



Rugby League Ireland – International Team Selection Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the principles and processes governing the selection of players for Rugby League Ireland (RLI) international representative teams. It is intended to ensure that selection decisions are transparent, fair, performance-based, and appropriate to the competitive context of each fixture, while recognising the practical and strategic realities of international rugby league.

2. Scope

This policy applies to the selection of players for senior international fixtures, international qualifiers, friendly matches, development internationals, and other representative fixtures sanctioned by International Rugby League (IRL). It applies to all players considered eligible for selection under IRL eligibility regulations.

3. Selection Authority

Final selection authority for all international squads rests with the Head Coach, subject to RLI governance structures and IRL regulations. The Head Coach may be supported by assistant coaches, selectors, performance staff, and RLI officials, however such input is advisory in nature.

4. Context-Dependent Selection

RLI recognises that international selection is situationally dependent. Squad composition may vary depending on the nature of the fixture, its importance within an international cycle, player availability, welfare considerations, development objectives, and logistical constraints. As a result, squads may include full senior selections, senior-light squads, development-focused squads, U19 players, or mixed squads.

5. Selection Criteria

When selecting squads and teams, the Head Coach may consider factors including current form and performance, positional requirements, fitness and availability, tactical suitability, international experience, training standards, and long-term player development considerations. No single factor guarantees selection.

6. Development and Pathway Considerations

Selection decisions may support the exposure of younger or emerging players to international environments, succession planning, and the long-term development of the national programme. Such decisions are made at the discretion of the Head Coach.

7. Eligibility and Compliance

All selected players must meet IRL eligibility regulations and comply with RLI policies and codes of conduct. Eligibility compliance does not guarantee selection.

8. Communication of Selection Decisions

Selection decisions will be communicated through official RLI channels. RLI is not obliged to provide individual feedback on selection or non-selection. Selection decisions are not subject to appeal unless a procedural error is identified.

9. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed periodically by RLI to ensure continued compliance with IRL requirements and alignment with operational realities.

10. Key Principle

International selection is performance-led, context-dependent, and ultimately the responsibility of the Head Coach.