



Terms And Conditions

2026 International Carding Scheme

Terms and Conditions must be read in full by both the Athlete and the NGB before submitting an application.

Version Control		
2026 International Carding Scheme Terms and Conditions		
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Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme 2025 Application

Section 1: Athlete Terms and Conditions for the International Carding Scheme

Athletes agree to:

The Scheme:

- Comply with and be bound by the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme.
- Co-operate and abide by any Sport Ireland decision relating to the Scheme.

Engagements:

- Publicly represent, if required, the NGB and/or Sport Ireland in the media and through a limited number of public appearances. This expectation is outlined in the National Sports Policy 2018-2027.
- Comply with the NGB athlete agreement with regard all services (e.g. medical).
- Undergo a medical review with as required by the Head of Medicine or Head of Rehab at Sport Ireland Institute.
- Actively and positively engage with the Athlete Life skills and Advisory Service of the Sport Ireland Institute
- Upon request and where suitable, engage with key stakeholders through a limited number of public appearances.

Debrief Process:

- Sport Ireland has the expectation that athletes engage with debriefs on regular basis with their performance director and coach as well as any Sport Ireland review (e.g. Games Review, Culture Review).

Athlete Conduct:

- Athletes agree to conduct himself/herself at all times in an appropriate manner and display a positive approach and co-operative behaviour towards his/her NGB, Sport Ireland and fellow athletes. Athletes should not behave in a manner which is likely to bring their respective sport, NGB or Sport Ireland into disrepute. In each case, Sport Ireland shall be the sole arbiter as to whether the athlete is in disrepute.

The following are examples of what Sport Ireland may view as “bringing into disrepute”.

- a) conduct that is unbecoming of an athlete; and/or
 - b) criminal conduct or other misconduct; and/or
 - c) conduct that is or could be harmful to the interests, values, and reputation of the sport; and/ or
 - d) conduct that does bring or could bring Sport Ireland and the NGBs into disrepute; and/or
 - e) committing any act, or permitting or suffering to be done, anything which has a negative impact on the image or reputation of Sport Ireland and/or the NGB or otherwise brings either of them to disrepute.
- The above examples at (a) – (e) do not represent an exhaustive list of examples but are merely provided to illustrate the types of circumstances in which Sport Ireland may find an athlete to be in disrepute.

Performance:

- Follow their competition and training programme as agreed with the NGB and as laid out in the application form.
- Adhere to the performance benchmarks as laid out by the Performance Director for 2026.
- Participate in the National Championships of their sport unless otherwise agreed in exceptional circumstances with NGB.
- Maintain amateur/eligibility status to compete for the NGB through which an investment under the Scheme was allocated.

Anti-Doping:

- Comply with any service support guidelines of the National Governing Body and Sport Ireland Institute
- Comply with and be bound by the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.
- Know the substances and methods which have been included in the Prohibited List (as may be amended from time to time) and to take responsibility to make sure that any substance ingested by the Athlete does not violate the Irish Anti-Doping Rules.
- Participate in the National Sports Anti-Doping Programme and undertake, as required, anti-doping testing, including the taking of a blood or urine sample, in competition and/or out of competition.
- Understand that a refusal by the athlete to submit to a test will have the same consequence as if the athlete had tested positive.
- Provide Sport Ireland, by the specified dates, an accurate and complete whereabouts filing in the format and detail required by Sport Ireland on a quarterly basis throughout the year.
- Update their whereabouts filing as required so that it is up to date and accurate at all times.
- Comply with the contents of their whereabouts filing.
- Supply accurate contact details to Sport Ireland. Addresses supplied via the application form will be made available to the Anti-Doping Unit for the purposes of implementing the anti-doping programme, and Sport Ireland Institute in relation to their various athlete programmes.
- Agree to complete Sport Ireland anti-doping education by 31st of January 2026

Section 2: NGB Terms and Conditions for the International Carding Scheme

NGBs agree to comply with Sport Ireland in the following areas:

Performance:

- Sport Ireland or an NGB (Principal Sports) may withhold from an athlete a quarterly instalment of the annual financial support payable to that athlete under the Scheme where the evaluation by the NGB has determined that the athlete has:
- Not performed satisfactorily or achieved the benchmark performances as agreed with the NGB.
- The athlete is no longer integrated in the High Performance Programme
- The athlete's daily training environment is no longer considered suitable to maximise the performances of the athlete.
- The athlete is no longer considered to be of podium or final potential in the 2028 Olympic or Paralympic Games.

Anti-Doping

- Sport Ireland may withhold from an athlete a quarterly instalment of the annual financial support payable to that athlete under the Scheme where an alleged Whereabouts Failure has been recorded against that athlete, regardless of the anti-doping organisation that has recorded the alleged Whereabouts Failure.
- A Whereabouts Failure is either a Filing Failure or a Missed Test. If the athlete fails to submit each required whereabouts filing by the specified timeline or makes a whereabouts filing that is not accurate and complete, that failure is a Filing Failure. If the athlete is not available for anti-doping testing at the location during the sixty-minute time slot specified for that day in their whereabouts filing and has not updated their whereabouts filing to provide an alternative time slot or location for that day, that failure is a Missed Test.
- Investment allocations under the Scheme shall stand suspended from the date Sport Ireland notifies an athlete of a possible anti-doping rule violation, other than an anti-doping rule violation involving a Specified Substance as defined in the Irish Anti-Doping Rules. The suspension shall last until the date of final determination that an anti-doping rule violation has or has not been committed.
- Where the final determination is that an anti-doping rule violation has not been committed, the suspended investment allocations shall be remitted to the athlete.
- Where the final determination is that an anti-doping rule violation has been committed but the period of ineligibility has been eliminated, the suspended investment allocations shall be remitted to the athlete.
- Where the final determination is that an anti-doping rule violation not involving a reduced sanction for Specified Substances has been committed and a period of ineligibility has been imposed on the athlete, all investment allocations will be withheld by Sport Ireland, the NGB and any other sports organisation concerned during the period of ineligibility and the athlete shall not be entitled to access to services under the Scheme for the duration of the period of ineligibility.

Failure to comply with the Terms and Conditions

Where an athlete is approved for inclusion in the International Carding Scheme and fails to comply with the Terms and Conditions, Sport Ireland may:

- Withhold investment allocations from or refuse to provide funding to that athlete.
- Demand a refund of any investment provided under the Scheme to that athlete and recover, as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction, from that athlete any such refund due and owing to Sport Ireland.

The process of applying the above actions will involve a meeting of the Sport Ireland Carding Committee. NGBs will be required to submit the relevant information to the Carding Committee in advance for their consideration. Sport Ireland's decision will be final.

Data Processing:

- Principal Sports NGBs will be required to agree data processing agreement with Sport Ireland in line with current data protection regulations.