can be added to the long list. The purpose here is to enable CGNI to begin to assimilate potential demand for open quota places.

January – March 2026 - Selection meeting round 2. CI is provided with an indicative number of athlete places based on the number of athletes who have evidenced top 8 potential. (Specific deadline tbc when UCI confirm World Cup track calendar for 2026)

20th March 2026 – Athlete long list closes. Only athletes included in the long list at this time will be eligible for selection.

1st May 2026 – Round 3. CI is provided with a final number of athlete places based upon an agreed cohort of athletes that have evidenced top 8 Games potential, (or developmental if capacity exists).

Date in May/June 2026 TBC – CI conducts final athlete nomination panel meeting. All athletes on the long list wishing to be considered for Team NI nomination will be invited to complete an expressions of interest document in advance of final nomination panel meeting.

12pm 23rd June 2026 – Athlete nominations close. (This is the latest date that CGNI will accept nominations from sports.)

These timings are subject to amendment should any changes arise from the Glasgow 2026 Organising Company and as the UCI track calendar for 2026 is finalised.

With the agreement of both parties, CI and CGNI may agree on a final number of athlete places earlier than round 3 stated above.

The expression of interest document will be published on the Cycling Ireland website in advance of the final nomination panel meeting and be live for two weeks. The purpose of this document is to enable all eligible athletes on the long list bidding for nomination to be afforded an equal opportunity to present all relevant data for the panel to consider.

By submitting the expression of interest form the athlete is declaring they fulfil all relevant eligibility criteria at the time it is submitted and agree to be bound by the terms of this policy and the related appeals policy.

Accordingly, after the closing date for expressions of interest, the High Performance Director (HPD) will convene a preliminary meeting to appraise the panel of all the information contained

within the expressions of interest. This is the 'information gathering meeting'. This will precede the nomination panel meeting. The purpose of this is two-fold:

- 4.2.1 To ensure that when the nomination panel meeting takes place all information is accurate and complete on the part of each athlete wishing to be considered. The timing of this allows the HP Admin Manager to liaise with any athletes, or make checks after the closing date, so that when the Panel convenes all information is present and correct, and only eligible athletes will be considered. Ineligible athletes will have no recourse to the appeal process.
- 4.2.2 To enable the Coach/Lead of each discipline to distribute their recommendations for nomination to the Panel ahead of the nomination panel meeting.

These are then considered by the nomination panel as set out below and discussed at the nomination panel meeting.

The Chair will ask the panel at the outset to declare if any conflicts of interest exist, e.g. a panel member coaching a rider being considered for nomination. It will be at the chair's discretion to determine if a conflict exists. In the event of a conflict arising the panel member will not have a vote towards nomination in that category/discipline, and additional panel member(s) will be invited to reach the quorum.

A quorum is three voting members from the below composition free of any conflicts:

- Chairperson (Usually the HPD, but the HPD may nominate a replacement if unavailable. Non-voting)
- HP Admin Manager (Notetaking, non-voting)
- Head Coach or similar senior Lead (voting member if no conflicts of interest)
- Coach/Lead of the related discipline(s) being selected (voting member if no conflicts of interest)
- A minimum of one further Cycling Ireland coach and/or Cycling Ulster representative with no conflicts of interest.

We may additionally invite:

- Other High Performance coaches from relevant disciplines within Cycling Ireland's contractors or Cycling Ulster volunteers. (Voting member if no conflicts of interest)
- One or more High Performance Management Group representatives (non-voting)
- Independent witnesses (non-voting)

Eligibility Criteria

Nominated athletes must be

- eligible to represent Northern Ireland (appendix 1, CGF bylaw 16),
- be in good standing with CI, UCI, WADA and Commonwealth Sport.
- have no outstanding disciplinary issues or suspended by CI or UCI.
- UCI licence holder
- Completed or willing to complete requisite anti-doping education, CGNI team member agreement etc.
- In the case of candidate para athletes; have a formal international classification also.

Performance Criteria

CGNI will only select athletes based on nominations made by CI. Only athletes nominated by CI will be considered.

CGNI will award athlete places to all NGB's based upon the following criteria, ranked in priority order:

1. Potential Glasgow 2026 medallist
2. Potential top 8 position in Glasgow 2026, or top 5 in events with historically low participation numbers or poor performance standards compared to global norms.
3. Developmental: for those athletes on an upward trajectory within CI's high performance programme, with the potential to achieve a top 8 position at the 2030 Commonwealth Games, or top 5 as per 2) above.

