



CHEERSPORT
IRELAND

TEAM IRELAND

ICU SELECTION POLICY

26/
27



For More information



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Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI) Team Selection Policy for the ICU World Cheerleading Championships

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the process and criteria for selecting national teams to represent Ireland at the International Cheer Union (ICU) Junior World and World Cheerleading Championships (WCC). The ICU is an annual international event for national teams, promoting excellence in cheerleading and held in Orlando, Florida, USA. Cheer Sport Ireland (CSI), as Ireland's national governing body for cheerleading, may select one team per eligible division, focusing on Youth, Junior, and Senior/Open divisions.

Clubs may nominate teams for Youth or Junior age groups, which, if selected, become Ireland's national teams. For the Open All Girl Elite division (aged 16+), athletes apply individually, and the team is formed from selected applicants. The selection emphasizes safety, technical proficiency, and compliance with ICU rules. All selected teams must adhere to the ICU Sport of Cheer Rules & Guidelines (available at cheerunion.org), including safety protocols, anti-doping policies, and event requirements.

2. Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for selection, teams and athletes must meet the following criteria:

- **CSI Membership:** Clubs must be CSI-registered members in good standing. All athletes, coaches, and staff must hold valid CSI memberships.
- **Team Composition:**
 - **Number of Athletes:** 18-24 athletes (minimum 18, maximum 24) for all divisions.
 - **Age Eligibility:** Based on ICU age grids (birth year as of 31 December 2027):
 - **Youth (12-14 years):** Born 2012-2015.
 - **Junior (15-18 years):** Born 2008-2012.
 - **Open All Girl Elite (Senior, 16+ years):** Born 2011 or earlier.
 - **Athletes must be legal citizens or permanent residents (minimum 6 consecutive months) of Ireland.**



- Division Alignment: Teams/athletes must align with ICU WCC divisions:
 - Youth: All Girl or Coed (Median or Advanced levels).
 - Junior: All Girl or Coed (Advanced or Elite levels).
 - Open: All Girl Elite.
 - CSI will prioritize divisions based on national strengths and ICU qualification limits (one team per division).
- Compliance: Adhere to ICU safety rules, including qualified coaching, emergency plans, appropriate attire (no jewelry, soft-soled shoes), and no props or skills beyond ability levels.

For Youth/Junior teams: Clubs nominate full teams. For Open All Girl Elite: Individual athletes apply and are selected to form the national team.

3. Selection Process 2027

CSI selects teams through a structured application, interview, video trial, and in-person selection process. The timeline is as follows:

- Submission Deadline: April 24th, 2026, 5:00 PM
 - Clubs/athletes/coaches submit an Expression of Interest form, including:
 - Season commitment declaration.
 - Coach details, credentials, status of insurance and vetting.
 - Team level, age group, and training location.
 - Weekly training commitment.
 - Acknowledgment that selected teams will become national teams and will not be considered as club teams from that point. Eg Team Steel will be named team Ireland and will not use their team Ireland routine in any other competition (excluding ICC).
 - For Open All Girl Elite: Individual athletes submit personal details and experience.
- Interviews: May 1st-15th, 2026
 - One-on-one interviews with club representatives or individual athletes to assess readiness and commitment.



- Video Trial: June 14th, 2026, 5:00 PM
 - Submit video of routine sections (as detailed in Section 4).
- Video Results: June 19th, 2026, 5:00 PM
 - Feedback and advancement notifications provided.
- In-Person Selection: July 12th, 2026
 - Held at a designated venue in Dublin; athletes may be absent due to holidays, but teams must perform required sections.
 - Open All Girl Elite tryouts occur on the same day.
 - Judged by a CSI-appointed panel of certified ICU/CSI judges using ICU scoresheets.
 - Sections scored and weighted differently; all sections must be completed.
 - Feedback provided on the day.
- Results Notification: July 17th, 2026
 - Selected teams/athletes notified. Appeals must be submitted in writing within 48 hours.

Selection Criteria:

- Highest-scoring teams/athletes per division.
- In ties, consider technical execution, creativity, and ICU alignment eg style, suitability of performance
- CSI reserves the right to select based on overall readiness, including financial capability and compliance history.

For Open All Girl Elite: Same submission and tryout dates/requirements as teams.

4. Video Submission Requirements

Routines must comply with ICU WCC specifications. Videos and in-person performances include the following sections:

- Required Elements:
 - Jumps/Tumbling:
 - 1 Jump tumble by most athletes
 - Level-appropriate running pass by most athletes
 - Level-appropriate standing pass by most athletes

- Stunts (by level):
 - Median: Full Up Stretch, Invert 1/2 to Stretch, Full Down, Release below Prep to Prep, Baha 360 (suspended 360)
 - Advanced: Switch up Stretch, Low to High, 1.5 Up Prep, Double Down, Kick Full Dismount.
 - Elite: High High lib, 360 SU, Invert Up, Stretch Double Down, Coed style walk-in or toss.

- Pyramids: 5-6 eight counts, including 1 structure and 3 skills.

- Basket Tosses: Shape Toss x 1 eg Pike, Twist x 1 eg Kick Full.

- Chant/Cheer Portion:
 - I R E – L A N D; Green, White, Orange
 - minimum 30 seconds; demonstrate crowd-leading with native elements, signs, poms, flags, or megaphones.

- Safety and Performance:
 - Skills must follow ICU safety rules by level (e.g., spotters for stunts; no unbraced drops).
 - Music is not necessary for submissions
 - Violations (e.g., unsafe skills) result in deductions or disqualification.

