

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY

2026 WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

KUJAWY POMORZE, POLAND

20 – 22 March 2026

Version of 5 October 2025



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1 Overview

- 1.1 This selection policy (**Selection Policy**) sets out the basis on which Australian Athletics will select its representative team (**Team**) for the World Indoor Championships in Kujawy Pomorze, Poland, on 20-22 March 2026 (the **Competition**).
- 1.2 This Selection Policy constitutes the Selection Criteria (as defined in the Australian Athletics By-Laws) in respect of the selection of individuals or teams for the Competition.
- 1.3 The Chair of Selectors is the sole authority authorized to provide guidance on the content of this Selection Policy. Any advice regarding selection matters received from other Australian Athletics personnel or external parties, whether verbal or written, will not be considered valid.

2 Selection Policy Aims

The focus for High Performance Athletics in Australia in 2026 is on the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, with that in mind the selection policy for the Indoor Championships should not detract from that focus for 2026.

Australian Athletics aims to facilitate the following outcomes through the selection of athletes for the World Indoor Championships:

- 2.1 Send the most competitive possible team to represent Australia at the 2026 World Indoor Championships while not compromising the performance of the 2026 Commonwealth Games team; and
- 2.2 Select only athletes and relay teams with the realistic potential to win a medal and be highly competitive at the 2026 World Indoor Championships; and
- 2.3 Select athletes who are expected to attend the 2026 Commonwealth Games; and
- 2.4 Select athletes who are considered potential medallists or top 8 athletes in future World Athletics Championships and Olympic Games.
- 2.5 Additionally, Australian Athletics will select those who meet these aims considering:
 - 2.5.1 The rules related to the Competition for qualification and entry purposes and;
 - 2.5.2 Maximum numbers of athletes allowed per nation.
- 2.6 In all cases, the Selection Committee will consider each athlete's competitive record and demonstrated ability to plan the peak of their season at a major championship. Those athletes who, when given international opportunities, repeatedly fail to meet or exceed the levels they achieved to gain selection cannot assume to be selected.
- 2.7 It is the expectation of Australian Athletics that athletes will compete at the National Championships for their event and support the Australian Athletics Summer Series before and following the Indoor Championships and competing in the World Indoor Championships in itself will not be grounds for exemption from competing at the National Championships.



3 Athlete Eligibility Criteria

Only those athletes who qualify according to this clause will be eligible for selection in the Team:

- 3.1 Be a citizen of Australia. For the avoidance of doubt, Australian permanent residency is not acceptable. Athletes must hold or be eligible for an Australian passport;
- 3.2 Be eligible to be selected as an athlete in a representative team pursuant to the Australian Athletics By-Laws;
- 3.3 Be a registered member of Australian Athletics through their Member Association;
- 3.4 Satisfy all participation/eligibility rules of the governing body for the Competition;
- 3.5 Meet the minimum age of eligibility as determined by the governing body for the Competition;
- 3.6 Complete and submit the online nomination form (which may be found at www.athletics.com.au) for each event discipline in which the athlete is seeking selection. The form must be submitted no later than 5:00pm 31 January 2026. The date for submission of the nomination form may be extended at the discretion of the Chair of the Selection Committee on the recommendation of the General Manager - High Performance;
- 3.7 Be and remain in 'good standing' with Australian Athletics and at all times comply with Australian Athletics Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves, their sport or the Team into disrepute. Australian Athletics may consider past and present behavioural conduct in determining whether an athlete is in 'good standing'. If Australian Athletics determines that an athlete is not in 'good standing', Australian Athletics may in its absolute discretion choose not to select that athlete;
- 3.8 Commit to signing and/or abiding by any Australian Athletics Team Agreement, Code of Conduct and other relevant Australian Athletics policies and procedures as reasonably directed from time to time;
- 3.9 Commit to completing all reasonably expected education courses, including but not limited to anti-doping e-learning modules level 1 & 2, the National Integrity in Sport Unit's "Keep Sport Honest" e-learning (anti-match fixing) module and any other integrity education requirements Australian Athletics sets from time to time;
- 3.10 Agree to comply with any pre-Championships preparation policy that will be published by Australian Athletics General Manager - High Performance, including travel plan and travel arrangements outlined for the Competition. This policy may include the requirement to prove form and fitness to compete in the Competition; and
- 3.11 Are eligible to compete as determined by World Athletics including the qualification rules; and

