

Baseball Ireland National Team Selection Policy

POLICY OBJECTIVE/INTENT

Baseball Ireland (BI) selects and manages national squads and teams to represent Ireland in WBSC sanctioned baseball games, competitions and events.

The National Team Programme comprises of:

- Ireland Under 12 National Baseball Team
- Ireland Under 15 National Baseball Team
- Ireland Under 18 National Baseball Team
- Ireland Under 23 National Baseball Team
- Ireland Senior National Baseball Team

The BI National Team Programme objectives are to select national squads and teams as determined by BI, to facilitate the development of players and a national programme capable of sustainable international success. BI has a stated strategy that domestic based player participation in European competition is vital for the long-term growth and development of the game of baseball in Ireland.

The decision to enter a national team to represent Ireland in WBSC sanctioned competitions and events is the responsibility of the BI Board of Directors.

KEY POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. Terms and Conditions

Players agree to terms and conditions of the playing contract and/or event participation agreements with BI.

2. Selection

Selection is based on integrity, objectivity and the discretion of the National Teams Selection Panel.

3. Policy Effective

3.1. This Policy remains in force unless otherwise determined by the BI Board of Directors.

3.2. Any change to this Policy shall be approved by the BI Board of Directors.

DEFINITIONS

"Conflict of Interest" is a conflict between personal and professional interests. This includes but is not limited to the following interests; family member, close personal relationship, current coach.

"World Baseball and Softball Confederation (WBSC)" is the international federation recognized by the International Olympic Committee or the General Assembly of International Sports Federations as the entity responsible for governing Baseball internationally.

"National Teams Selection Panel" is the panel responsible for national squad and/or team selections.

"Baseball Ireland (BI)" means the national governing body which is a member of and is recognized by WBSC as the entity governing Baseball in Ireland.

"National Selection Camps" means camps conducted under the auspices of Baseball Ireland for purposes of player evaluation and selection.

All other terms have their ordinary meaning as per the Statutes of Baseball Ireland.

POLICY PROCEDURES

1. Selectors

1.1. The National Teams Selection Panel for squads and teams will comprise of:

- General Manager of the National Team under consideration
- Head Coach of the National Team under consideration
- High Performance Development Coach
- Assistant Coaches of the National Team under consideration
- Any other person appointed by the BI Board of Directors

Note: The BI National Team General Manager will act as the chair.

1.2. National Selectors are appointed by the National Team General Manager and/or by the BI Board of Directors.

1.3. The Baseball Ireland Board of Directors has authority to amend the composition of a National Teams Selection Panel at their discretion.

1.4. All National Selector positions will be appointed for a period as defined by the BI Board of Directors.

2. Player Eligibility

2.1. In order to be eligible for selection for National squads or teams, players must be qualified to compete for Ireland in accordance with the rules and regulations of WBSC as amended from time to time (refer Appendix A).

2.2. A player must in any WBSC Europe competitions including the Olympic qualifying competitions, be a national of the country of the federation that is entering the athlete.

2.2.1 To establish the nationality of the players, their valid passport or European Union identity card with photo that mentions the nationality, issued by the governmental authorities shall be presented to the National Team General Manager.

3. Selection

3.1. Selection will be made throughout but not limited to the following events:

- 3.1.1. Performance at previous WBSC Europe sanctioned events
- 3.1.2. Participation and performance in non-sanctioned events such as tournaments
- 3.1.3. Participation and performance in National Team Selection Camps
- 3.1.4. Participation and performance in BI Academy in current or prior years

3.2. Where a player is unable to participate in selection events as described above, an exemption must be granted by the relevant National Team Selection Panel. BI has determined that, in order to maximise the

cohesiveness of National Teams, it is ideal that all players are members of or have come through the BI Academy programme. Exemption from participation in the BI Academy will be limited to a certain number of players, as defined by the BI Board of Directors, due to those players residing outside of Ireland.

4. National Camps, Squads and Team Composition

4.1. Invitees may be invited into the camps at the discretion of National Teams Selectors.

4.2. BI has the sole discretion to determine the number of players deemed appropriate for selection to a squad and international representation.

4.3. The official Team, where appropriate, shall comprise of the designated number of players as advised by WBSC from the applicable squad.

4.4. Where a player is selected in one squad and eligible for another, in the event that the player is subsequently selected in the more senior squad, their position in the original squad may be replaced at the discretion of the National Teams Selection Panel.

5. Selection Criteria

5.1. In exercising their discretion selectors may select based on the following selection criteria:

5.1.1. Previous international and national performances.

5.1.2. Player's current level of active play.

5.1.3. Current level of technical skill and physical fitness.

5.1.4. Tactical ability and decision making under pressure.

5.1.5. Current or potential injury or condition which will impair, inhibit or prevent the participant's performance to the requisite level.

5.1.6. Composition and balance of team including but not limited to position coverage.

5.1.7. Potential to improve/coachability.

5.1.8. Consistent positive attitude and commitment.

5.1.9. Ability to communicate positively and pro-actively.

5.1.10. Other factors considered by the selectors to be important.

6. Selector Responsibilities

6.1. Any selection decision rests with the National Teams Selection Panel. Their decision is final.

6.2. Where a player is unable to fulfil squad commitments, the National Teams Selection Panel has the ability to promote other eligible players to the applicable squad.

