

# Katie Taylor

## Katie's Early Years

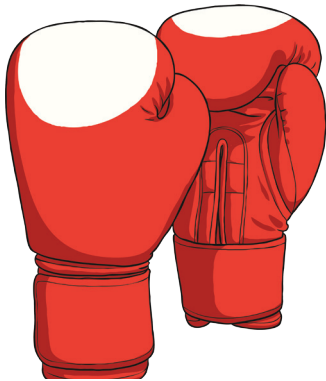
Katie was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1986 and she grew up in Bray, Co. Wicklow. She grew up with her mother and father (Bridget and Peter Taylor) and her three older siblings. Katie enjoyed many sports including boxing. Throughout her childhood and teenage years, Katie took part in soccer, Gaelic and camogie with her local clubs: Bray Emmets and Fergal Ógs. She also enjoyed athletics and was a member of her local running club, Bray Runners. Katie showed a strong interest and passion for sport in her life.



## Boxing

Katie first began boxing at the age of 11 in 1998. Her father, Peter Taylor, was an Irish Senior Light Heavyweight Champion boxer. Peter was originally an electrician, who then gave up his job to work full-time as his daughter's coach.

She competed in several competitions in Ireland and across Europe: International Norway Box Cup 2004; the International 'Italia' Women's Tournament, Rome 2004; the Women's European Boxing Championships; and the 20<sup>th</sup> Ahmet Comert Cup tournament in April 2005, Istanbul, Turkey.



## Continued Success

In May 2005, Katie became the first Irish woman to win a gold medal at the Senior European Championships. Katie competed against Eva Wahlstrom, Lucie Bertaud and Gulsum Tatar. Katie won the gold medal by 29 points to 28 points (punches thrown).

Katie was awarded the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Female Boxer of the Year for 2008. In the same year, she was also named as the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sportswoman of the Year for 2008.

## Summer Olympics 2012

Katie Taylor qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. This was the first time that female boxers could compete at the Olympics. Katie received huge support from her fans at the Olympics, which provided her with a great deal of motivation.

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# Katie Taylor

She eventually reached the semi-finals to fight Mavzunz Chorieva. Katie used her combination of quick moves, knowledge of skills and concentration to win this fight. She won 17 – 9 in the semi-final. As a result, she was able to book her place in the final! With her father by the ringside and thousands of Irish fans looking on from big screens in her hometown, Katie defeated Sofya Ochigava, a Russian boxer, 10 – 8 in the final bout. This earned Katie her first Olympic Gold Medal and she also became the first Olympic female lightweight champion!



## Did You Know?

Katie has played for Ireland's senior women's football team. She scored the opening goal of Ireland's big match against Hungary in 2007.

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# Katie Taylor Questions

1. When was Katie Taylor born?

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2. What sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teen years?

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3. Which family member influenced her decision to focus on boxing?

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4. In May 2005 Katie was the first \_\_\_\_\_ to win a \_\_\_\_\_ at the Senior European Championships.

5. Where were the 2012 summer Olympics held?

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6. What medal did Katie win in the London Olympics? Who did she defeat in her final match?

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7. True or false: Katie has also played for the Republic of Ireland Ladies soccer team.

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8. What did you find most interesting/surprising about Katie Taylor?

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# Katie Taylor Answers

1. When was Katie Taylor born?  
**She was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1986.**
2. What sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teen years?  
**Katie competed in soccer, Gaelic football, running, camogie and boxing.**
3. Which family member influenced her decision to focus on boxing?  
**Her father Peter Taylor influenced her decision to focus her attention on boxing. He was an electrician.**
4. In May 2005 Katie was the first Irish woman to win a gold medal at the Senior European Championships.
5. Where were the 2012 summer Olympics held?  
**The 2012 Summer Olympics were held in London.**
6. What medal did Katie win in the London Olympics? Who did she defeat in her final match?  
**Katie won the gold medal and she defeated Sofya Ochigava in the final.**
7. True or false: Katie has also played for the Republic of Ireland Ladies soccer team.  
**True.**
8. What did you find most interesting/surprising about Katie Taylor?  
**Answers will vary.**



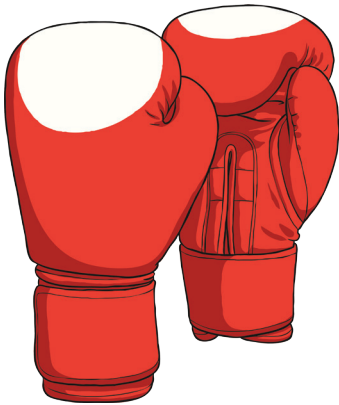
# Katie Taylor

Katie was born on 2nd July 1986 and grew up in Bray, Co. Wicklow, where she lived with her mother and father (Bridget and Peter Taylor) and her three older siblings.