- 3.12 Have achieved one (or more) of the performance standards below:
- 3.12.1 Met the Entry Standard for the competition set by World Athletics and be qualified for the 2026 Commonwealth Games (in the same/similar event) by having met the 2026 Commonwealth Games qualification standard within the qualification period; or
 - 3.12.2 Be invited in the heptathlon or pentathlon and be qualified for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in the heptathlon or decathlon by having met the 2026 Commonwealth Games qualification standard within the qualification period; or
 - 3.12.3 Qualify for the Competition via the top performances list and be qualified for the 2026 Commonwealth Games by having met the 2026 Commonwealth Games qualification standard within the qualification period; or
 - 3.12.4 Qualify for the Competition via the Entry Standard or the top performances list and be within the target number for the Championships (if less than 20) or top 20 of that list as at the closing date of qualification (8 March 2026). Not applicable in combined events where it is invitation only.
 - 3.12.5 Be selected as a member of any relay team which is selected following this policy.
- 3.13 The standards and rules of the governing body applicable to the Competition can be found in the attachment and in the regulations for the competition which are found at C1.2 - World Athletics Series Regulations.

4 Selection Procedure

- 4.1 Team Size: Pursuant to the rules of the governing body applicable to this Competition, Australian Athletics may select:
 - 4.1.1 Up to two (2) athletes per individual event, except in an event where an Australian athlete has been offered a Wild Card Australian Athletics may select up to three (3) athletes in that event (as allowed for by World Athletics);
 - 4.1.2 Australian Athletics may select a relay team(s) where the selectors believe it may be of benefit to the development of the relay team(s) and the team has shown it is currently on track to be ranked in the top 20 for qualification for the 2026 World Relays. Where selected, there will not be more than five athletes selected for a relay team.
- 4.2 Australian Athletics will consider athletes for selection under this Selection Policy who have met the eligibility at 3 above.
- 4.3 An eligible athlete may compete in an unlimited number of events as long as they have been accepted by World Athletics and have been selected for each of the events in accordance with this Selection Policy.
- 4.4 Special conditions:
 - 4.4.1 Athletes can only compete at the World Indoor Championships if invited by World Athletics and if Australian Athletics accepts the invitation. Australian Athletics is under no obligation to accept the invitation of any particular athlete.
 - 4.4.2 Further, and for the avoidance of doubt, if World Athletics amends its qualification rules in any way, that may impact this Policy;
 - 4.4.3 Australian Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy and will provide as much notice as practical to affected people.
- 4.5 Australian Athletics, and this policy, is bound by the Qualification System, Entry Standards and Qualification Periods as defined by World Athletics in their rules for the Competition. These standards and periods are available at the World Athletics site for the Competition and attached as at 30 September 2025.
- 4.6 Official Performance:
 - 4.6.1 All performances must be achieved during official competitions which must be sanctioned by World Athletics. A complete list of [sanctioned competitions is available online](#).
 - 4.6.2 All performances accepted by World Athletics and appear in World Athletics lists as valid performances will be accepted by Australian Athletics.

4.7 Selection

- 4.7.1 Subject to the rules of the governing body of the Competition relating to the number of athletes who may be selected for each event, the Selection Committee may exercise discretion to select eligible athletes to the Team. This discretion will be exercised in line with the Aims of this Policy (Section 2). This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised.
- 4.7.2 All athletes meeting all eligibility requirements set out in section 3 of this Selection Policy are eligible to be selected. To provide guidance should any prioritisation or eligible athletes be required then consideration should be given to the following:
- The Aims of this Policy;
 - Achievement of the Qualification Standard for the Competition;
 - Achievement of the Qualification Standard for the 2026 Commonwealth Games;
 - Previous championships record which may include any World Athletics Championships or Olympic Games;
 - Repeat performances at or near the standard;
 - Performances throughout and commitment to the Australian Domestic Season;
 - Current form and fitness.
- 4.7.3 Without limiting its discretion, the Selection Committee, in consultation with the General Manager - High Performance, may consider any factor, or combination of factors that in its opinion is relevant for consideration when selecting athletes for the Team.
- 4.7.4 In all cases, the Selection Committee will consider each athlete's competitive record and demonstrated ability to plan the peak of their season at a major championship.
- 4.8 Selection Meetings will be held in the week after the close of the qualifying period for the Competition.