6.3. The National Teams Selection Panel has the ability to make changes and substitutions to squads and teams at their discretion.

6.4. A selector with a Conflict of Interest must notify the Baseball Ireland President of the conflict as soon as they become aware it exists.

6.5. A selector with a Conflict of Interest will remove herself/himself from the selection or resign as a selector unless otherwise decided by the BI Board of Directors.

6.6. A selector will:

6.6.1. Make a reasonable effort to attend all selection activities (i.e. meetings, games, trainings) as deemed necessary by BI.

6.6.2. Act with integrity and objectivity in all aspects of the selection process in complying with this policy and other related policies and documents.

6.6.3. Ensure all selection materials, discussions and meetings remain confidential to the selection panel and appropriate BI staff.

6.6.4. A selector who is unable to fully meet all the requirements of this clause 6.6 may resign or be removed and replaced on the panel at the discretion of the BI Board of Directors.

7. Player Removal from Squad/Team

7.1. A Player may be removed from a squad/team due to:

7.1.1. Failure to adhere to the BI Code of Conduct and terms of any playing contract.

7.1.2. Injury or illness resulting in Player's incapacity to fulfil obligations.

7.1.3. Performance, skill and/or fitness levels that are not at benchmark standard as determined by the Selection Panel.

7.1.4. Breach of the BI or WBSC Statutes, Anti-Doping Policy, and/or other policies as deemed applicable to the National Programme.

7.1.5. Failure to comply with any reasonable requests from the National Team Coach, a BI staff member or the BI Board of Directors.

8. Feedback & Wellbeing

8.1. All players being considered will be advised of the outcome of selection prior to public announcement.

8.2. BI will ensure that the standard operating procedures for team selection will be reviewed and audited on a regular basis.

**APPENDIX A
WORLD BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL CONFEDERATION EUROPE**

Baseball Competition Regulations

7. Eligibility

Nationality of Competitors

- a. A player in any WBSC Europe competition including the Olympic qualifying competitions must be a national of the country of the federation that is entering him. Any competitor in any European Championship for national selections or the Super 6 must be a national of the country of the federation and must have the stipulated age during the calendar year of the competition; however, the minimum age required to play in any adult competition is 15 (fifteen) years in the year of the competition. For Cup competitions, what is provided in the specific competition rules will apply. To establish the nationality of the players, their valid passport or European Union identity card with photo that mentions the nationality, issued by the governmental authorities shall be presented to the Technical Commission. All participants from Non-European Union countries must have passports.
- b. All disputes relating to the determination of the country, which a competitor may represent in the WBSC Europe competition or in qualifying competitions for WBSC Europe Competitions shall be resolved by the WBSC Europe Executive Committee.
- c. A competitor who is a national of two or more countries at the same time may represent either one of them, as he may elect. However, after having represented one country in the Olympic Games, in Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the WBSC Europe, he may not represent another country unless he meets the conditions set forth in the following paragraph that apply to persons who have changed their nationality or acquired a new nationality.
- d. A competitor who has represented one country in the Olympic Games, in the Baseball World Cup, in Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the WBSC Europe, and who has changed his nationality or acquired a new nationality shall not participate in the Olympic Games, in the Baseball World Cup, in the Continental or Regional Games or in World or Regional Championships recognized by the WBSC Europe to represent his new country until three years after such change or acquisition. This period may be reduced or even cancelled with the agreement of the initial national federation and the approval of the WBSC Europe Executive Committee. The request to waive the three-year waiting time must be received by WBSC Europe before 30th April in the year the player wants to represent his new country. This particular choice may only be made once.
- e. If an associated state, province or overseas department, a country or colony acquires independence, if a country becomes incorporated within another country by reason of a change of border, or if a new NOC is recognized by the IOC, a competitor may continue to represent the country to which he belongs or belonged. However, he may, if he prefers, choose to represent his country or be entered in the WBSC Europe competition or the Olympic qualifying competitions by his new federation or NOC if one exists. This particular choice may only be made once.

- f. In all cases not expressly addressed in this rules, in particular in those cases in which a competitor would be in a position to represent a country other than that of which he is a national or have a choice as to the country which he intends to represent, the WBSC Europe Executive Committee may take all decisions of a general or individual nature, and, in particular, issue specific requirements relating to nationality, citizenship, domicile or residence of the competitors, including the duration of any waiting period.
- g. Should an eligibility violation occur, and a player be proven to be ineligible prior to any games being played, the player is automatically removed from his team roster and will not be allowed to participate in any game of the competition. This player cannot be replaced. The Technical Commission of the Competition will notify the WBSC Europe Executive Committee for further action.
- h. Should a violation be discovered during the competition and after the athlete has played in one or more games, the player is automatically removed from the roster, and any game in which he participated shall be considered a forfeited game for his team. The team shall continue to play in the competition and the infraction shall be reported by the Technical Commission of the Competition to the WBSC Europe Executive Committee for further action. A player removed for any eligibility violation cannot be replaced by another player.