



IRELAND YOUTH SQUAD

SELECTION FRAMEWORK 2024

YOUTH D (U12), YOUTH C (U14), YOUTH B (U16)



SELECTION

1 PURPOSE OF THE IRELAND YOUTH SQUAD

1. To provide targeted learning and development opportunities to support young climbers.
2. To create a team of athletes by providing a team culture and environment that all those involved are proud to be a part of.
3. To support and assist athletes to be the best they can be, achieving great things both on the climbing wall and in their life beyond.
4. To develop athletes with skills to enable them to have a positive impact on society through representing Ireland on the world sporting stage.
5. To assist in athletes' progress and develop their climbing skills, capabilities, and standards.
6. Help athletes determine (and support them towards) their own specific ambitions.
7. 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 participate in the development pathway and compete in the disciplines of Lead and Boulder both nationally and internationally .

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 Squad.
3. To outline the Appeals process.

SELECTION

4 PURPOSE OF THE SELECTION DECISIONS

The objective of each selection decision is to:

1. Select athletes with the best chance of achieving outstanding performances at national and international events in the Youth D, Youth C and B categories in line with the strategic objectives for the Mountaineering Ireland Youth Squad.

5 ELIGIBILITY

1. Athletes resident in Ireland and competing in Youth categories D, C and B are eligible for selection.
2. Athletes must be members of Mountaineering Ireland and maintain their membership whilst competing.
3. Athletes must be born in the relevant year for their competition category.
4. Athletes must read and sign the Athlete Agreement (“AA”) and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of Squad training will have their selection withdrawn.
5. Athletes must compete at Mountaineering Ireland climbing championships in their discipline.
6. Athletes must attend and participate in scheduled Mountaineering Ireland Youth Squad training days for their discipline.
7. Athletes must attend an Anti-Doping workshop.
8. Athletes must comply with Sport Ireland Anti-Doping rules and comply with the requirements of the World Anti-Doping Code.
9. Athletes must comply with Mountaineering Ireland procedures and policies.

SELECTION

6 SELECTION PROCESS

1. Selection decisions will be made following the conclusion of the 2023 competition season (December-January). Athlete positions are offered for a 12 month period.
2. Selection decisions will be based on the overall Irish 2023 YCS competition ranking. Athletes finishing in the top three places of Female and Male Youth categories D, C, and B are eligible for selection.
3. The Panel members will be made up of the Mountaineering Ireland coaching team and by the Development Officer.
4. Athletes will only be selected if they meet the Eligibility Criteria (Section 5) and the Panel believes they have clear potential and intention to participate at squad sessions and compete at competitions.
5. Injury/illness status will also be considered as required.
6. Number of spaces available: 18
7. All athletes should be aware that achieving selection standards is not a guarantee of selection.
8. To be selected, athletes will need to meet both the eligibility and selection process standards before being considered.

SELECTION

7 APPEALS

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

Mountaineering Ireland's independent appeals committee will be headed by the Chair of the Mountaineering Ireland Climbing Committee and comprised of two additional members nominated by the CEO or Board of Directors.

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.
11. The Notice of Appeal must be submitted within 72 hours of the selection decision being communicated to the athlete.
12. 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 committee in their discretion.

SELECTION

8 APPEALS PROCEDURE

APPEALS PROCEDURE:

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

SELECTION

9 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 squad 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 Squad 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.

ADDENDUM

10 ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMITMENT

Full commitment and payment per term is required by athletes.

1. Selected athletes must meet, demonstrate and have clear evidence of working towards and/or achieving any set targets, engaging with the programme e.g; regular communication with Youth Squad coaches and Squad session's attendance.
2. Athletes must commit to competing in the YCS, Irish national competitions and, in upper age categories, a minimum of one of the other Four Nations competitions.
3. Athletes' spaces are guaranteed only for the year, with the squad up for reselection on an annual basis and continuing to be dependent upon results in the named competitions above.

11 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. 1:6
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.

12 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 IYS in the coming years and to have an established pathway into Youth and Senior Teams that includes Youth E and Youth A.