



Padel Federation of Ireland (PFI)

National Padel Teams Selection Process

Effective from: 22 March 2026

1. Purpose

The **Padel Federation of Ireland (PFI)** is responsible for selecting players to represent Ireland in national padel teams across all categories, including:

- Men's
- Women's
- Junior
- Senior

Selections will be made for participation in the **World Governing Body of Padel (FIP)-sanctioned international competitions**, such as European and World Championships.

The primary objective of selection is:

- To achieve the strongest possible team performance and highest finishing position at international competitions across all age groups and categories.

2. Eligibility

Players will be considered for selection provided they meet the following criteria:

2.1 Representation

- Be eligible to represent Ireland in FIP-approved competitions
- Hold a valid Irish passport

2.2 Age Criteria

Players must meet the relevant age category requirements within the competition year. Categories may vary depending on specific competition (subject to FIP confirmation):

- **Juniors:** U12, U14, U16, U18
- **Absolute:** No age restriction
- **Seniors:** 35 + 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+

2.3 Previous Representation

- Must not have represented another nation in an FIP competition within the previous three years

2.4 Membership Requirement

- Hold an active membership or licence recognised by the Padel Federation of Ireland/FIP

2.5 Disciplinary Status

- Must not be under suspension or disciplinary sanction by the PFI, FIP, or any recognised governing body

Compliance with FIP Bye-Laws & International Standing

- **Governing Authority:** The Player acknowledges that the **Padel Federation of Ireland (PFI)** is the sole national member of the **International Padel Federation (FIP)**. Consequently, the PFI is bound to uphold and enforce the **FIP Bye-Laws** and the **FIP Disciplinary Code** within the jurisdiction of the Island of Ireland.
- **Unified Governance (FIP Bye-Law 2.1):** The Player recognizes the FIP principle of "Unified Governance," which mandates a single, recognized path for national representation. To maintain a **FIP-sanctioned license** and eligibility for the **National Team**, the Player must not participate in any event that purports to offer "National Representation" or uses national identifiers (e.g., "Team Ireland," national flags, or crests) unless that event is formally sanctioned by the PFI/FIP.
- **Freedom of Participation:** The PFI respects a player's right to participate in any independent or private competitions. However, players should note that participation

in events which conflict with the World Governing Body of Padel (FIP) regulations or its authority over national and international representation may render them in breach of FIP Bye-Laws and impact eligibility for PFI/FIP sanctioned events.

- **Licensing Consequences:** Maintenance of an active PFI/FIP Player License is strictly conditional upon the Player's adherence to the FIP regulatory framework. Any action that undermines the PFI's standing as the sole FIP-recognized body may result in the **suspension or revocation of the Player's license** and subsequent ineligibility for all FIP-sanctioned tournaments, including domestic and World and European Championships.

2.6 Registration of Interest

- Players must register their interest confirming their intention to be considered for selection by the published deadline

2.7 Integrity Compliance

- Must not be serving a sanction related to anti-doping or anti-corruption regulations
- **Anti-Doping Compliance:** Players must comply with all applicable anti-doping regulations as set out by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), World Governing Body of Padel (FIP) and the International Testing Agency (ITA). Players are responsible for ensuring they are fully aware of, and adhere to, all requirements, including testing procedures, whereabouts obligations, and associated guidelines.

2.8 Commitment

Selected players will be required to:

- Follow all PFI event and travel arrangements
- Wear official team kit
- Comply with federation policies, codes of conduct, and partner obligations

3. Team Composition

Team structures will align with FIP regulations and may vary by competition:

- **Senior Teams:** Minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 players per gender per age group
- **Junior Teams:** Minimum of 2 and maximum of 4 players per gender per age group
- **Open Teams:** Typically 6 male players, 6 female players, with up to 2 reserve players

All decisions regarding pairings, match line-ups, and use of reserves will be made by the appointed team coach or captain in consultation with the PFI.

4. Selection Criteria

Selections will be made in line with the objectives outlined in Section 1.

