

# Katie Taylor

## Katie's Early Years

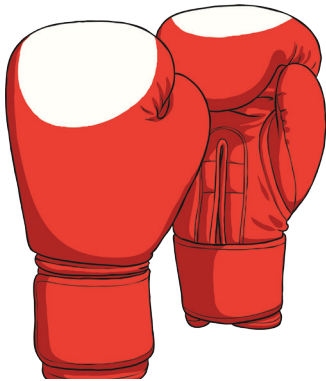
Katie was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1986 and she grew up in Bray, Co. Wicklow. She grew up with her mother and father (Bridget and Peter Taylor) and her three older siblings. Katie enjoyed many sports including boxing. Throughout her childhood and teenage years, Katie took part in soccer, Gaelic and 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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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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