The following performance standards will apply in our consideration of applying the CGNI criteria listed above;

Event	Medal		Top 8, or Top 5 in small field sizes		Developmental	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Team Pursuit	3:49.0	4:17.10	3.56.5	4.24.70	3:59.00	4:27.00
Team Sprint	43.86	47.77	44.496	48.358	45.25	48.95
Kilometre TT	1:00.10	1:07.30	1:01.42	1:09.80	1:02.5	1:11.5
Individual Pursuit	4:09.30	4:32.59	4:14.0	4:43.99	4:16.8	4:46.00
Sprint	9.60 F200m time	10.67 F200m time	9.86 F200m time	10.89 F200m time	9.98 F200m time	11.25 F200m time
Keirin	Finalist at UCI track World Championships, UEC European Championships. Top 3 at UCI Nations Cup/World Cup.		Top 8 Class 1 UCI Track GP. Finalist UEC U23 European Track Champs. Top 3 class 2 GP. Semi-finalist at UCI World and/or UEC elite European Track Champs.		Top 12 UCI Class 1 Track GP, top 6 UCI Class 2 Track GP. Selected for National Team World or elite European Champs. Finalist U23 European Track Champs.	
Scratch, points and elimination race	Top 5 at UCI track World Championships, UEC elite European Championships. Top 3 at UCI Track Nations Cup/World Cup.		Places 6-12 th UCI Track World Championships, and UEC Elite European Championships. 4-10 th UCI Nations Cup. Top 8 Class 1 UCI Track GP and UEC U23 European Track		Present on a CI Senior High Performance Programme and attending HPU led activity. Raced a minimum of two	

		Championships. Top 3 class 2 GP.	UCI/UEC events during the stated period.
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*UCI Track Nations Cups will become known as ‘World Cups’ in 2026. Regard them as the same event.

The period by which an athlete/team performance will be considered is from 1st January 2025 to May 2026 (exact date TBC in accordance with 2026 UCI calendar still be published).

Timed performances must be recorded in official UCI competition on a 200 or 250m velodrome, with electronic timing. Evidence of times/results sheets may be required where necessary. For result based outcomes listed above, minimum field size must be 16 riders for a 250m track (or greater) and 14 for a 200m track.

The CI nomination panel will consider results obtained under conditions outside these parameters in exceptional circumstances.

An example of this would be a timed team event whereby an exclusively NI cohort may not comprise the entire representative team in a UCI sanctioned event. To combat this, it will additionally be permissible to record a NI Team performance in a training setting if the following conditions are met:

- Race conditions – clear track, start gate.
- Electronic timing, or high quality video analysis capable of recording accurate timings. Must be filmed either way for verification.
- All equipment, and race specific regulations adhered to.
- CG Team Lead, CI Coach or HPU staff member, or approved contractor present.

CGNI shall be informed in advance of this setting and may send personnel in an observation role.

In terms of ranking performances, race results will take priority above race simulations where they exist in the same event.

CI will submit it’s nominations to CGNI based upon the athletes/teams evidence to support the potential of achieving CGNI’s stated priority objectives, in that order. As such athletes or teams will be ranked in order of their competitiveness and ability to meet the prioritised objectives in the opinion of the nomination panel.

If an athlete has through only injury or illness not been able to compete during the qualifying period, or part thereof, they are able to submit evidence that they have returned to the same level of performance that achieved a qualifying result at an earlier time. (Not engaging in track racing and missing opportunities to log results whilst racing in other disciplines will not suffice.)

The maximum number of athletes selected by any country for each able body event will be three except Team Pursuit which will be four. The maximum number of athletes/tandems selected for each Para event will be two. When more than the maximum allowable athletes attain the relevant selection standard in an event, then nomination will be made by the CI nomination panel after consideration of the agreed event specific criteria.

Once a nominated athlete has been selected by CGNI, at the time of official sport entry, the Team Manager in consultation with the Lead Coach may at their discretion opt to enter an selected athlete in additional events if they are a) in agreement, and b) adjudged to be able to benefit from participating in additional event(s) in terms of being competitive and increasing their experience (ahead of 2030 Commonwealth Games) and gaining further UCI ranking points. An example of this would be a rider that has been selected for one event, eg Team Pursuit, subsequently being entered for a bunch racing event.

Para Cycling Athlete Nomination

A separate Para Cycling Track qualification system with athlete specific quota allocations, found here below:

[Para_Cycling_Track_G2026_CWG_Qualification_System_FINAL.pdf](#)

If CGNI receives a direct quota allocation or bipartite allocation for any athlete, CI will deem that they have met the nomination criteria of top 6 or better and will be automatically nominated to CGNI.