5 Further Obligations after Selection

Athletes selected in the Team for the Competition pursuant to this Selection Policy must:

- 5.1 Prove their fitness to compete in the Competition by the achievement of pre-Australia departure standards to be set by the General Manager - High Performance if requested to do so;
- 5.2 Undertake any medical assessments and testing requested by the Australian Athletics Chief Medical Officer, or their delegate, and disclose to the Australian Athletics Chief Medical Officer, or their delegate, any relevant medical history and known medical condition or issue that may be or become relevant to participation in the Team;
- 5.3 Adhere to all anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by applicable anti-doping rules, including the Australian Athletics Anti-Doping Policy and the anti-doping rules of the governing body of the Competition;
- 5.4 Sign an Australian Athletics Team Agreement and the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct governing their selection in the Team and participation in the Competition; and
- 5.5 Attend any defined mandatory pre-competition training camp, unless a waiver has been provided by Australian Athletics permitting the athlete not to attend the camp. Such waivers will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 5.6 Failure by a selected athlete to meet these Further Obligations after Selection may, at the discretion of the General Manager of High Performance, result in an athlete who has been selected in the Team being removed from that Team, in line with Section 6 – Removal of Athletes.

6 Removal of Athletes

A selected athlete may be removed from the Team for any of the following reasons:

- 6.1 A voluntary withdrawal notified in writing by the athlete to Australian Athletics;
- 6.2 Injury or illness certified by a medical practitioner approved by Australian Athletics;
- 6.3 A violation of the athlete's Team Agreement or the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct, including refusing to sign these agreements;
- 6.4 A failure to comply with any pre-Competition preparation policy (including a failure to meet an agreed pre-departure standard);
- 6.5 A failure to adhere to anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures;
- 6.6 The athlete's eligibility status changes so that the athlete is ineligible to participate in the Competition; and/or
- 6.7 The athlete's event is removed from the Competition program.
- 6.8 An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to an appeal in accordance with the By-Laws of Australian Athletics.

7 Replacement of Athletes

- 7.1 Replacement athletes will be determined in accordance with the following process:
 - 7.1.1 If the replacement athlete is to be determined prior to nominating Team names, the replacement athlete will be selected based on the selection procedure set out above.
 - 7.1.2 If the replacement athlete is to be determined after nominating Team names to the governing body of the Competition, the replacement athlete will be nominated subject to the eligibility and nomination rules set out by the governing body of the Competition and selected based on the selection procedure set out above.

8 Selection Appeal Process

The selection appeal process is available as a separate document.

9 Amendment to Policy

- 9.1 This Policy may be amended at any time by Australian Athletics and appropriately approved.

10 Approval and Change log

Date	Summary of Changes	Approved by
23 July 2025	First Version	AA CEO
5 October 2025	Updated with World Athletics Information	AA CEO

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Qualification System and Entry Standards

ENTRY RULES

- **Individual Events** {except CE - see later)
 - Each Member will be allowed to participate with a maximum of two qualified athletes (three in case of a Wild Card) in each event, subject to the below.
 - A third (fourth in case of a Wild Card) qualified athlete can be entered as a reserve.
- **Relays**
 - There is no entry standard, and each Member Federation will be able to enter one team of up to eight athletes in each event.
- **Unqualified Athletes**
 - Members who have **no male and/or no female qualified athletes** {eligible by Entry Standard) in any event may enter one unqualified male athlete OR one unqualified female athlete in a running event {except the 800m).
 - In exceptional cases, and as agreed by the Technical Delegates, entry of unqualified athletes in the 800m, Long Jump, Triple Jump or Shot Put may be accepted. Applications for such entries must be submitted to World Athletics (teamservices@worldathletics.org) by no later than **1 March 2026**.
 - If the **host country** does not have a qualified athlete in an event, it may enter one athlete in this event regardless of any Entry Standard (except for the Combined Events). For the Field Events and 800m, the entry is at the discretion of the Technical Delegates and must be submitted to World Athletics (by no later than **1 March 2026**).

Age Requirements

- U20 Athletes: any athlete aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2008 or 2007) may compete in any event.
- U18 athletes: any athlete aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010 or 2009) may compete in any event except the Shot Put.
- Athletes younger than 16 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2011 or later) may not compete in any event.

QUALIFICATION SYSTEM

- **Individual athletes (except Combined Events) can qualify in one of three ways:**
 - By achieving the Entry Standard within the qualification period in accordance with the conditions detailed below.
 - By World Indoor Tour Wild Card
 - The individual overall winner of each event of the World Indoor Tour 2026 will automatically qualify for the World Athletics Indoor Championships by Wild Card.
 - The Member Federation of the World Indoor Tour winner will have the ultimate authority to enter the athlete or not, based on its own criteria or qualification system.
 - If a Member Federation has three athletes qualified as a result, all three will be permitted to compete.
 - By virtue of their position in the Top Performances list from 1 November 2025 as of 8 March 2026 to complete, where necessary, the target number of athletes in each event. For the avoidance of doubt, performances from top lists will only be considered for the main event
 - The accepted unqualified athletes will be added to the target number.
A *Road to Kujawy Pomorze* list will be published and updated every week on the World Athletics website starting from 1 December 2025.