5. Responsibilities of Selected Teams

- Registration: CSI facilitates ICU registration; teams/athletes cover fees.
- Preparation: Attend mandatory CSI briefings on ICU policies (safeguarding, anti-doping, health protocols like injury clearance).
- Representation: Teams represent Ireland (e.g., "Ireland National Team"). During official events, the team will not represent their home club.
- Training: Weekly sessions; national team status supersedes club affiliations.
- Funding and Travel: Responsible for costs; CSI provides details.
- Conduct: Adhere to ICU and specified CSI codes; violations may lead to deselection.

6. Coach and Staff Requirements

- Head Coach: Minimum 2 years experience and credentials at the team's level; vetted through CSI.
- External Coaches: Selected by CSI after team selection. Each team selected will have a head coach from the selected club, and an external coach chosen from a panel. Club coaches may assist but all coaching decisions must be made by the head coach in conjunction with the external coach.
- Organisation Manager: Volunteer role. This person handles admin like sizes and passport collection; will process apparel orders, trip booking, and attend WCC to complete team registration.
- Fundraising Manager: Selected by CSI committee post-selection.
- Welfare Officer: Must be a vetted and official welfare officer; must attend first session and discuss policies.

7. Financial Obligations

- CSI Team Contribution: €500 will be assigned per team for administrative costs of coaching.
- Training Fees: Athletes will be charged €15 per session (of this €5 will be retained by CSI, €10 will be paid to the club). This fee will be paid by each athlete by Standing Order centrally to CSI account by the 28th of each month with the club's fee being distributed monthly to clubs.
- Payments: Athletes pay directly to CSI account; will cover the cost of flights, transport, entry fees and other related expenses.

8. Review and Amendments

This policy is reviewed annually by the CSI Board. Amendments align with ICU updates. For questions, contact cheersportireland.secretary@gmail.com

Approved by CSI Board: 12/03/2026

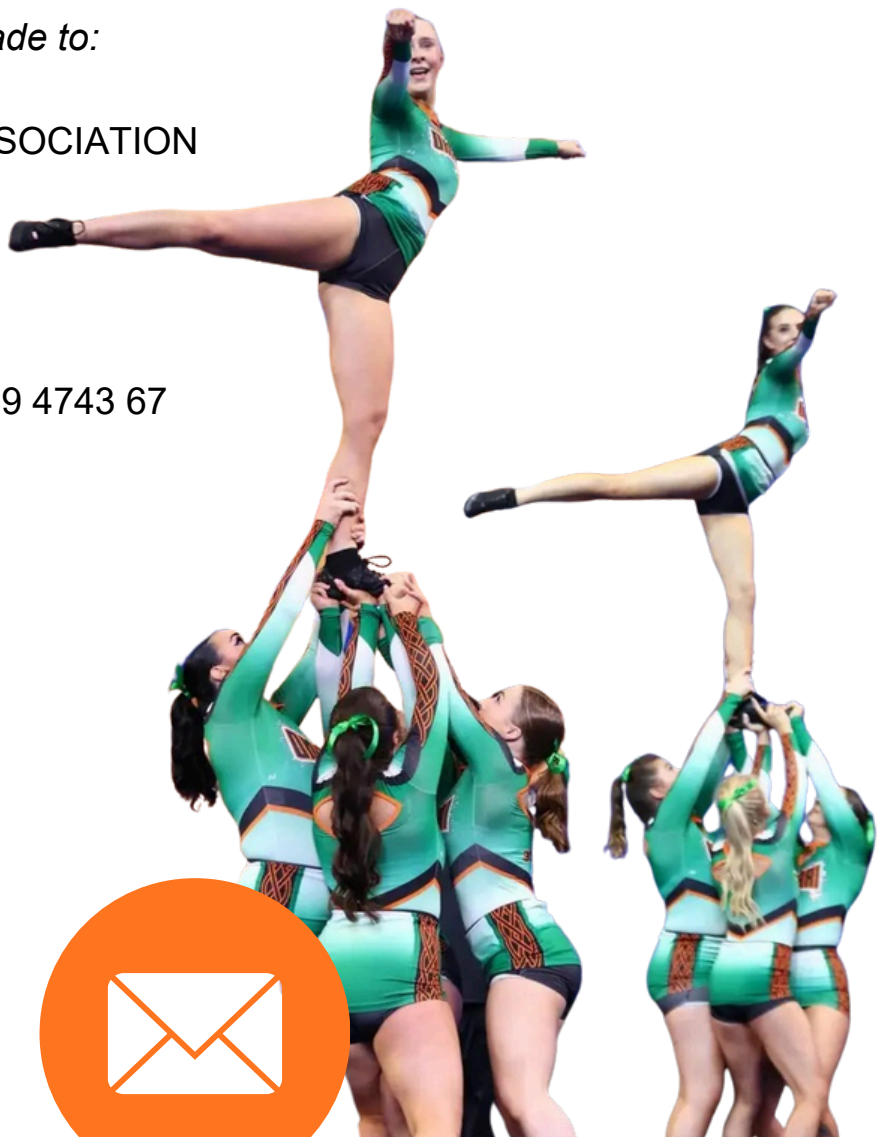


PAYMENT ADVICE

All Payments should be made to:

IRISH CHEER SPORT ASSOCIATION
BANK OF IRELAND
CASTLEBAR
CO MAYO

IBAN: IE95 BOFI 9037 4489 4743 67
BIC: BOFIE2D



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