Nominations

All individual nomination outcomes will be communicated to candidate athletes within 24hrs of the nomination panel meeting. Communication will be via the candidate athlete's preferred e-mail address provided to us during the long list period. It will be the candidate athlete's responsibility to update CI with any changes to their preferred e-mail address, and their responsibility to check correspondence.

If a candidate athlete does not receive any formal communication from CI within the published time frame, then it is their responsibility to contact selection@cyclingireland.ie in the first instance.

All nominations will be strictly provisional and confidential until any appeals process has been concluded. In the event of an appeal being upheld by a CI Appeals Panel, CI will write to inform all affected parties and reconvene nomination at the earliest opportunity thereafter.

De-selection

An athlete that after nomination or selection contravenes eligibility conditions or is found in breach of the team agreement may be de-selected.

An athlete that is suspended by CI for whatever reason for an ongoing or concluded matter will be de-selected post nomination or selection.

If an athlete incurs an injury or is subject to some other circumstance that is deemed to have the potential to impact their ability to meet selection criteria and their potential performance level, CI or CGNI consulting with CI reserve the right to request information or performance test results or medical opinion to confirm the athlete's position and ability to perform. The outcome may result in de-selection.

Appeals

In addition to the appeals process relevant to NGB's appealing decisions made by CGNI as per CGNI Selection Policy for Glasgow 2026 published 24th March 2025 and subsequent editions thereof, athlete appeals can only be made against nomination outcomes made by CI.

Once the provisional nominations have been communicated to the candidate athletes the appeals window commences. The Appeals policy may be found here: [CWGNominationAppealsPolicywithForm2025.pdf](#) Or alternatively via the 'High Performance' link from the main Cycling Ireland website homepage. Once any appeals process has been concluded, CGNI are notified of our nominations and associated selection matters are transferred to them. All athletes that do not get nominated are offered the opportunity to discuss their non-nomination with the Coach/discipline lead with the intention of offering constructive feedback.

Please note, that meeting eligibility and performance criteria is in itself no guarantee of nomination, and neither is being present on the long list. Where we have more candidate athletes than places available it shall be at the judgement of the nomination panel to determine nomination from this cohort based on a priority ranked order on their ability to meet performance criteria. Non-nomination is not a judgement of non-compliance of eligibility or lack of performance criteria, it may be that the panel determine another athlete or number of athletes to present more strongly for the available places. On this basis of judgement and the panel having appraised itself of all the candidate athlete information and reasonably discussed their expression of interest, non-nomination under these conditions is not grounds for appeal in line with CI Appeals Policy.

Additionally, a successful appeal does not result in the appellant being nominated. It simply triggers the nomination panel re-sitting to re-consider the entire candidate athlete cohort within the restraint of available quota allocation for track cycling. Having had an appeal upheld, the appellant thereafter foregoes the right to re-appeal further outcomes in the event of the nomination panel reconvening. Full details are in the separate Commonwealth Games specific Appeals Policy.

Appendix 1. CGF Byelaw 16.

The below byelaw forms part of the CGF Constitution which may be downloaded in full here: [Constitution-2025.pdf](#) We would like to draw your attention to a Dec '24 edit which has placed the previous byelaw 17, now as byelaw 16.

Byelaw 16 Eligibility

- 1 It is the responsibility of all Affiliated CGAs to ensure that their competitors are fully aware of and comply with Byelaw 16.

2 Primacy

- 2.1 Subject to Byelaw 16(4) 16(5) 16(6) and (16)(7), a competitor shall be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them where they satisfy at least one of the following requirements:
- A. Are in possession of a current valid passport of the Commonwealth Country which enters them; or
 - B. Are a subject who can demonstrate 'Belonger Status' in Great Britain or relevant British Overseas Territory of the Commonwealth Country which enters them.
- 2.2 In respect of the following Affiliated CGAs: -
- I. Guernsey, Jersey, and Isle of Man. The governments of these three Crown Dependencies do not define citizenship. For these Affiliated CGAs, citizenship shall be defined as three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"* date of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee ("Continuous Residency") and the competitor must be in possession of a current valid UK passport.
 - II. Northern Ireland. Byelaw 16 will defer to the Belfast Agreement (1998). Northern Ireland athletes who meet birth right criteria are to be treated equally regardless of their possession of either a current valid UK or Irish passport (but must hold one of these). This right is enshrined within the Constitution Issues (iv) of the 1998 Belfast Agreement.
 - III. Norfolk Island. Any individual who was in possession of a current valid New Zealand passport and was also deemed eligible to compete at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games for Norfolk Islands may continue to compete for Norfolk Islands at future iterations of the Games.

