

Criteria

2026 International Carding Scheme

Athletes must achieve performance criteria in 2025 (January 1st – December 31st) for eligibility to apply for the 2026 Scheme.

All criteria is based on Olympic/Paralympic disciplines only unless otherwise stated.

Version Control		
2026 International Carding Scheme Criteria		
Version No	Date	Status
1.1	11.9.25	Published

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International Carding Scheme Guidance Note

The International Carding Scheme is an integral part of Ireland's High Performance System. Since 1999, the International Carding Scheme has provided financial support to athletes for their training and competition programmes. The primary purpose of this funding is to support Irish athletes in reaching finals and achieving medals at European, World, Olympic and Paralympic level.

Sport Ireland continues to review the Scheme to ensure it remains fit for purpose and a world-class offering for Irish athletes. Throughout the Paris Cycle, Sport Ireland has introduced several advancements, including increased award levels, multi-annual funding, financial supports under the Athlete Career Transition Programme, and funding equality across para-athletes and pilots/guides.

Ahead of the LA Cycle (2025-2028) Sport Ireland, alongside the National Governing Bodies (NGB), have reviewed and updated the International Carding Scheme Criteria. The updated criteria reflects the progress of NGBs' High Performance Programmes and continued improved performances. Sport Ireland remains committed to supporting senior athletes at a level that is appropriate for their stage of development, and in a manner that enables them to continue to progress.

The role of the NGB in the decision-making process to award Carding should be understood by athletes and coaches. Sport Ireland will only consider applicants where there is NGB endorsement. NGB/Performance Director endorsement is a key factor in the decision-making process and Sport Ireland places a high value on the expertise of the Performance Director. The achievement of criteria is a key factor when awarding Carding, however it is not the only area considered by Sport Ireland. The Carding Guidelines ([available on the Sport Ireland website](#)) should be read in conjunction with this document.

In 2026 Carding will be awarded on a one year basis.

Athletes in receipt of an award should understand the purpose of the Carding Scheme and their responsibilities whilst in receipt of funding. All athletes in receipt of an award must have valid tax clearance and are responsible for their own tax affairs. Athletes are not employees of Sport Ireland under this Scheme. Please refer to the Guideline document linked above for further information.



Sports Included in the 2026 Carding Scheme

High Performance Olympic Sports

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Boxing
- Canoeing (Slalom & Sprint)
- Clay Target Shooting
- Cycling (Road, Track/ Time Trial, Mountain Biking & BMX)
- Gymnastics
- Judo
- Pentathlon
- Rowing
- Sailing
- Swimming
- Diving
- Taekwondo
- Triathlon

High Performance Paralympic Sports

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Canoeing
- Cycling
- Rowing
- Swimming
- Table Tennis
- Triathlon

Olympic Sports

Athletics

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medal Olympic Games • Medal World Championships • Medal European Championships
World Class	• Top 12 Olympic Games • Top 12 World Championships • Top 6 European Championships • Top 6 World Indoor Championships • Top 12 World Cross Country • Top 6 World Race Walking Cup • Medal European Indoor Championships • Medal European Cross Country • Medal European Race Walking Cup
International	• Top 24 Olympic Games • Top 24 World Championships • Top 10 European Championships • Top 10 World Race Walking Cup • Top 16 World Cross Country Champs • Top 6 European Indoor Championships • Top 6 European Cross Country • Top 6 European Race Walking Cup • Medal at World University Games

Notes:

- Athletics Ireland has developed a performance standard matrix which details performance standards indicative of performance level required for an international, World Class or Podium Championship performance. Performances at major championships are the primary criteria. In the absence of the championship performance as outlined in the above table, Athletics Ireland's Performance Director can apply for funding for the athletes that achieve the required performance standards which can be considered on a case by case basis by Sport Ireland's Carding Committee.
 - Podium Standard x 2
 - World Class Standard x 2
 - International Standard x 2



- Further details of the performance standards can be found on the Athletics Ireland website:
<https://www.athleticsireland.ie/high-performance/carding>
- Athletes to be considered for the Scheme must have signed an AI Athlete Agreement

