



Cycling Ireland Olympic and Paralympic Games Nomination Appeals Policy

Cycling Ireland is responsible for nominating athletes to represent Ireland at Olympic and Paralympic Games to the Olympic Federation of Ireland and Paralympics Ireland respectively.

The purpose of the nomination appeals procedure is to enable dispute resolution regarding nomination decisions to be dealt with fairly, expeditiously, and affordably in the first instance within Cycling Ireland, without recourse to external legal procedures.

1. Nomination Appeals Policy Procedure.

1.1 This document sets out Cycling Ireland's nomination appeals procedure ('the procedure') applying to Olympic and Paralympic athlete nominations for the Team Ireland at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. This procedure will remain in place until replaced or amended by Cycling Ireland.

1.2 Nominations will take place in accordance with the nomination policies published on the Cycling Ireland website and OFI and PI websites. Any athlete wishing to lodge an appeal under this procedure must be fully familiar with the detailed provisions of the nomination policy for the relevant competition, as well as IOC/IPC qualification and eligibility documents.

1.3 This procedure is intended to be accelerated to enable any challenges to be resolved as quickly and as reasonably as possible. Due to the nature of nominating teams and individuals for major events, decisions often need to be taken close to the time of the event to which it relates. Accordingly, the aim of this procedure is to return an appeals decision as urgently as possible after an appeal has been submitted.

1.4 This procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each athlete and Cycling Ireland as to how nomination decisions may be challenged. The parties agree to submit any dispute concerning any matter connected with, or arising out of nomination issues, to binding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this procedure.

2. Appeals Panel.

2.1 The Appeals Panel of Cycling Ireland will comprise three (3) members.

2.2 The appeals panel shall be comprised one (1) Chair of the appeals panel and two (2) members each approved by the CEO of Cycling Ireland.

3. Conflict of Interest.

All members of the appeals panel must declare that they have no conflict of interest in a particular appeal for the appeal to be heard. In exceptional circumstances if there are less than three (3) members available for any one appeal, the Board of Cycling Ireland will appoint an additional member(s) to the appeals panel.

4. Grounds for Appeal.

4.1 The grounds upon which a nomination decision may be appealed are limited to the following;

* There has been an alleged failure of the nomination committee to follow or apply the relevant nomination procedure and/or criteria set out in the applicable nomination policy (e.g. there has been a procedural defect), and/or –

* The nomination committee and the decision for nomination for the event has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

4.2 The Appeal Procedure shall only apply to the nomination decisions and not to any grievances or grounds in relation to Cycling Ireland in general, or an appeal against the published content of the event nomination policy.

4.3 The grounds for appeal are limited and are not an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the nomination committee where they have followed the proper procedure. It is not the role of the appeals panel to review the merits of the nomination committee decision.

5. How to Appeal.

5.1 The Appeal Procedure is commenced when an athlete affected by a nomination decision makes a formal written appeal by email (the `notice of appeal`) to the CEO. This must be done within twenty-four (24) hours of the nominations being announced or communicated (sent by email) to an athlete, whichever is first. If an athlete fails to submit the notice of appeal within the time limit set out in this appeals procedure he/she will automatically lose their right of appeal under this procedure, unless in the opinion of the Chair (acting reasonably) that there was an exceptional circumstance or other good reason for the submission to be made outside the time limit.

5.1.1 The Notice of Appeal will be submitted to the CEO of Cycling Ireland:
james.quilligan@cyclingireland.ie

5.2 The Notice of Appeal Form will set out the grounds for appeal which will include the full details of the basis for appeal including the precise manner in which the athlete alleges that the nomination decisions have not been applied or followed (as per section 4 – Grounds for Appeal). The Notice of Appeal should be as full as possible (including any supporting documentation) as it will form the basis for the remainder of this procedure.

6. Screening of an Appeal.

6.1 On receiving the Notice and grounds of an appeal, the CEO will appoint a Chair of the Appeals Panel and the Chair will determine whether there are appropriate grounds for the appeal to proceed, as set out in section 4.

