

International Representation Pathway Information

Squash Ulster International Representation Pathway Information

Your sporting career

Your identity

Your choice

Introduction: The Northern Ireland Act 1998

Within Northern Ireland all citizens have the following birthright: "it is the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves...as Irish or British or both, as they may so choose, and accordingly ...to hold British and Irish citizenship.

This internationally recognised agreement called the Belfast Agreement is encompassed in legislation through the Northern Ireland Act 1998. It allows the citizens within Northern Ireland to choose their identity and subsequently hold a British or Irish passport or both if desired.

This document has been produced, therefore, to keep players, coaches and parents within Northern Ireland informed of their choices in relation to squash's dual nationality position. The information below outlines the choices Northern Irish squash players have when they are ready to make representative decisions.

Playing for one's country at any level is a great honour and achievement. Competing in the tour events throughout the season provides a platform for players to improve their game and gain ranking points putting them in contention for a place on a team.

WORLD SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIP(S) representation and EUROPEAN SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS Representation

A Northern Ireland player can choose to represent either Team England, Team Scotland, Team Wales or Team Ireland at World Squash World Championships or European Squash Federation European Championships and since 2023 Team GB/UK at LA2028 Olympics. Players must meet the representation and selection criteria as laid out by the governing bodies for these events. Intending athletes should carefully check the national governing body eligibility and selection rules in addition to those of the international governing body.

The national governing bodies for these countries apply the standard World Squash eligibility criteria for selection at all levels. The selection policies and eligibility criteria can be found at:

World Squash Championships website. Regulations, Section K Eligibility:
https://www.worldsquash.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/220201_Championship-Regulations-V10.1.pdf

European Squash website; Regulations Governing The European Championships Section 1B eligibility requirements

Squash Ireland website in the High Performance section [High performance programme - Squash Ireland](#)

England Squash, Scottish Squash and Squash Wales websites

A player from Northern Ireland can only represent one country and must commit to their Team a minimum of 3 years before the given events. Once a player has committed to their chosen country they will be deemed to have declared for that country.

Commonwealth Games

These occur every 4 years. For administrative reasons racquet games, including Squash, will not be included in the 2026 Commonwealth Games. The next opportunity to participate will be the CG in 2030.

Northern Ireland representation:

The only events Northern Ireland players can represent Northern Ireland at are the Commonwealth Games (CG). Squash Ulster follows the general representation and selection criteria as laid out by the Commonwealth Games Federation.

Players are eligible for consideration to represent Northern Ireland provided they are:

- Born in Northern Ireland or
- Parent/s were born in Northern Ireland or
- Have had residency in Northern Ireland for 3 years; and
- Hold an Irish or British passport.

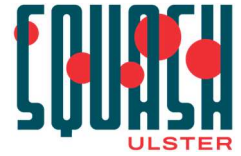
The Squash Ulster Selection policy for this event can be found at our website under Governance and Commonwealth Games Selection Policy. Players who meet the selection criteria are nominated to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council who are responsible for selecting the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Team.

England, Scotland and Wales representation

A player from Northern Ireland can also choose to represent England, Scotland or Wales in the Commonwealth Games. Players must meet the representation and selection criteria as laid out by the Commonwealth Games Federation and the national governing bodies. Intending athletes should carefully check the national governing body eligibility and selection rules in addition to those of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

OLYMPIC Representation

In 2023 for the first time the International Olympic Committee officially selected squash for inclusion in the LA28 Olympic Games sports programme. This momentous decision



provides squash's world-class athletes the opportunity to compete on the biggest sporting stage in the world with two medal events- men's and women's singles competitions.

Players who wish to represent either Ireland or GB/UK at an Olympic games must meet the World Squash Olympic Qualification Regulations and be in line with Rule 42 of the Olympic charter 'Nationality of Competition'.