Katie's love for sport was not only focused on boxing. Throughout her childhood and teenage years, Katie took part in soccer, Gaelic and camogie with her local clubs: Bray Emmets and Fergal Ógs. Katie also enjoyed athletics and she was a member of her local running club, Bray Runners. Katie clearly showed a strong interest and passion for sport in her life. From a young age, she impressed many with her ability to apply her skills and strengths to a variety of sports.



Katie first began boxing at the age of 11 in 1998. Although Katie had passion for most sports, she decided to set her goals on one in particular: boxing. This decision was heavily influenced by her father, Peter Taylor, who had been an Irish Senior Light Heavyweight Champion boxer. Peter was working as an electrician, who then dedicated himself full-time to his daughter Katie's boxing career as her coach.



Katie first made boxing history on 31st October 2001 – at the age of just 15 – and this fight was the first officially sanctioned women's bout ever held in Ireland. It took place in the National Stadium in Dublin. In this fight, she competed against Alanna Audley, another female boxer from Belfast. Over the course of three ninety-second rounds, Katie emerged the winner.

In the following years, Katie continued to impress and astonish the boxing and sporting world with several notable successes. She competed in several competitions in Ireland and across Europe in the following tournaments: International Norway Box Cup, where she won and also earned 'Best Boxer of the Tournament Award 2004'; the International 'Italia' Women's Tournament, Rome 2004, where she also won and earned another title as 'Best Boxer of the Tournament'; The Women's European Boxing Championships (Ireland's only representative); and the 20th Ahmet Comert Cup tournament in April 2005, Istanbul, Turkey. This success persuaded Katie to pursue a full-time career in boxing.

In May 2005, Katie made Irish history once again when she became the first Irish

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# Katie Taylor

woman to win a gold medal at the Senior European Championships. This event was held in Norway and Katie competed against Eva Wahlstrom, a Finnish fighter, Lucie Bertaud, a French boxer and Gulsum Tatar, a Turkish fighter. Katie won the gold medal by the skin of her teeth as the score at the end of her match with Tatar was 12 – 12; however, Katie won 29 – 28 based on the punches thrown.



After several continued international successes throughout 2006, 2007 and 2008, Katie was awarded the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Female Boxer of the Year for 2008. In the same year, she was also named as the Irish Times/Irish Sports Council Sportswoman of the Year for 2008.

Katie Taylor qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. This was the first time that women's boxing was included as an Olympic event. Katie's first appearance was on 6th August fighting against Natasha Jones, a British boxer. Katie won 26 – 15, which gave her a place in the semi-final. Katie received a huge congratulations and support from her fans at the Olympics, which was truly magical and motivating for her.

Two days later, she competed in the semi-final against Mavzunz Chorieva, a boxer from Tajikistan. Again, Katie used her combination of quick moves, knowledge of skills and concentration to achieve victory. She won 17 – 9 in the semi-final; she had earned a place in the Olympic final! With her father by the ringside, as well as thousands of Irish fans gazing in anticipation at big screens in her hometown of Bray and throughout the country, Katie defeated Sofya Ochigava, a Russian boxer, in the final bout by 10 – 8. This earned Katie her first Olympic Gold Medal and

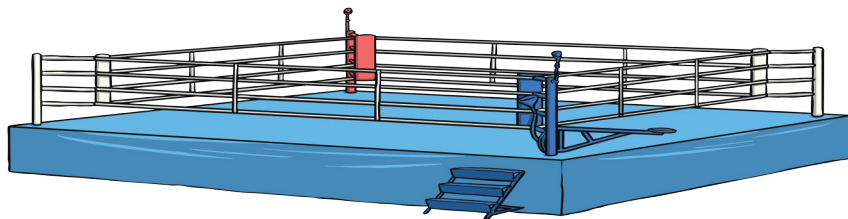


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# Katie Taylor

she also became the first ever Olympic female lightweight champion!

Katie has been an inspirational role model for women's boxing in Ireland: not only is she a national, international and world gold medal winner, she is also a kind, motivated and determined young woman.



## Did You Know?

Katie has played for Ireland's senior women's football team. She scored the opening goal of Ireland's big match against Hungary in 2007.

# Katie Taylor Questions

1. When was Katie Taylor born?  

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2. What sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teen years?  