6.2 The Chair of the appeals panel will determine in the first instance, if the appeal is denied on the basis of insufficient grounds, and the athlete will be notified of this decision by email, giving reasons. In the second instance, if the Chair decides there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, an Appeal meeting will be called.

7. Appeal Meeting Procedure.

If there are sufficient grounds for an appeal, the appeals panel will proceed by way of a review of the documents, including the written Notice of Appeal submission of the Appellant.

7.1 If an Appeals Meeting is called, the Chair of the appeals panel will contact the Nomination Committee Chairperson to inform them of the appeal; provide them with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Nomination Committee provides any response which they wish to make.

7.2 Appeal Meeting. The manner in which the appeal panel will meet is the decision of the Chair of the appeals panel.

7.3 The appeals panel meeting will comprise three (3) individuals (one being the Chair of the appeals panel) who will have no significant relationship with the affected parties, and will have had no involvement with the decision being appealed, and will be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.

7.4 If the Chair of the appeals panel is unable to attend a meeting, or declares a conflict of interest with a particular appeal, the Chair of the appeals panel will designate a member of the appeals panel to chair the meeting or portion thereof.

8. Appeals Decision.

8.1 The appeals panel will seek to reach its conclusion as urgently as possible after the receipt of the Notice of Appeal, and will inform the appellant by email (or such method of communication as the appeal panel shall decide). The appeals panel will give reasons for its decision.

8.2 The appeals panel may decide as follows:

* That the nomination committee's decision for nomination be set aside as the committee failed to follow or apply the relevant Nomination Procedure and/or criteria set out in the applicable nomination policy, or was based on an error of fact. **In this event the nomination committee will be required to reconvene and conduct a fresh nomination committee meeting for that event, discipline, or gender as appropriate to the quota allocations.**

* That the nomination committee's nomination decision be upheld, and the athlete's appeal be rejected.

8.3 The appeals panel may also make recommendations for the future revision and/or smoother execution of the nomination and appeals process, which should be considered by Cycling Ireland and the Nomination Committee.

8.4 If the appellant is not satisfied with the outcome of their internal appeal, they may take their appeal to the Sports Disputes Solutions Ireland (SDSI) Olympic/Paralympic tribunal. **Their decision is final and binding.**

*The appellant must inform Chair of the nomination appeals panel of their intention to take their appeal to the SDSI within 24hrs of the appeal outcome being communicated. At this stage the SDSI specific documentation (Notice and Statement of Appeal form) will be shared with the appellant.

*The appellant must then complete and submit their appeal documentation in full to the SDSI within a further 24hrs, marking a 48hr duration since being informed of the internal appeal outcome.

8.5 If an athlete fails to submit the notice of appeal to the SDSI within the time limit set out in 8.4 above, he/she will automatically lose their right of appeal under this procedure, and both Cycling Ireland and the SDSI will be under no obligation to proceed with the appeal, and the matter will be considered closed.



9. Confidentiality of Proceedings and Communications of the Decision.

9.1 Cycling Ireland and the Appellant are under an obligation of confidentiality in respect of any appeal under this procedure. Save as permitted under this nomination appeals procedure, none of the parties will make any public statement or disclosure of the contents of the notice of appeal or any matter referred to by any of the parties during the course of these proceedings.

9.2 Cycling Ireland will be entitled to publish the decision of the appeal panel where it upholds the appeal (or any element of it) in such manner and to such extent as is necessary to inform all properly interested and affected parties of the status of the nomination decision previously published and the resulting position as to nomination.

Cycling Ireland Nomination Appeal Form

Name:	
Cycling Ireland License Number:	
Contact Details:	
Discipline that appeals concerns: (EG: MTB XCO, Track, etc.)	

Cycling Ireland Grounds for appeal:

The grounds upon which a nomination decision may be appealed are limited to the following;

* There has been an alleged failure of the nomination panel to follow or apply the relevant nomination procedure and/or criteria set out in the applicable nomination policy.

* The nomination panel and the decision for nomination for the event has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

Full details of athlete's Grounds for Appeal

Supporting documentation attached. Y/N

Signed

Date