Olympic Sports

Badminton

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Top 3 in the World Rankings (singles, doubles, mixed) • Medallist in the Olympic Games (singles, doubles, mixed) • Medallist in World Championships (singles, doubles, mixed)
World Class	• 4-8 in the World Rankings (singles, doubles, mixed) • Top 8 in the Olympic Games (singles, doubles, mixed) • Top 8 in the World Championships (singles, doubles, mixed) • Medallist in European Championships / European Games (singles, doubles, mixed)
International	• Top 20 in the European Rankings (singles) • Top 12 in the European Rankings (doubles/mixed) • Top 32 in the Olympic Games (singles) • Top 16 in the Olympic Games (doubles, mixed) • Top 32 in the World Championships (singles) • Top 16 in the World Championships (doubles, mixed) • Top 8 in European Championships / European Games (singles, doubles, mixed) • Finalist in International Challenge Events (singles, doubles, mixed)

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.

Olympic Sports

Boxing

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the Olympic Games • Medallist in the World Championships • Gold / Silver in the European Championships • Gold / Silver in the European Games
World Class	• 5 – 8 Olympic Games • 5 – 8 World Championships • Bronze in the European Championships • Bronze in the European Games • Gold at Strandja A Grade multi-nations event or World Boxing Cup (must win at least 3 bouts)
International	• Qualification for the last 16 in the Olympic Games • Qualification for the last 16 in the World Championships • 5 – 8 at the European Championships • 5 – 8 at the European Games • Silver/ Bronze at Strandja A Grade multi-nations event or World Boxing Cup (must win at least 2 bouts)

Notes:

- Pathway to Olympic weights either boxing above or under, an Olympic weight may be considered.
- Funding may be provided to two athletes at the same Olympic weight category, if one is at Podium or World Class, and the other at a lower level.
- Consideration may be given to supporting additional athletes who achieve criteria on a case-by-case basis.
- In all benchmark competitions as per above, athletes must have won at least two bouts to achieve criteria.
- The achievement of criteria does not guarantee funding.

Olympic Sports

Canoeing

Slalom

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Olympic Games • Medallist at the World Championships • Medallist at the European Championship • Top 3 end of season World Cup Series or World Ranking
World Class	• Top 4-11 at an Olympic Games • Top 4-15 at a World Championships • Top 4-10 at a European Championships • Top 4-10 end of season World Cup Series or World Ranking
International	• Top 16-20 at a World Championships • Top 11-15 at a European Championships • Top 11-25 in end of season World Cup Series or World Ranking • Top 12-15 at an Olympic Games • K1 Top 15 nation placing at World/European Championships • C1 Top 12 nation placing at World/European Championships

Sprint

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Olympic Games • Medallist at the World Championships • Medallist at the European Championship
World Class	• Top 4 -10 at the Olympic Games • Top 4-7 at World Championships/European Championships • Medallist at European Games
International	• Top 11-18 at the Olympic Games • Top 8-17 at World Championships/European Championships • Top 4-9 at European Games

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.

Olympic Sports

Clay Target Shooting

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Olympic Games • Medallist at the World Championships • Medallist at the European Championships • Medallist at a World Cup
World Class	• Top 12 in Olympic Games • Top 12 in the World Championships • Top 10 in two World Cup events • Top 8 in the European Championships
International	• Top 24 in the Olympic Games • Top 24 in the World Championships • Top 12 in the European Championships • Top 10 in one World Cup event • Medallist at the World University Games • Top 30 in the World Rankings (Senior)

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.
- Consideration of funding will be given to athletes who qualify for the ISSF World Cup Final Competition held at year end.
- As the Irish Clay Target Shooting is not in receipt of High Performance Programme funding, the achievement of criteria does not guarantee funding and Sport Ireland must be satisfied that the necessary oversight and support is in place by the NGB to award funding.

