



## **Job Opportunity: Head Coach**

Irish Squash is the National Governing Body for Squash on the island of Ireland. The organisation has experienced significant growth over the past year with the appointment of the sport's first CEO and an increase in staff numbers from two full-time to three full-time and four part-time staff within the past 12 months. The number of affiliated clubs, members, coaches, tournaments, and leagues has all increased significantly.

The inclusion of squash in the LA 2028 Olympics has injected new energy and focused attention on developing a world-class high-performance programme to nurture talent and provide players with the necessary support to compete at European, World and Olympic level. Irish squash players have reached the pinnacle of the sport and there is a proud history of Irish players competing at the highest levels of the game.

Irish Squash is seeking to appoint a Head Coach to oversee the high-performance programme, deliver upon the High Performance Strategy 2025–2028, and fully realise the potential within the Irish high-performance pathway.

The position is initially offered on a 12-month fixed-term contract, with the possibility of an extension and expansion of the role.

### **Role**

The successful candidate will work with the CEO to deliver the High Performance Strategy 2025-2028 and the High Performance elements of the Irish Squash Connecting the Dots 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. A key aspect of this plan is the establishment of professional structures and systems targeting European, World, and Olympic success. The Head Coach is responsible for taking a senior management role for all coaches in the High Performance Unit and providing high-performance coaching services to nationally identified players that operate within our programmes across all age groups.

### **Reporting Structure**

The Head Coach will report to the CEO and will lead the High Performance Unit, managing contracted coaches and service providers. The Head Coach will liaise with the High Performance Working Group, whose role is to provide high-level strategic support to the High Performance Programme.

### **Key Responsibilities**

- In conjunction with the CEO, lead and manage the High Performance Unit and put in place the structures and systems required to deliver on agreed targets.
- Line management of contracted coaches and service providers within the High Performance Unit.

- Create and run an effective coaching programme for high-performance players and teams so that they can compete successfully at the highest level. This includes developing appropriate annual training programmes covering pre-season as well as competitive season programmes.
- Develop the player pathway, nurturing young players with potential to compete at an elite level.
- Coordinate and drive the delivery of performance support services (sports science, sports medicine, and strength and conditioning).
- Liaison with High Performance Unit stakeholders, including Sport Ireland, Sport Northern Ireland, and the Olympic Federation of Ireland, ensuring compliance with funding/partnership terms and further developing positive working relationships to benefit players.
- Develop and refine policies and procedures as required, which may include selection, team management, coaching practice, athlete agreements, and allocation of funding and resources.
- Ensure a high standard of delivery across all High Performance Unit operations, including squad training sessions, travel, preparation, and participation in international competitions.
- In conjunction with the CEO and Finance Officer, contribute to the budgeting process and ensure effective management of the High Performance Unit budget.
- Undertake various administrative tasks related to the role, working with office-based staff on the logistics associated with High Performance Programme delivery.
- Elevate standards within the High Performance Unit reflective of a high performance programme targeting Olympic qualification.
- Disseminate best practices and ways of working among national, provincial and club coaches to positively influence the development of young players across the island of Ireland.

### **Essential Requirements**

- Be eligible and willing to work in Ireland, with international travel required.
- Full unrestricted driver's licence and sound driving record.

### **Essential Skills and Experience**

- Significant experience in a similar or comparable role.
- Proven success in coaching and supporting players to compete at an elite level in squash.

- Relevant qualification in sport/exercise science/coaching, sports management, or a related discipline is desirable; or equivalent significant workplace experience.
- Experience in programme management involving players, coaches, and service providers.
- Excellent organisational, administrative, and time-management skills.
- Excellent leadership, communication, player management, and motivation skills.
- Major event experience at European, World or Olympic level is desirable

### **Further Information**

- Part-time/Sessional rate to be agreed, approximately equivalent to 2.5 days per week
- The Irish Squash Office is located on the Sport Ireland Campus, Dublin 15. Flexible and remote working arrangements are available.
- 12-month Fixed-Term Contract (with the possibility of an extension and expansion to the role subject to funding).
- Salary is dependent on experience.

### **The appointment will be made subject to satisfactory:**

- Garda Vetting/Access NI Checks.
- Reference Checking Procedures.

### **How to Apply?**

Applications must be sent by email with the subject line: [ATTN: Head Coach]. When applying by email, please include a letter of introduction detailing your skills and experience relevant to the role and your Curriculum Vitae outlining your skills and work experience. Please send these materials no later than the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 to Irish Squash at [ceo@irishsquash.com](mailto:ceo@irishsquash.com).

*Irish Squash is an equal opportunity employer, celebrating diversity and championing inclusivity. If you require any reasonable accommodations to assist you in participating in the employee selection process, please simply let us know.*