



**Tennis Ireland
European Youth Olympic
Festival 2023
Nomination Policy**

European Youth Olympic Festival 2023

The 2023 European Youth Olympic Festival is due to take place in Maribor, Slovenia from 23rd – 29th July 2023.

The number of tennis players permitted to enter the festival is 2 boys and 2 girls per country with players born in 2008 or 2009.

Tennis events at the festival include singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

In the event Ireland is only permitted to enter one mixed doubles team, the decision of selection will be made at the event by the coach(es).

Policy Objective

This policy outlines the nomination process to the Olympic Federation of Ireland (OFI). The final selection is carried out by the OFI.

A Nomination event has been implemented to coincide with the age categories of the European Youth Olympics (15&U) to allow equal opportunity for players to compete.

Player Eligibility

In order to be considered for nomination for the European Youth Olympic Festival, players must meet the following eligibility criteria:

OFI / EOC eligibility criteria:

- Be on the Long list.
- Hold a valid Irish Passport.
- Comply with the provisions of the Olympic Charter currently in force.
- Have completed the EYOF 2023 Team Member Agreement.
- Have achieved the Minimum Qualification Standard and any additional performance standard set by the NF.
- Have completed the on-line anti-doping course through Sport Ireland or Sport Northern Ireland AND a Sport Ireland or Sport Northern Ireland approved anti-doping workshop within 12 months prior to the Nomination Date.
- Is not currently serving a period of ineligibility or period of provisional suspension in relation to an anti-doping rule violation.
- Have completed the IOC Preventing Competition Manipulation online course.
- Have completed the OFI Medical Data Capture Survey (if available at time of nomination).
- Have demonstrated to the satisfaction of their NF that they are fit to perform at a sufficiently competitive level at the Games.
- Has not acted in such a manner so as to bring himself/herself, the NF, the sport, the IF, the OFI, the IOC or the EOC into current disrepute. For the avoidance of doubt: the evaluation of this requirement is at the sole discretion of the NF Nomination Committee for the purposes of Nomination and at the sole discretion of the OFI Selection Committee for the purposes of selection: the public disrepute referred to within this clause includes potential and/or actual disrepute; an example of such public disrepute may include (but is not limited to) an athlete being charged with or convicted of a criminal offence; and
- Have completed any other requirements requested by the OFI.

Tennis specific eligibility criteria:

- Players must be born in 2008 or 2009.
 - Players must hold a valid Irish passport.
 - Players must be available for all dates of the 2023 European Youth Olympic Festival
 - Players must not have represented any other Nation in previous events. Representation does not include:
 - (a) Junior Davis Cup or Junior Billie Jean King Cup;
 - (b) ATP/WTA Tour or ITF World Tennis Tour nationality.
 - Players must be in good standing with Tennis Ireland.
 - Players must be competing regularly on the Tennis Ireland Junior Tour and/or in ITF Junior/Tennis Europe events.
 - Players must adhere to Tennis Ireland's Anti-Doping Policy.
 - Players must adhere to Tennis Ireland's Player Code of Conduct.
 - Players must compete and be available for all days of the European Youth Olympic Tennis Nomination events including the Qualifying Weekend and Finals.
- All players must complete all of their matches in the nomination events.*

Tennis Ireland Player Nomination Policy

Tennis Ireland is committed to providing opportunities to players in a transparent manner and has created this Player Nomination Policy to assist in final selection for the European Youth Olympic Festival.

Tennis Ireland is hosting a Nomination event over two weekends in May in order to assist in the nomination process of two boys and two girls to represent Ireland in tennis at the European Youth Olympic Festival 2023.

The winners and runners up of the Finals event will be nominated by Tennis Ireland to compete in the European Youth Olympic Festival in 2023. Final selection will be decided by the OFI.

Nomination event dates:

6th and 7th May (Qualifying Weekend – total of 16 boys and 16 girls)

13th and 14th May (Finals Weekend – total of 4 boys and 4 girls)

Players must be available for all four dates of the events.

Venue: National Tennis Centre DCU.

Courts: Tennis Ireland will endeavour to play all matches on the 3 outdoor clay courts if possible however players should be prepared to play on the indoor hard courts in the event of rain or other adverse weather conditions. Players should be aware that the playing surface could be confirmed the day of the matches due to a change in conditions overnight etc.

Training will also be arranged for the nominated players on clay courts prior to the European Youth Olympic Festival in July.

Players can enter the Qualifying Weekend via the following:

- 1) Based on their national ranking on Wednesday 19th April 2023.

The Top 8 boys and girls born in 2008 and top 4 boys and girls born in 2009 can enter.

Only players that meet the tennis specific eligibility criteria outlined above will be permitted to enter and compete in the event. Players will be requested to submit a copy of their Irish passport at the time of entering.

Invitations to enter will be sent via e-mail from Tennis Ireland to the top 8 boys and top 8 girls born in 2008 and to the top 4 boys and top 4 girls born in 2009, on Wednesday 19th April. The link to enter will also be available on ti.tournamentsoftware.com

- 2) Apply for a wild card

Up to four wild cards may be available for four boys and four girls.

To apply for wild cards players must follow the wild card application process for the Nomination Event by submitting a copy of their Irish passport to Lisa Murphy on lisa.murphy@tennisireland.ie no later than Monday 24th April in an email titled 'European Youth Olympic Nomination Event Wild Card Request'.