Olympic Sports

Cycling

Cycling (Road Race and Time Trial)

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the World Championships RR or TT • Medallist in the Olympic Games RR or TT • Medallist, European Championship RR or TT • 1-3 in any World Tour (WT) or Women's World Tour (WWT) single day race. • 1-3 in any Grand Tour Time Trial, excluding prologues and TT's under 15km.
World Class	• 4-12 in the World Championships RR • 4-12 in the Olympic Games RR • 4-8 in the European Championships RR or TT • 4-12 in any World Tour or Women's World Tour single day RR. • 4-10 in the World Championships or Olympic Games TT • 4-10 in any Grand Tour Time Trial, excluding prologues and TT's under 15km.
International	• 13-18 in the World Championships RR • 13-18 in the Olympic Games RR • 9-12 in the European Championships RR or TT • 13-18 in any World Tour or Women's World Tour single day RR. • 11-15 in the World Championships or Olympic Games TT

Notes:

- Scheme excludes UCI World Tour, Women's World Tour and Pro-Continental Team riders.
- Cycling Ireland will engage with riders who have attained criteria but are excluded from the scheme to offer Pro-Rider support equivalent to that of a carded rider in respect of performance services support upon agreement with Sport Ireland Institute.
- Criteria is for Elite senior categories only.
- All applications must meet the 'Carding Endorsement and Review' policy published in the High Performance section of the Cycling Ireland website, under 'selection'.
- Grand Tour for WWT are: Vuelta Espana Feminina, Giro D'Italia, & Tour de France Femme
- All criteria are based on Olympic / Paralympic disciplines only unless otherwise stated

Cycling (Track Cycling)

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the World Championships in Olympic Events only. • Medallist in the Olympic Games. • Gold, Elite UEC European Championships in Olympic event.
World Class	• Olympic Games and World Championships: ○ 4-10 in Olympic endurance events. ○ 4-8 in Team Sprint. ○ 4-8 in Sprint. ○ 4-6 Keirin. ○ 1-3 in non-Olympic endurance event, or kilo. • Nations Cup Track event: 1-3 in Olympic event. • Elite UEC European Championships: ○ 2-4 in in any Olympic event. ○ 1-3 in any non-Olympic endurance event or Kilo.
International	• Olympic Games and World Championships: ○ 11-16 in Olympic endurance events. ○ 9-16 in Sprint. ○ 7-12 Keirin. ○ 4-10 in non-Olympic endurance event, or kilo. • Elite UEC European Championships: ○ 5-8 in in any Olympic event. ○ 4-6 in any non-Olympic endurance event or Kilo. • 4-8 in a Nations Cup in an Olympic event. • 1-3 in two class 1 GP's in Olympic events only.

Notes:

- All applications must meet the 'Cycling Ireland Endorsement and Review of International Carding' policy published in the High Performance section of the Cycling Ireland website, under 'selection'.
- All criteria pertains to Elite Senior competition
- All criteria are based on Olympic / Paralympic disciplines only unless otherwise stated

Mountain Biking (XCO)

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the World Championships. • Medallist in the Olympic Games. • Medallist in the European Championships.
World Class	• 4-12 in the World Championships. • 4-12 in the Olympic Games. • 4-10 in the European Championships. • Medallist in a UCI World Cup.
International	• 13-25 in the World Championships. • 13-25 in the Olympic Games. • 11-18 in the European Championships. • 4-12 in a UCI World Cup.

Notes:

- In all cases results meeting criteria must be on same lap as the winner
- All applications must meet the 'Cycling Ireland Endorsement and Review of International Carding' policy published in the High Performance section of the Cycling Ireland website, under 'selection'
- All criteria are based on Olympic / Paralympic disciplines only unless otherwise stated

BMX SX (Racing) and FP (Freestyle Park)

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the Olympic Games. • Medallist in the UCI World Championships. • Medallist in the UEC European Championships.
World Class	• 4-16 In the Olympic Games (BMX SX). • 4-16 In the UCI World Championships (BMX SX). • 4-8 In the UEC European Championships (BMX SX). • 4-12 in the Olympic Games (BMX FP). • 4-12 in the UCI World Championships (BMX FP). • 4-12 in the UEC European Championships (BMX FP). • Medallist in a UCI World Cup Event.
International	• 16-24 in the Olympic Games (BMX SX). • 17-32 in the World Championships (BMX SX). • 8-16 in the European Championships (BMX SX). • 4-8 in a World Cup event (BMX SX). • 13-24 in the World Championships (BMX FP). • 13-16 in the European Championships (BMX FP). • 4-12 in a World Cup event (BMX FP).

Notes:

- All criteria pertains to Elite Senior competition
- All applications must meet the 'Cycling Ireland Endorsement and Review of International Carding' policy published in the High Performance section of the Cycling Ireland website, under 'selection'.

