1. CHAMPIONSHIP APPEALS PROCEDURE

The purpose of the Championship Appeals Procedure is to enable dispute resolution around Team Selection decisions to be dealt with fairly, expeditiously and affordably, within Athletics Ireland without recourse to external legal procedures.

1.1 This document sets out Athletics Ireland Championship Selection Appeals Procedure (the 'Procedure') applying to international team selection decisions for the competitions published on Athletics Ireland HP website and all decisions to nominate an athlete to the Irish Team at an Olympic Games. This Procedure will remain in place until replaced or amended by Athletics Ireland from time to time.

1.2 Selections will take place in accordance with the selection policies published on the HP section of Athletics Ireland website (www.athleticsireland.ie) (each referred to as a 'Selection Policy'). Any athlete ('the Appellant Athlete') wishing to lodge an appeal under this Procedure must be fully familiar with the detailed provisions of the Selection Policy for the relevant competition.

1.3 This Procedure is intended to be accelerated to enable any challenges to be resolved as quickly and as reasonably as possible. Due to the nature of selection for major events, decisions often need to be taken close to the time of the event to which the selection relates. Accordingly, the aim of this Procedure is to return an Appeals decision as urgently as possible after an appeal has been submitted.

1.4 This Procedure is the only applicable appeals procedure and forms the entire agreement between each athlete (Appellant Athlete) and Athletics Ireland (together 'the Parties') as to how selection decisions are to be challenged. The Parties agree to submit any dispute, concerning any matter connected with or arising out of selection issues, to binding arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Procedure. The Parties agree that they will not commence, continue or maintain any legal challenge to any matter falling under the jurisdiction of this Procedure, or any decision made under this Procedure, before any court of law or other dispute resolution body.

2. Appeals Panel

The Athletics Ireland Appeals Panel will consist of a panel of six (6) members.

2.1 The Appeals Panel shall be composed of one (1) Chair of the Appeals Panel and five (5) members each approved by the Board of Athletics Ireland.

Chairperson	Pool Members:
Name: Gerry Dunne Email: gerry@obriendunne.com	Name: Iognáid G. Ó Muircheartaigh Name: Niall Moyna Name: Brian Dowling Name: Cyril Smyth Name: Derval O'Rourke

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No fewer than three (3) members of the Appeals Panel must declare that they have no conflict of interest in a particular appeal for the appeal to be heard. In exceptional circumstances if there are less than 3 members available for any one appeal, the board of Athletics Ireland will appoint an additional member(s) to the Appeals Panel.

4. Grounds for Appeal

4.1 The Championship Appeal Procedures shall only apply to the selection decisions and not to any grievances or grounds in relation to Athletics Ireland in general or an appeal against the published content of the Championship Selection Policy.

4.2 The Championship Appeals Procedure is provided on limited grounds and must not be seen as an opportunity to dispute the opinion of the Selection Panel where they have followed the proper procedure. In reaching their decision the Selection Panel are acting as experts and will exercise judgment and sole discretion.

4.3 The **Grounds for Appeal** upon which a Team Selection decision may be appealed are limited to the following:
- There has been an alleged failure by Selection Panel to follow or apply the relevant Selection Procedure and/or criteria (eg. there has been a procedural defect) set out in the applicable Selection Policy, and/or
- The Selection Panel and the decision for selection for the championship has been reached on the basis of an error of fact.

5. How to Appeal

5.1 This Championship Appeals Procedure is commenced when an athlete affected by a selection decision makes a formal written appeal via online form (the 'Notice of Appeal') to the Chair of Athletics Ireland Appeals Panel and the CEO. This must be done within twenty-four(24) hours of the team selections being announced on the Athletics Ireland website or communicated (sent by email) to the athlete, whichever is first. If the athlete fails to submit the Notice within the time limit set out in this Appeals Procedure s/he will automatically lose their right of Appeal under this Procedure, unless in the opinion of the Chairman (acting reasonably) that there was an exceptional circumstance or other good reasons for the submission to be made outside of the time limit.

5.1.1 The Notice of Appeal will be submitted to Chairperson of Appeals Panel and AAI CEO.

5.2 The Notice of Appeal Form will set out the grounds of the appeal which will include full details of the basis of the appeal including the precise manner in which the athlete alleges that the selection decisions have not been applied or followed (as per section 4 of the Grounds for Appeal). The Notice of Appeal should be as full as possible (including any supporting documentation) as it will form the basis of the remainder of this procedure.

6. Screening of Appeal

6.1 On receiving the Notice and grounds of an appeal, the Chair of the Appeals Panel will determine whether there are appropriate grounds for the appeal to proceed as set out in section 4.

6.2 The Chair of the Appeals Panel will determine in the first instance, if the appeal is denied on the basis of insufficient grounds, and the athlete will be notified of this decision by email, giving reasons. In the second instance, if the Chair decides there are sufficient grounds for an appeal an Appeal Hearing will be called.

7. Appeal Hearing Procedure

In such case the Chair of the Appeals Panel considers the Notice of Appeal was based on an alleged procedural defect or error of fact, the Appeals Panel will proceed by way of a documentary Appeal Hearing. The Appeal will be conducted based on the written Notice of Appeal submission of the Appellant.

7.1 If an Appeals Hearing is called the Chair of the Appeals Panel will contact the Selection Panel (the High Performance Director- a Selection Panel member) to inform them of the Appeal, provide them with a copy of the Notice of Appeal and request that the Selection Panel provides any response which the wish to make on behalf of the Selection Panel.

7.2 Appeal Hearing

The manner in which the Appeals Panel will meet is the decision of the Chair of the Appeals Panel.

7.3 The Appeal Hearing Panel will be comprised of three (3) individuals (one being the Chair of the Appeals Panel) drawn from a pool of five(5) who will have no significant relationship with the affected parties, will have had no involvement with the decision being appealed, and will be free from any other actual or perceived bias or conflict.

7.4 If the Chair of the Appeals Panel is unable to attend a hearing or declares a conflict of interest with a particular appeal, the Chair of the Appeals Panel will appoint a designate member of the Appeals Panel to Chair the meeting or portion thereof.

8 Appeal Decision

The decision of the Appeals Panel shall be final and binding and may not be appealed again. The Appeal Panel will seek to reach its conclusion as urgently as possible after the receipt of the Notice and will inform the Appellant by email (or such other method of communication as the Appeal Panel shall decide). The Appeal Panel will not give reasons for its decision and will simply communicate the decision.

8.1 The Appeals Panel may decide as follows:

- That the Selection Panels decision for selection be set aside as it was based on a procedural flaw or an error of fact and the matter of the athlete's selection be remitted for fresh consideration to the Selection Panel to re-consider the matter; or
- That the Selection Panels selection decision be upheld and the athlete's appeal be rejected.

8.2 The Appeals Panel may also make recommendations for the future revision and/or smoother execution of the selection and Appeals Process, which should be considered by Athletics Ireland and the Selection Panel.

9. Confidentiality of Proceedings and Communications of the Decision

9.1 Athletics Ireland and the Appellant are under an obligation of confidentiality in respect of any appeal under this Procedure. Save as permitted under this Selection Appeals Procedure none of these Parties will make any public statement or disclosure of the contents of the Notice of appeal or any other matter referred to by any of the parties during the course of these Proceedings.

9.2 Athletics Ireland will be entitled to publish the decision of the Appeal Panel where it upholds the appeal (or any element of it) in such manner and to such extent as is necessary to inform all properly interested and affected parties of the status of the selection decision previously published and the resulting position as to selection.