Deadline for entry is Wednesday 26th April.

Tennis Ireland will make the decisions regarding wild cards on Tuesday 25th April. Tennis Ireland will publish the acceptance list for the Qualifying Weekend on Friday 28th April. The reserve list will also be published in order on the Friday. The draw for the event will be published on Friday 28th April.

Draw format for Qualifying Weekend:

Knockout draw with playback for 5-8 to determine the reserve list.

- 1st round 16 players play a knock-out for 8 spaces into the second round:
 - Scoring: best of three standard sets with championship tie-break if score is one set-all
 - Winners progress to second round.
 - Losers don't have any more matches.
- 2nd Round is a qualifying round with:
 - Scoring: best of three standard sets with championship tie-break if score is one set-all
 - Winners progress to the finals weekend where they will play a round robin with 4 players
 - Losers go into an elimination draw on the Sunday to determine a reserve list for the Finals weekend with semis followed by
 - Finals (positions 5th and 6th) and
 - play-off for positions 7 and 8

Qualifying Weekend:

- Winners of both matches on Saturday qualify for the finals weekend - will not play on Sunday.
- If a player wins their first match on Saturday and loses their second match – they have a further 2 matches on Sunday playing for positions 5 to 8.
- Losers of first round match on Saturday will have no further matches
 - Winners of both matches come back the following weekend for the Finals.
 - Losers of first round are out of the qualifying event (*they play on Saturday only*).

- For all first round and playback matches (positions 5-8), all players play normal two tie-break sets with a championship tie-break at 1 set all.
- For second round matches players play best of three standard sets with a set tie-break played at 6 games all.

Draw format for Finals Weekend:

Round Robin for top 4 boys and top 4 girls from semi-finals of the qualifying weekend to play for positions 1-4.

- Saturday 13th May: players play two round robin matches
- Sunday 14th May: players play final round of the round robin

Top 2 players (2 boys and 2 girls) from the round robin will be put forward as nominated players to the OFI.

- Standings:
 - 1 point for each match won
 - If two players tie for any position, the H-2-H will decide the ending position
 - If three players tie for a position: sets percentage, followed by games percentage if required will decide the order

Scoring:

- All finals weekend matches and matches for positions 1 to 4 will be best of three standard sets with a set tie-break played at 6 games all.
- Advantage will be played.
- No-let rule will apply. In the event that the technical manual (due April 2023) states otherwise for EYOF, all players will be informed of an amendment to the scoring rules of the nomination event. The winners and runners up (two boys and two girls) will be nominated by Tennis Ireland to the Olympic Federation of Ireland. All matches must be played, including the finals in the event of injury or illness to a player prior to the European Youth Olympic Festival.

Conditions of Nominated Players

Players nominated by Tennis Ireland to the OFI for selection must continue to compete in international and national events in the lead up to the European Youth Olympic Festival in July. The nominated coach(es) will require monthly reports of tournaments the players are competing in.

De-Selection / Removal

A player may remove themselves from the process or may be removed for any of the following reasons. Any decision made after selection by the OFI will be made in conjunction with the Chef de Mission:

Injury/Illness

- If a player becomes ill / injured prior to selection by the OFI, they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness. This will be determined by a medical professional on behalf of Tennis Ireland.
- If an injury/illness occurs to a player after selection they will be required to demonstrate an appropriate level of fitness to remain as a selected player. This procedure will involve both physical readiness and fitness to perform phases and will be conducted by the Olympic

Federation of Ireland (OFI) Medical Team and in line with the OFI Fitness to Compete policy which is contained within the Team Member Agreement.

Ineligibility

- A player who becomes ineligible based on the criteria in this policy may be removed from the process / de-selected.
- A player who breaches any of the polices and/or codes of conduct referenced in this policy may be removed from the process / de-selected.

Preparation

- A player who does not meet the agreed training and competition goals post the qualification event may be de-selected.

Replacement

If a player is removed or de-selected, a replacement player may be selected from within the runners up at the Finals event subject to them meeting the eligibility criteria. Any replacement will be made in line with the EYOF Late Athlete Replacement policy.

Appeal Process

On the grounds Tennis Ireland fails to follow the Nomination policy, a player has the right to appeal directly to Tennis Ireland within 3 days of the finals event (by 17th May 2023).

In the event that the OFI fails to select a player nominated by Tennis Ireland, the player shall have the right to appeal in accordance with the OFI's "Selection Appeals Process" outlined in the Team Member Agreement.

Player Selection and Notification

Player selection is at the sole discretion of the OFI and will be based on the Tennis Ireland nominations made against this nomination policy. Nominations will be submitted to the OFI and the team will be announced following selection by the OFI.

The OFI will notify players of their selection prior to the 1st July 2023.

Announcement of Selection by Team Ireland

Nominated and selected players are not permitted to make any announcements to the media or the general public in any form whatsoever (including via any social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) of their possible or confirmed selection or non-selection prior to official announcement by the OFI of such selection.

The provisional date for Team Announcement is 12th July 2023.

Provision of Tennis Coach/Team Manager

Tennis Ireland is permitted to provide at least one coach (male or female) for the European Youth Olympic Festival.

The decision on whether the coach will be male or female will depend on the overall gender balance within the Team Ireland Support Staff for the event, in addition to the decision on whether Tennis Ireland can provide one coach or two coaches.

The names of the coach(es) will be provided to the selected players by Tennis Ireland.