Olympic Sports

Gymnastics

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the Olympic Games • Medallist in the World Championships
World Class	• Medallist in the European Championships • Medallist at FIG World Cup events • Finalist in the World Championships (AA or Apparatus) • Finalist (Top 8) in the Olympic Games (Apparatus)
International	• Medallist in the European Games (AA or Apparatus) • Final in European Championships (Top 24 AA or Top 8 Apparatus) • Final in Olympic Games Championships (AA) • Final at FIG World Cup events • Top 30 in World Championships (AA) • Top 12 in World Championships (Apparatus)

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.
- In order to be eligible for Carding consideration, and in addition to the ranking, the score achieved from the international competition must also reflect the international standards in the level of global competition.
- Individual events only.
- Refers to senior individual apparatus and AA Artistic, Rhythmic & Trampoline (Olympic) disciplines only.

Olympic Sports

Judo

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the Olympic Games • Medallist in the World Championships • Medallist in the European Championships • Medallist in the World Masters*
World Class	• 5-7 in the Olympic Games • 5-7 in the World Championships • 5-7 in the European Championships • 5-7 in the World Masters • Medallist in an IJF Grand Prix/Slam
International	• Top 16 in the World Championships • Top 16 in the Olympic Games • Top 7 in an IJF Grand Prix/Slam • Medallist in a Continental Open (Excluding Africa and Oceania**)

Notes:

- * IJF World Masters is the invitation only event for athletes with year ending Top 16 World Ranking.
- ** Perth to be included in qualification block as Olympic qualification points are awarded

Olympic Sports

Pentathlon

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in Olympic Games • Medallist in World Championships • Medallist in World Cup Final • Top 3 in World Rankings
World Class	• Medallist in European Championships • 4 – 10 in Olympic Games • 4 – 10 in World Championships • 4 – 10 in World Cup Final • 4 – 10 in World Rankings
International	• 11- 30 in the Olympic Games • 11-36 in World Championships • Top 36 in 2 World Cups • 4-10 in European Championships • Top 30 in World Rankings (Senior)

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.

Olympic Sports

Rowing

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	- Medallist at the Olympic Games - Medallist at the World Championships in Olympic boat classes - Gold Medallist at European Championships in Olympic boat classes - Medal at 2 out of the 4 International events between World Cup 1, World Cup 2, World Cup 3 and European (silver or bronze) medal in Olympic Boat Classes
World Class	- Top 11 at the Olympic Games in Olympic Boat Classes - Place within the 2028 Olympic quota in Olympic Boat classes at the World Championships (Please see below table) - A Finalist and B Final Winner at 2 of the 3 International events between World Cup 1, World Cup 2, and European Championships in Olympic Boat Classes.
International	- Top half at 2 out of the 4 International events between World Cup 1, World Cup 2, World Cup 3 and European Championships in Olympic Boat classes - Place within the 2028 Olympic quota plus three places for boat class at the World Championships (Please see below table) - Medallist at the U23 World Rowing Championships in Olympic boat class.

Notes:

- Olympic Quota positions (for carding purposes) applicable to 2028
- Funding will only be awarded to one crew per Olympic/Paralympic boat class. Should different crew combinations achieve Carding criteria, the Performance Director will nominate the priority athletes for Carding support. The achievement of Criteria does not guarantee funding, particularly where the number of athletes exceeds the number of crew places in an Olympic/Paralympic boat class. Carding support may be allocated to additional athletes; however, this will be limited to two additional athletes, and may be at a lower amount than the maximum funding indicated for each level.
- Athletes who achieve criteria which relate to an Under 23 international performance will be considered on a case by case basis only. A lower amount than the maximum funding available may be awarded. Under 23 and pathway athletes should be primarily supported by the NGB.