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3. Which family member influenced her decision to focus on boxing?  

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4. Where and when did the first ever officially sanctioned women's bout occur in Ireland?  

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5. Other than winner of the match, what other 'Title' did Katie earn in the International Norway Box Cup and the International Italia Women's Tournament?  

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6. Why was May 2005 an important time in Irish sporting history?  

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7. Where was the 2012 Summer Olympics held? What was different about these Olympics?  

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8. What medal did Katie win in the London Olympics? Who did she beat in her final match?  

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9. What other sport has Katie represented Ireland in?  

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10. Which attributes have made Katie a successful boxer?  

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# Katie Taylor Answers

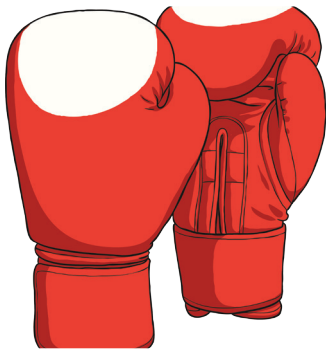
1. When was Katie Taylor born?  
**She was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1986.**
2. What sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teen years?  
**Katie competed in soccer, Gaelic football, running, camogie and boxing during her childhood and teenage years.**
3. Which family member influenced her decision to focus on boxing?  
**Her father, Peter Taylor, influenced her decision to focus her attention on boxing. Before he became her full time coach, he was an electrician.**
4. Where and when did the first ever officially sanctioned women's bout occur in Ireland?  
**The first ever officially sanctioned women's bout was held on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2001. It was held in the National Stadium in Dublin.**
5. Other than winner of the match, what other 'Title' did Katie earn in the International Norway Box Cup and the International Italia Women's Tournament?  
**Katie earned the International Norway Box Cup, International Italia Women's Tournament (Katie also won this title when she fought against Gulsum Tatar in the European Championships).**
6. Why was May 2005 an important time in Irish sporting history?  
**May 2005 was an important time in Irish sporting history because an Irish woman won a gold medal at the Senior European Championships for the first time.**
7. Where was the 2012 Summer Olympics held? What was different about these Olympics?  
**London. It was the first year that women's boxing was being considered for inclusion.**
8. What medal did Katie win in the London Olympics? Who did she beat in her final match?  
**She won a gold medal after beating Sofya Ochigava in the final match.**
9. What other sport has Katie represented Ireland in?  
**Katie has represented Ireland in football.**
10. Which attributes have made Katie a successful boxer?  
**Answers will vary but could include: Katie is a successful boxer because she has a combination of quick moves, knowledge of skills and concentration to achieve victory.**

# Katie Taylor

Born on 2nd July 1986, Katie Taylor grew up in Bray, Co. Wicklow with her mother and father (Bridget and Peter Taylor) and her three older siblings. From an early age, her sporting talent was noticeable; however, Katie's was not only a talented boxer but she also played football for Bray Emmets and Fergal Ógs. She also enjoyed athletics and was a member of her local running club Bray Runners. Katie clearly showed a strong interest and passion for sport in her life.



Katie first began boxing at the age of 11 in 1998. This decision was strongly influenced by her father, Peter Taylor, who himself was an Irish Senior Light Heavyweight Champion boxer. Peter was an electrician; persuaded by his daughter's abilities, he decided to change careers and he became Katie's full-time coach. On 31st October 2001, history was made when Katie, aged 15 at the time, took part in the first officially sanctioned women's bout ever held in Ireland. After a brief fight, which consisted of three ninety-second rounds, she defeated the Belfast boxer Alanna Audley. This was the beginning of a series of impressive successes.



In May 2005, Katie made Irish history once again when she became the first Irish woman to win a gold medal at the Senior European Championships. This event was held in Norway and Katie competed against Eva Wahlstrom, Lucie Bertaud and Gulsum Tatar. Katie won the gold medal by the skin of her teeth as the score at the end of her match with Tatar was 12 – 12; however, Katie won by a very close margin (29 – 28).

In the following years, Katie continued to capture the attention of the boxing and sporting world with several notable successes. She competed in numerous competitions in Ireland and across Europe in the following tournaments: International Norway Box Cup, where she won and also earned 'Best Boxer of the Tournament 2004'; the International 'Italia' Women's Tournament, Rome 2004, where she also won and also earned another title as 'Best Boxer of the Tournament'; The Women's European Boxing Championships (Ireland's only representative); and the 20th Ahmet Comert Cup tournament in April 2005, Istanbul, Turkey. After

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# Katie Taylor

achieving these notable successes, Katie was encouraged to pursue a full-time career in boxing.