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Qualification System and Entry Standards

- **Qualification in Combined Events**

- Up to 14 athletes will qualify in the **Heptathlon** and in the **Pentathlon** as follows:
 - Member Federations will be required to send to World Athletics teamservices@worldathletics.org a declaration of interest on behalf of the athletes willing to compete at the 2026 World Indoor Championships. This declaration must be sent no later than 31 December 2025.
 - On January 9, 2026, World Athletics will publish a list of qualified athletes together with a list of reserve athletes, from their World Rankings.
 - Member Federations are expected to inform World Athletics of athletes who withdraw in a timely manner to allow the next highest ranked athlete to compete.
 - Only in exceptional cases will additional athletes be added to the list of qualified athletes after December 31.
 - One athlete may be invited at the discretion of World Athletics
 - The competing 14 athletes will be confirmed at the same time as all final entries close.
- In total no more than two male and two female athletes from any one Member will be allowed to compete. Upon refusals or cancellations, the invitations will be extended to the next ranked athletes in the same list respecting the above conditions.

- **Athletes qualified by Top performances list**

- Following the end of the qualification period and the submission of Final Entries, World Athletics shall, for each event (except relays and combined events), assess the number of athletes entered based on:
 - Qualification by entry standard
 - Qualification by Wild Card
- In those events where the target number of entries (see below) has not been reached, World Athletics shall invite the athletes with the next best performance (based on a list starting 1 November 2025 and calculated as of 8 March 2026 included) in order to reach the established target number while respecting the maximum quota per Member Federation per event.

NB: In order to pro-actively identify those athletes, MF are asked to pre-enter by 9 March 2026 any athlete who would be competing at the WIG if qualified by Entry Standards or subsequently selected by Top performances list. Athletes whose names are not pre-entered, will not be considered.
- In case of ties, these will be broken in favour of the athlete with the next best result.
- In exceptional cases, World Athletics reserves the right to add wild card athletes in addition to the quotas achieved in the event.
- On 11 March 2026 World Athletics shall publish the final list of athletes qualified by Entry Standards and by Top performances list (and whose names were pre-entered by the MF by 9 March 2026)
- MFs will be asked to confirm their Final Entries by Thursday 12 March 2026 {midnight Monaco time)

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Qualification System and Entry Standards

TARGET NUMBER OF ATHLETES/TEAMS BY EVENT*

The target number of athletes/teams by event will be as follows:

Events	Target Number
60m	56
400m	30
800m	30
1500m	30
3000m	15
60m hurdles	48
High Jump, Pole Vault	12
Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot Put	16
Combined Events	14
Relays	n/a

* Accepted unqualified entries will be considered on top of the target numbers

ENTRY STANDARDS AND CONDITIONS

The Entry Standards were approved by the Council in September 2025 following the below scheme:

WOMEN	EVENT	MEN
7.20	60m	6.59
51.75	400m	45.80
2:00.90	800m	1:45.90
4:06.00	1500m	3:36.00
8:35.00	3000m	7:33.00
8.02	60mH	7.65
1.96	HJ	2.30
4.70	PV	5.90
6.75	LJ	8.17
14.15	TJ	16.90
18.90	SP	21.20

CONDITIONS FOR THE VALIDITY OF PERFORMANCES:

- For the Entry Standards, performances must be achieved during the qualification period of 1 November 2025 to 8 March 2026 included
- Performances must be achieved in a competition conducted according to **World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules**, or authorised by **World Athletics**, its Area Associations or its National Member Federations, and published on the World Athletics Global Calendar: <https://www.worldathletics.org/competition/calendar-results>.
- Performances achieved in **mixed competitions in track events** will not be accepted. Exceptionally, in accordance with Rule 9 of the Technical Rules, performances achieved in the 5000m event may be accepted in circumstances where there were insufficient athletes of one or both genders competing to justify the conduct of separate races and there was no pacing or assistance given by an athlete(s) of one gender to an athlete(s) of the other gender under specific circumstances and conditions (see TR9).
- **Wind-assisted performances** will not be accepted.

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Qualification System and Entry Standards



- Hand-timed performances in 60m, 100m, 400m, 800m and 60m Hurdles 100m/110m Hurdles will not be accepted.
- Performances must be achieved on tracks in accordance with World Athletics requirements