Olympic Quota Places at Final Qualification Regatta		
Boat Class	Men	Women
Single Sculls (1x)	11	11
Pair (2-)	13	13
Double Sculls (2x)	13	13
Fours (4-)	9	9
Quadruple Sculls (4x)	9	9
Eight (8+)	7	7

Olympic Sports

Sailing

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Olympic Games • Medallist at the World Championships • Medallist at the European Championships
World Class	• 4-10 in Olympic Games • 4-10 (by nation) in the World Championships • 4-10 in the European Championships • Podium at approved World Cup (see notes)
International	• Top 25 at the Olympic Games • Top 30 the World Championships • Top 25 in the European Championships • Top 25 in an approved World Cup (see notes)

Notes:

- Events are subject to approval by Sport Ireland and OSG to ensure minimum standard of fleet attended.
- Sailors over the age of 23 must be committed to an Irish Sailing approved full-time campaign before carding status is ratified.
- Athletes that are under 23 and competing at senior level may be considered for nomination by Irish Sailing to Sport Ireland pending the achievement of the criteria outlined below. The award levels may be less than the highest award amount under International Level Carding. In conjunction with Sport Ireland, Irish Sailing will determine the use of this funding for the purposes of supporting the individual athlete with their performance programme costs.

U23 ILCA 7 and ILCA 6 (female)

- Top 30 in the European Championships
- Top 40 in the World Championships
- Medallist in U21 World / U21 European Championship

Under 23 49er and 49er FX

- Top 50% at the World Championships
- Top 40% at the European Championships
- Medallist at U23 World Championships

Olympic Sports

Swimming and Diving

Swimming

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	<u>Individual</u> • Top-3 Finish at the Olympic Games in an individual event. • Top-3 Finish at the World Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic individual event. • Gold Medal at the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic individual event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. • Top-3 World Ranking in the annual World Aquatics Long Course Rankings (two per nation) in an Olympic individual event from a performance at the identified and agreed benchmark international meet (as of 31st August in the preceding season). <u>Relay</u> • Top-3 Finish at the Olympic Games in a relay event, or • Top-3 Finish at the World Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic relay event, or • Gold Medal at the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic relay event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet.
World Class	<u>Individual</u> • Top-3 Finish at the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic individual event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet, or • Top-8 Finish at the Olympic Games in an individual event, or • Top-8 Finish at the World Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic individual event, or • Top-5 World Ranking in the annual World Aquatics Long Course Rankings (two per nation) in an Olympic individual event from a performance at the identified and agreed benchmark international meet (as of 31st August in the preceding season). <u>Relay</u> • Top-3 Finish at the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic relay event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. • Top-12 Finish at the Olympic Games in a relay event. • Top-12 finish at the World Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic relay event.

International	<u>Individual</u>
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	• Top-8 finish at the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic individual event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. • Top-16 finish at the Olympic Games in an individual event. • Top-16 finish at the World Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic individual event. • Top-12 World Ranking in the annual World Aquatics Long Course Rankings (two per nation) in an Olympic individual event from a performance at the identified and agreed benchmark international meet (as of 31st August in the preceding season). Relay • Top-8 finish at the European Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic relay event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. • Top-16 finish at the Olympic Games in a relay event. • Top-16 finish at the World Aquatics Championships (50m) in an Olympic relay event.
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Notes:

- Athletes must be eligible to represent Ireland as per 'World Aquatics Competition Regulation No.3 - Sport Nationality'.
- Athletes must fulfil one of the criteria in Section A and meet the criteria in Section B
- Utilising the OnTrack Database, and in relation to an athlete's primary Olympic event/s only, athlete nominations will be considered each year in relation to their age profile and their performance trajectory/potential for the 2028 Olympic Games
- The Nomination Criteria has to be considered in conjunction with Swim Ireland's own [Review & Approval Process for Swimming](#)
- In the absence of a Championship performance as outlined in Criteria 1, 2 or 3, the National Performance Director may apply for International Relay Programme Funding where a time/s achieved via an Olympic relay performance or an accumulated series of associated individual performances at the agreed benchmark international meet would have been equivalent to or better than the Performance required to achieve Criteria 1, 2 or 3. This will be considered on case by case by Sport Ireland's Carding Committee.