After several continued international successes throughout 2006, 2007 and 2008, Katie was awarded the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Female Boxer of the Year for 2008.



In 2012, Katie achieved her most notable success. She had qualified for the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, which was a significant event due to it being the first occasion that women's boxing was going to be included as a discipline. On 6th August, Katie made her first appearance fighting against Natasha Jones, a British boxer. Katie won 26 – 15, which gave her a place in the semi-final. Katie was given a great deal of support and motivation from her fans at the Olympics, which was truly magical and motivating for her.

Two days later, she competed in the semi-final against Mavzunz Chorieva, a boxer from Tajikistan. Using a combination of quick moves, knowledge of skills and



concentration, Katie was able to achieve a victory. She won 17 – 9 in the semi-final: she had earned a place in the Olympic final! With her father by the ringside, as well as thousands of Irish fans gazing in anticipation at big screens in her hometown of Bray and throughout the country, Katie defeated Sofya Ochigava, a Russian boxer, in the final bout

by 10 – 8. This earned Katie her first Olympic Gold Medal and she also became the first ever Olympic female lightweight champion!

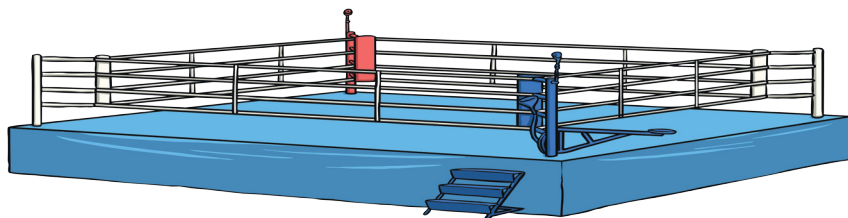
## Did You Know?

Katie has played for Ireland's senior women's football team. She scored the opening goal of Ireland's big match against Hungary in 2007.

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# Katie Taylor

Katie has been an inspirational role model for women's boxing in Ireland. Not only is she a national, international and world gold medal winner, she is also an ambitious and determined young woman.



# Katie Taylor Questions

1. In which sport does Katie Taylor compete?  

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2. What other sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teenage years?  

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3. Which family member mostly influenced her decision to focus her attention on boxing?  
Why do you think this is?  

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4. What job did Katie's father have before becoming her full-time coach?  

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5. Where and when did the first ever officially sanctioned women's bout occur in Ireland?  

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6. In your opinion, why was this the first one?  

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7. In which competitions did Katie earn the title 'Best Boxer in the Tournament'?  

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8. Why was May 2005 an important time in Irish sporting history?  

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9. Which combination of skills enabled Katie to win her semi-final bout in 2012?  

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10. Where were the 2012 summer Olympics held? What was different about these Olympics compared to other years?  

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# Katie Taylor Answers

1. In which sport does Katie Taylor compete?  
Katie Taylor competes in boxing.
2. What other sports did Katie compete in during her childhood and teenage years?  
Katie competed in soccer, Gaelic football, running and camogie.
3. Which family member mostly influenced her decision to focus her attention on boxing?  
Why do you think this is?  
Answers will vary, for example: Her father, Peter Taylor, mostly influenced her decision to focus her attention on boxing. When he was younger, he was a boxer so he would be able to provide advice.
4. What job did Katie's father have before becoming her full-time coach?  
He was an electrician.
5. Where and when did the first ever officially sanctioned women's bout occur in Ireland?  
The first ever officially sanctioned women's bout occurred at the National Stadium in Dublin on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2001.
6. In your opinion, why was this the first one?  
Answers will vary but may include: Women's boxing was not as popular in the past/men mostly boxed at competition level before this.
7. In which competitions did Katie earn the title 'Best Boxer in the Tournament'?  
Katie earned the title 'Best Boxer in the Tournament' in the International Norway Box Cup, International Italia Women's Tournament and European Gold Medal against Tatar.
8. Why was May 2005 an important time in Irish sporting history?  
May 2005 was an important time in Irish sporting history because it was the first time an Irish woman won a gold medal at the Senior European Championships.
9. Which combination of skills enabled Katie to win her semi-final bout in 2012?  
Katie used a combination of quick moves, knowledge of skills and concentration to win her semi-final bout in 2012.
10. Where were the 2012 summer Olympics held? What was different about these Olympics compared to other years?  
The 2012 Summer Olympics were held in London, which was a significant event due to it being the first occasion that women's boxing was going to be included as a discipline.