



PRESS RELEASE

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Team Ireland win 24 medals at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships

Ireland's top Junior Lifesavers have won 5 gold medals, 10 silver medals and 9 bronze medals at the European Junior Lifesaving Championships. Ireland placed 6th in Europe in the overall combined pool and beach competitions.

The European Junior Lifesaving Championships were held in Gorzow Wielkopolski and Meidzyzdroje, Poland from 20th August – 27th August.

Medal Winners Were:

Gold:

- Leana Liddane won Gold in the Swim Race
- Oisín O'Grady and Ferdia Hayes won Gold in the Board Rescue
- Amy Noble and Leana Liddane won Gold in the Board Rescue

Silver:

- Leana Liddane won Silver in the Board Race
- Leana Liddane won Silver in the Oceanman/Oceanwoman
- Amy Noble, Katie Cotter, Elin Blake and Lily Sheehy won Silver in the Tube Rescue
- Amy Noble, Jamie Flynn, Leana Liddane and Finn Harris won Silver in the Mixed Ocean Relay

Bronze:

- Ferdia Hayes won Bronze in the Oceanman/Oceanwoman
- Jamie Flynn, Charlie Brennan, Oisín O'Grady and Cailim Van Dam won bronze in the Tube Rescue
- Oisín O'Grady, Finn Harris, Jamie Flynn and Cailim Van Dam won bronze in the Beach Sprint Relay

Team Members:

- Leana Liddane - Clare
- Elin Blake - Clare
- Lily Sheehy - Wicklow
- Amy Noble - Wicklow
- Saoirse Dolan - Wicklow
- Katie Cotter - Cork
- Oisín O'Grady - Clare
- Ferdia Hayes - Clare
- Cailim Van Dam - Cork
- Finn Harris - Wicklow
- Charlie Brennan - Wicklow
- Jamie Flynn - Waterford

"We are very proud of the lifesavers who competed against their European counterparts and represented Ireland with such distinction", commented Simon McGarrigle, Chair of the Water Safety Ireland Sport Commission. "Ireland has a long tradition of competing in international lifesaving

competition and this year's haul of 24 medals, alongside a strong sixth place team finish is a testament to all the hard work by the lifesavers and coaches all year round".

The championships simulate real-life rescue situations that Lifeguards can expect to encounter and pits the best Junior Lifesavers from around Europe against each other in a series of gruelling water rescue scenarios in both pool and beach environments. Many of Team Ireland's Junior Lifesavers will further hone their skills this weekend by taking to the waters for their perspective county teams at the National Junior Open Water Championships in Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo (Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd September).

The European Junior Lifesaving Championships is an annual event open to those aged 18 and under and it's organised under the aegis of International Lifesaving Europe (ILSE) which controls the sport worldwide. The sport of lifesaving exists to encourage lifesavers to maintain the skills, drills and physical fitness required for performing their lifesaving duties. The sport is truly multi-disciplined and takes place in the pool, on the beach and in the ocean. It has close ties to swimming, athletics, kayaking, rowing, surfing and power boating and is based on the equipment and skills that lifeguards use to perform lifesaving rescues.

Junior lifesaving competitors typically become top Lifeguards, patrolling beaches and pools in Ireland and abroad. It is a special sport such that it gives so much back to the community.

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Upcoming Events:

- National Nipper Surf Lifesaving Championships - Saturday 2nd September - Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo
- National Junior Surf Lifesaving Championships - Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd September - Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo
- National Senior (16+) Surf Lifesaving Championships - Saturday 9th September - Youghal, Co. Cork
- National Masters (30+) Surf Lifesaving Championships - Saturday 9th September - Youghal, Co. Cork
- European Open (seniors) Lifesaving Championships - 16th - 21st September, Belgium.

Additional notes / Event descriptions:

Manikin Relay: Four competitors in turn carry a manikin approximately 25m each.

Medley Relay: With a dive start on an acoustic signal, the first competitor swims 50m freestyle without fins. With a dive start after the first competitor touches the wall, the second competitor swims 50m Freestyle with fins. With a dive start after the second competitor touches the wall, the third competitor swims 50m freestyle towing a rescue tube. The third competitor touches the turning edge. The fourth competitor is in the water wearing fins with at least one hand on the turning edge or starting block. The fourth competitor takes the harness of the rescue tube and the third competitor to a fourth competitor in the water wearing fins with at least one hand on the turning edge or starting block. The third competitor, playing the role of “victim,” holds the rescue tube with both hands, while being towed 50m by the fourth competitor to the finish.

Line Throw: In this timed event, the competitor throws an unweighted line to a fellow team member located in the water located 12m distant and pulls this “victim” back to the finish edge of the pool.

Surf Race: With a running start into the surf from the start line on the beach, competitors swim around the 400m course designated by buoys, returning to shore to finish between the finish flags on the beach.

Board Race: Competitors stand on or behind the start line on the beach with their boards 1.5m apart. At the start signal, competitors enter the water, launch their boards, and paddle the course marked by buoys, return to the beach, and run to cross the finish line.

Ski Race: On the starting signal, competitors paddle their skis around the course marked by buoys and return to finish when any part of the ski crosses the in-water finish line – ridden, gripped, or carried by the competitor.

Oceanman: Competitors cover a 1200m course that includes a swim leg, a board leg, a ski leg, and a beach sprint finish.

Board Rescue: In this event, 1 member of the team swims approximately 120m to a designated buoy, signals, and waits to be picked up by the second member of the team on a board. They both paddle to shore and cross the finish line on the beach with the board.

Tube Rescue: Four competitors from each team participate in this event: a “victim,” one rescue tube swimmer, and two rescuers. The victim swims approximately 120 m to a designated buoy, signals, and waits to be rescued by the rescue tube swimmer. As they return to shore, the remaining two rescuers enter the water to assist. The event finishes when the first competitor in a team crosses the finish line while in contact with the victim.

Taplin: Teams of 4 competitors (1 swimmer, 1 board paddler, 1 surf ski paddler, and 1 runner) cover the course in a sequence of legs determined by draw at the start of each competition.

Flags: From a prone starting position on the beach, competitors rise, turn and race to obtain a baton (beach flag) buried upright in the sand approximately 20m away. Since there are always fewer batons than competitors, those who fail to obtain a baton are eliminated.

Run Swim Run: From the start line, competitors run to pass around the turning flag and enter the water to swim out to and around the buoys. Competitors swim back to the beach to again run round the turning flag before running to the finish line.

Simulated Emergency Response Competition (SERC): The Simulated Emergency Response Competition tests the initiative, judgment, knowledge, and abilities of 4 lifesavers who, acting as a team, apply lifesaving skills in a simulated emergency situation unknown to them prior to the start. This competition is judged within a 2-minute time limit. All teams respond to the identical situation and are evaluated by the same judges.