Diving

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	<u>Individual</u> • Top-3 Finish at the Olympic Games in an individual event, or • Top-3 Finish at the World Aquatics Championships in an Olympic individual event, or • Top-3 Finish at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup in an Olympic individual event, or • Gold Medal at the European Aquatics Championships in an Olympic individual event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet. <u>Synchro</u> • Top-3 Finish at the Olympic Games in a synchro event, or • Top-3 Finish at the World Aquatics Championships in an Olympic synchro event, or • Top-3 Finish at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup in an Olympic synchro event, or • Gold Medal at the European Aquatics Championships in an Olympic synchro event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet.
World Class	<u>Individual</u> • Top-3 Finish at the European Aquatics Championships in an Olympic individual event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet, or • Top-12 Finish at the Olympic Games in an individual event, or • Top-12 Finish at the World Aquatics Championships in an Olympic individual event, or • Top-12 Finish at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup in an Olympic individual event. <u>Synchro</u> • Top-3 Finish at the European Aquatics Championships in an Olympic synchro event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet, or • Top-12 Finish at the Olympic Games in a synchro event, or • Top-12 finish at the World Aquatics Championships in an Olympic synchro event, or • Top-12 finish at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup in an Olympic synchro event.
International	<u>Individual</u> • Top-12 finish at the European Aquatics Championships in an Olympic individual event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet, or • Top-18 finish at the Olympic Games in an individual event, or • Top-18 finish at the World Aquatics Championships in an Olympic individual event, or

	• Top-18 finish at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup in an Olympic individual event. <u>Synchro</u> • Top-12 finish at the European Aquatics Championships in an Olympic synchro event, and where it is the identified and agreed benchmark international meet, or • Top-18 finish at the Olympic Games in a synchro event, or • Top-18 finish at the World Aquatics Championships in an Olympic synchro event, or • Top-18 finish at the World Aquatics Diving World Cup in an Olympic synchro event.
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Notes:

- Athletes must be eligible to represent Ireland as per 'World Aquatics Competition Regulation No.3 - Sport Nationality'.
- Athletes must fulfil one of the criteria in Section A and meet the criteria in Section B
- Utilising the OnTrack Database, and in relation to an athlete's primary Olympic event/s only, athlete nominations will be considered each year in relation to their age profile and their performance trajectory/potential for the 2028 Olympic Games
- The Nomination Criteria has to be considered in conjunction with Swim Ireland's own [Review & Approval Process for Diving](#)
- In the absence of a Championship performance as outlined in Criteria 1, 2 or 3, the National Performance Director may apply for International Relay Programme Funding where a time/s achieved via an Olympic relay performance or an accumulated series of associated individual performances at the agreed benchmark international meet would have been equivalent to or better than the Performance required to achieve Criteria 1, 2 or 3. This will be considered on case by case by Sport Ireland's Carding Committee

Olympic Sports

Taekwondo

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist in the Olympic Games • Medallist in the World Championships • Gold medal in the Grand Prix Series / Grand Slam
World Class	• Medal in the European Championships • Gold Medal in the European Games • Quarter Final in the World Championships • Quarter Final in the Olympic Games • Semi Final in the Grand Prix Series / Grand Slam • Top 8 in Olympic Ranking Points System on the final day of the competition season
International	• Top 16 in the Olympic Games • Top 16 World Championships • Semi Final in the European Championships • Semi Final at the European Games • Top 12 in Olympic Ranking Points System on the final day of the competition season • G2 Event Medal [Grade 2 Ranking Event]

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.

Olympic Sports

Triathlon

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Podium in the Olympic Games Individual Race/Mixed Team Relay (MTR) • Podium World Triathlon Championship Series (WTCS) Grand Final. • Podium at World Triathlon Championship Series (WTCS) Race. • Podium at The European Standard Championships.
World Class	• Top 10 in the Olympic Games Individual Race/MTR. • 2 x Top 15 in a World Triathlon Championship Series (WTCS) including the Grand Final Race. • 2 x Top 8 in the World Triathlon Championship Series MTR. • Top 6 European Standard Championships. • 2 x Top 8 places in a World Triathlon Cup (WTC) Event.
International	• Top 25 in the Olympic Games Individual. • Top 10 in European Standard Championships. • Top 5 at the European Championships Super Sprint. • Podium at the European MTR Championships. • 2 x Top 25 in a WTCS Race. • 2 x Top 12 places in World Triathlon Cups' (WTC). • 3 x Top 8 European Triathlon Cups' (ETC)

Notes:

- Triathlon Ireland may apply for Mixed Team Relay (MTR) support if Carding criteria is achieved by the MTR. This award will be allocated to the team and not to the individuals. Final allocation to the team will be decided by Sport Ireland.
- Distribution of Team Carding will be determined by the Performance Director in consultation with Sport Ireland.