All decisions will be based on objective evidence and applied consistently across all eligible players.

4.1 Competition Results

Performance may be assessed across:

- FIP-sanctioned events
- National padel competitions, such as the (IPT) within the Island of Ireland or other relevant FIP national competitions
- Previous European or World Championship performances
- Other relevant FIP/PFI sanctioned domestic or international tournaments

4.2 Performance Considerations

The selection panel, using the PFI Player Evaluation Card, may also take into account:

- Current form and consistency
- Professionalism and preparation
- Ability to contribute to team performance and dynamics
- Physical fitness and readiness
- Behaviour during previous representation or competitions
- Any additional factors relevant to team success

5. Application Process

Players must complete and submit the official **Declaration of Interest** by the deadline communicated by the PFI.

All timelines and submission details will be shared in advance of each selection cycle.

Players are responsible for ensuring that they sign the PFI Player Evaluation Card at the start of their trial

6. Selection Panel & Process

6.1 Pre-Competition Selection

The PFI will appoint a selection panel for each competition cycle. This panel may include:

- National Coach(es)
- Performance Lead(s)
- Federation representatives

The panel may consult with additional coaches or performance staff where appropriate to ensure a well-informed selection process.

6.2 Competition Management

For each event, the PFI will appoint a **Team Coach or Captain** who will:

- Assist with final decisions on match pairings
- Determine team line-ups
- Manage use of reserve players

6.3 Selection Schedule

- **Selection Process:** The initial stage of selection is inclusion in the National Squad. The final National Team will then be selected from this squad by the coaching team and selection committee. The timing of the National Team announcement will be determined in line with the competition calendar
- **Team Selection:** Approximately 8 weeks before the relevant competition - including team, subs and reserve players.

7. De-Selection

A selected player may be withdrawn from the team if:

- They no longer meet eligibility requirements
- They breach the PFI/FIP Code of Conduct
- Their performance level or condition significantly declines
- They fail to disclose injury, illness, or fitness concerns

Any such decision will be communicated directly by the PFI.

8. Feedback

While there is no formal appeals process, players may request feedback from the coaching team to support future development.

9. Kit & Funding

Selected players will receive full details of:

- Team kit
- Travel arrangements
- Financial contributions

Funding levels are subject to federation resources and annual planning.

10. Injury & Availability

Players must inform the PFI immediately of any injury, illness, or issue that could impact:

- Preparation
- Availability
- Performance at competition

11. Parent & Guardian Guidance (Juniors)

Parents and guardians play an important role in supporting junior players. They are expected to:

- Respect coaches, officials, and other players
- Support the authority of the coaching team
- Encourage independence and responsibility
- Avoid coaching or instructing during matches
- Maintain appropriate behaviour at all times

The PFI reserves the right to take action if behaviour negatively impacts the team environment.

12. Acknowledgement

All players must confirm that they:

- Have read and understood this selection process
- Agree to comply with all requirements

Only the official **Acknowledgement Form** should be returned.

Completed forms (see below) should be sent to:

✉ nationalteam@padelfederation.ie

Padel Federation of Ireland

National Team Selection – Acknowledgement Form

By signing below, I confirm that:

- I have read and understood the PFI National Team Selection Process
 - I agree to comply with all eligibility, conduct, and selection requirements
 - I understand that only this form must be returned
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Player Details

- Name: _____
 - Signature: _____
 - Date: _____
 - Date of Birth: _____
-

Category (please tick)

☐ Juniors ☐ Open ☐ Seniors

Age Group (if applicable)

Juniors: ☐ U12 ☐ U14 ☐ U16 ☐ U18

Seniors: ☐ 35 + ☐ 40+ ☐ 45+ ☐ 50+ ☐ 55+ ☐ 60+

Kit Size

Upper: ☐ XS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

Lower: ☐ XS ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL

Guardian Consent (if under 18)

- Name: _____
 - Signature: _____
 - Relationship: _____
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Submission

 Send to: **nationalteam@padelfederation.ie**