3. Secondary

- 3.1 Subject to Byelaw 16(4) 16(5) 16(6) and 16(7), where a competitor was born in a Commonwealth Country which has common citizenship/passport with other Commonwealth Countries, the competitor may represent either:
- a. the Commonwealth Country of their birth; or
 - b. the Commonwealth Country of birth of their parent; or
 - c. where the relevant IF recognises grandparents as part of its eligibility criteria, the competitor may represent the Commonwealth Country of birth of their grandparent; or
 - d. the Commonwealth Country where they have completed a minimum period of three (3) years continuous residency immediately prior to the Commonwealth Games. For the avoidance of doubt, the immediately prior three-year period shall mean the three-year period that immediately precedes the "final entries deadline"* of the relevant Games as determined by the respective Organising Committee.
- 3.2 Subject to the other provisions of this Byelaw 16, where a competitor is eligible to represent more than one Affiliated CGA due to common passport privileges they may choose which Affiliated CGA to represent. For the avoidance of doubt, if an individual has competed at a Commonwealth Youth Games this will not be deemed to be a choice

of country, and the competitor may choose to represent a different Affiliated CGA at a Commonwealth Games.

3.3 For the avoidance of doubt subject to Byelaw 16(4) and 16(5) any competitor of a common passport area who competes for their common passport country (i.e. Great Britain, New Zealand and Australia) at either the Olympic Games, Youth Olympic Games and/or any World Championships or any other major sporting event shall be entitled to choose to represent their home Affiliated CGA (e.g. Turks and Caicos) at the Commonwealth Games.

4. Disqualifications and Suspensions

4.1 A competitor shall not be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:

- a. are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by the Federation; and/or
- b. are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective Affiliated CGA; and/or
- c. are currently under disqualification, expulsion or suspension by their respective IF, National Federation and/or are currently under disqualification or suspension under the World Anti-Doping Code.

5. Compliance with applicable rules and regulations

5.1 A competitor shall only be eligible to represent the Commonwealth Country which enters them if they:

- a. Satisfy and comply with all applicable rules and regulations of the Federation; and
- b. Satisfy and comply their respective IF rules and regulations (including but not limited to, complying with respective IF eligibility rules as applied within each respective edition of the Commonwealth Games Athlete Allocation Systems); and
- c. Satisfy and comply with the World Anti-Doping Code as applied within the Federation Anti-Doping Standard to ensure that the overriding principles of the Commonwealth Games are observed.

5.2 For the avoidance of doubt, where there is an inconsistency between respective IF Nationality rules and regulations and those of the Commonwealth Games Federation, the Commonwealth Games Federation Bye Law 16 shall prevail.

6. Transfer of Allegiance

6.1 After having established eligibility status under this Byelaw 16 a competitor who has previously represented one Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Games may not represent another Commonwealth Country unless they also receive the prior approval of the Federation, the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA. For the avoidance of doubt, this Byelaw shall not apply if an individual has represented a Commonwealth Country at a Commonwealth Youth Games. Applications under this Byelaw 16(6) must be submitted to the Executive Board two calendar months before the “final entries deadline”* for the respective Commonwealth Games. Applications must include formal confirmation of the prior approval of the relevant IF and the relevant previously represented Affiliated CGA.

6.2 All applications for transfer of allegiance under Byelaw 16(6) and/or discretionary eligibility dispensation under Byelaw 16(7) including all relevant paperwork and documentation must be submitted no later than two calendar months prior to the published “final entries deadline”*, as outlined by the respective Organising Committee.

7. Dispensations

7.1 The Executive Board shall delegate authority to the Governance and Integrity Committee (GIC) who have the power to grant dispensations to Byelaw 16 in exceptional circumstances and to consider any matters relating generally to Byelaw 16. Each application for dispensation under Byelaw 17 shall be considered on its own merits and will not create a precedent for any future applications. Decisions made by GIC are subject to the right of appeal directly to the Executive Board, whose decision shall be final and binding.

*“final entries deadline” means the final date that an individual athlete may be entered in a particular event(s) for the relevant Commonwealth Games, usually completed via an online entry system. Such date to be communicated for each relevant Commonwealth Games in the Sport Handbook.

Ends

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