Paralympic Sports

Athletics

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	- Medallist at the recent Paralympic Games or World Para Athletics World Championships/WPA World Championship Marathon AND - Top 3 - 4 ranking in the 2025 end of season WPA World Ranking List.
World Class	- Top 6 finish at the recent Paralympic Games or World Para Athletics World Championships/WPA World Championship Marathon Or 2025 Performance ranked in top 4-6 of 2025 WPA World Rankings. AND - Performance achieved in 2025 is within 3% of the 3rd place in the 2025 WPA World Rankings
International	- Top 8 finish at the recent Paralympic Games or World Para Athletics World Championships/WPA World Championship Marathon Or 2025 Performance ranked in top 8 of 2025 WPA World Rankings. Or 1st at recent WPA European Championships AND - Performance achieved in 2025 is within 8% of the 3rd place in the 2025 WPA World Rankings.

Notes:

- Para-Athletics carding criteria is made up of three stages where athletes must fulfil criteria in each of the stages to be considered for a carding award. These are:
 - 1) Performance Standards and ranking (see above).
 - 2) Performance potential.
 - 3) Performance consistency.
- Details relating to points 2) and 3) above can be found in the Para Athletics Panel Selection Policy on the Paralympics Ireland website.
- Only performances in Paralympic events at WPA-approved competitions and appearing on the WPA World Rankings will be recognised.
- WPA World Rankings refers to the World Para Athletics end-of-year World Rankings
- World Para Athletics World Championships refers to the outdoor edition of the Championships.

Paralympic Sports

Badminton

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Top 3 in the World Rankings (singles, doubles, mixed) • Medallist in the Paralympic Games (singles, doubles, mixed) • Medallist in World Championships (singles, doubles, mixed)
World Class	• 4-8 in the World Rankings (singles, doubles, mixed) • Top 6 in the Paralympic Games (singles, doubles, mixed) • Top 8 in the World Championships (singles, doubles, mixed) • Medallist in European Championships (singles, doubles, mixed)
International	• 9-15 in the World Rankings (singles, doubles, mixed) • Top 8 in the Paralympic Games (singles, doubles, mixed) • Winner of one of the 3 identified BWF International Para International Para Event (singles, doubles, mixed)

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.
- Selected events must be identified in the High Performance competition plan and agreed by Sport Ireland (Irish International, Thailand International & Australia International)

Paralympic Sports

Canoeing

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Paralympic Games • Medallist at World Championships • Medallist at Europeans Championships
World Class	• Top 4 - 9 at the Paralympic Games • Top 4 – 9 at World Championship • Top 5 at European Championships
International	• Top 10 -15 Paralympic Games • Top 10 - 15 at the World Championships • Finalist at European Championships

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.
- Minimum 12 Competitors in **ALL** Competitions, except the Paralympic Games

Paralympic Sports

Cycling

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	Medallist in the Paralympic Games or UCI World Cycling Championships in Paralympic disciplines.
World Class	- Placed 4-6 in the Paralympic Games or UCI World Cycling Championships in Paralympic disciplines and within 3% of the Gold medal mark achieved at that event. - Top 3 overall in a Para cycling Road World Cup series.
International	- Placed 7-12 in the Paralympic Games or UCI World Cycling Championships in Paralympic disciplines and within 3% of the bronze medal mark achieved at that event. - Medallist in the UCI Para cycling Road World Cup.

Notes

- All criteria relate strictly to Paralympic disciplines only.
- Minimum field size of at least 8 competitors applies to all events above.
- In the event of non-attendance of a World Championship event by the Team, equivalent international standard performances in the same Paralympic disciplines will be considered, taking into account wherever possible all environmental and external factors affecting performances.
- All applications must meet the 'Cycling Ireland Endorsement and Review of International Carding' policy published in the High Performance section of the Cycling Ireland website, under 'selection'.
- For certain international events, factors outside the athlete's control, (e.g. field size, quality of field) may influence meeting criteria. In conjunction with Cycling Ireland's Endorsement Policy, Cycling Ireland retain the right to review the standard of competition at any event, the potential medal competitiveness and an athlete's trajectory prior to endorsing an application to Sport Ireland.

Paralympic Sports

Rowing

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Paralympic Games • Medallist at the World Rowing Championships in Paralympic boat classes
World Class	• 4-6 at the Paralympics Games within 2% of the Gold medal time • 4-6 at the World Rowing Championships in Paralympic boat classes and within 2% of the Gold medal time. • Minimum of 8 boats in race.
International	• Paralympic qualification position, beating 2 crews at World Championships in Paralympic boat class events.

Notes

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.

Paralympic Sports

Swimming

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	- Medallist at the Paralympic Games or World Para Swimming (WPS) World Championships - No. 1 in the end of season WPS World Ranking List in Paralympic disciplines and events
World Class	- Placed 4-6 at the Paralympic Games or WPS World Championships and within 3% of the bronze medal mark achieved at that event. - Nos. 2-4 in the end of season WPS World Ranking List in Paralympic disciplines and events and in the top 25% of the WPS World Ranking List - Medallist at WPS Swimming European Championships
International	- Finalist at the Paralympics Games or WPS World Championships and in the top 30% of the WPS World Rankings. - Placed 9-12 at the Paralympic Games or WPS World Championships and within 6% of the bronze medal mark achieved at that event. - Nos. 5-10 in the end of season WPS World Rankings in Paralympic disciplines and events and in the top 50% of the ranking list

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.
- Only performances recorded at WPS Swimming sanctioned events or pre-approved events with Sport Ireland on a long course format may be used to qualify for the International Carding Scheme.
- Only athlete performances in Paralympic events can be considered for qualifying for the 2026 Sport Ireland International Carding Scheme.

Paralympic Sports

Table Tennis

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	• Medallist at the Paralympic Games. • Medal in the IPTTC World Championships in Paralympic disciplines and events. • Top 1 in end of year/season IPTTC World Ranking List.
World Class	• Top 4-8 at the Paralympic Games. • Top 4-8 in the IPTTC World Championships in Paralympic disciplines and events. • Top 2-4 in the end of year/season IPTTC World Ranking List and top 35% of the rankings list. • Medallist in the IPTTC European TT Championships in events with a starting field of at least 8 competitors.
International	• Placed 9-12 at the Paralympic Games and finishing in the top 50% of the starting field. • Placed 9-12 in the IPTTC World Championships in Paralympic disciplines and events. • Top 10 in the end of year/season IPTTC World Ranking List and top 50% of the rankings list. • Top 4-8 in the IPTTC European TT Championships in Paralympic disciplines and events and top 25% of the starting field

Notes:

- Performance Validation to be determined by NGB which is specific to each individual athlete and listed in the 2025/2026 Performance Plan.
- Carding Criteria is based on individual performances.
- Ranking list refers to the published list on the 1st of December each year.

Paralympic Sports

Triathlon

Category	International Carding Scheme Criteria to be achieved in 2025
Podium	- Podium in the Paralympic Games. - Podium World Triathlon Para Grand Final within 3% of the winner. 2 Podiums in a World Triathlon Para Championship Series (WTPCS) within 3% of the winner.
World Class	- Top 5 in the Paralympic Games. - Top 5 in a World Triathlon Para Grand Final within 5% of the winner. 2 x Top 5 places in a World Triathlon Para Championship Series (WTPCS) within 5% of the winner. - Medallist at the European Para Championships within 5% of the winner.
International	- Top 8 at World Para Triathlon Championships within 6% of the podium. - Top 5 in a World Triathlon Para Championship Series (WTPCS) within 6% of the winner. - Top 5 place in European Para Championships within 6% of the winner.

Notes:

- Sport Ireland included Para Triathlon as an eligible sport under the International Carding Scheme for the first time for the allocation of funding in 2025. As such, the above criteria is published on a trial basis only and should be considered as provisional criteria. Sport Ireland reserves the right to adjust this criteria in consultation with Triathlon Ireland. Athletes who have achieved any of the standards outlined in this criteria are not guaranteed funding for 2026. Criteria should be read in conjunction with the “Assessment Process” outlined in the International Carding Scheme Guidelines document (Page 10).
- For Sport Ireland to consider applications, Performance Director endorsement, which is supported by a performance validation specific to each individual athlete is required.
- Criteria is strictly Paralympic Games classes only.