



**AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS**

# **AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY**

## **2026 WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS**

### **GABORONE, BOTSWANA**

**2 – 3 May 2026**

Version of 5 October 2025





## 1 Overview

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- 1.1 This selection policy (**Selection Policy**) sets out the basis on which Australian Athletics will select its representative team (**Team**) for the World Athletics Relays in Gaborone, Botswana, 2-3 May 2026 (the **Competition**).
- 1.2 This Selection Policy will, when approved by the Australian Athletics Board, 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 only person authorised to provide advice on the content of this policy is the Chair of Selectors and any other advice received either from Australian Athletics personnel or others, either verbally or in writing, has no validity in relation to selection matters.

## 2 Selection Policy Aims

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

- 2.1 Send the most competitive possible athletics team to represent Australia at the 2026 World Athletics Relays;
- 2.2 Select relay teams with the realistic potential to qualify for the 2027 World Athletics Championships or future World Athletics Championships and Olympic Games; and
- 2.3 Australian Athletics will select all qualified relay teams (as opposed to athletes) considering the rules related to the Competition for qualification and entry.
- 2.4 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. 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 and this clause specifically overrides 2.3.
- 2.5 It is the expectation of Australian Athletics that athletes will compete in the Australian Athletics Summer Series<sup>1</sup> of competitions (as outlined in footnote).

## 3 Athlete Eligibility Criteria

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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](http://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 2 March 2026 AEDT. 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 Meet any rules of the governing body applicable to the Competition and in the regulations for the competition which are found at [C1.2 - World Athletics Series Regulations](#). Specific Qualification Rules are attached (as at 30 September 2025).

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<sup>1</sup> Defined as Adelaide Invitational, Maurie Plant Meet, Melbourne, Sydney Track Classic and Perth Track Classic (meet names may be subject to change).



## 4 Selection Procedure

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### 4.1 Team size and event entry criteria:

4.1.1 Australian Athletics is only be permitted by World Athletics to enter relay teams in events for which an Australian team is listed in the top 24 (top 24 includes host nation) on the applicable list as at the end of the qualification period (5 April 2026).

4.1.2 Team Size: Australian Athletics will select up to six (6) athletes in each eligible relay. There is no requirement to use all places.

### 4.2 Performance Standards:

4.2.1 There are no performance standards for the Competition. All selections are at the discretion of the Selection Committee. This discretion is absolute and it need not be exercised.

### 4.3 Selection at the Discretion of the Selection Committee:

4.3.1 Subject to the rules of the governing body of the Competition relating to the number of athletes who may be selected for each event and for the Team overall, the Selection Committee may exercise discretion to select athletes to the Team. This discretion will be exercised in line with the Australian Athletics Selection Policy Aims. This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised.

4.3.2 In order to be eligible for discretionary selection, athletes must:

4.3.2.1 Meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 3;

4.3.2.2 Satisfy the Selectors that they meet the selection philosophy and aims set out in section 2.

4.3.2.3 Without limiting its discretion, the Selection Committee, in consultation with the General Manager of High Performance, may consider any factor, or combination of factors that in its opinion is relevant for consideration when selecting athletes for the team.

4.3.3 The Selection Committee will select the Team that they believe best meets the selection aims considering the following:

- Commitment to the relay program, in the case of the 4 x 100 metres events that means attendance and participation in at least two relay camps during the domestic season. Athletes hoping for selection in the 4 x 100 metre events cannot expect to be selected without this unless an exemption has been provided (by Chair of Selectors/HP Manager) for those residing overseas or carrying injuries.
- Performance data (e.g. individual performance, split times)
- Relay data (e.g. changeover times, leg data)
- Skill profile
- Team composition

4.3.4 The selection of any athlete is at the absolute discretion of the Selection Committee.

## 5 Selection Meeting

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The selection date(s) has not yet been determined, but will be before the Australian Athletics Championships due to the close proximity of the Championships and the Competition.



## 6 Further Obligations after Selection

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

- 6.1 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;
- 6.2 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;
- 6.3 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;
- 6.4 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
- 6.5 Attend any defined mandatory pre-competition training camp in, unless a waiver has been provided by Australian Athletics permitting the athlete not to attend the camp. Such waivers will not be unreasonably withheld.
- 6.6 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.



## **7 Removal of Athletes**

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

- 7.1 A voluntary withdrawal notified in writing by the athlete to Australian Athletics;
- 7.2 Injury or illness certified by a medical practitioner approved by Australian Athletics;
- 7.3 A violation of the athlete's Team Agreement or the Australian Athletics Code of Conduct, including refusing to sign these agreements;
- 7.4 A failure to comply with any pre-Competition preparation policy (including a failure to meet an agreed pre-departure standard);
- 7.5 A failure to adhere to anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures;
- 7.6 The athlete's eligibility status changes so that the athlete is ineligible to participate in the Competition; and/or
- 7.7 The athlete's event is removed from the Competition program.
- 7.8 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.

## **8 Replacement of Athletes**

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- 8.1 Replacement athletes will be determined in accordance with the following process:
- 8.2 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. Possible replacement athletes may have been advised in advance.
- 8.3 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.

## **9 Selection Appeal Process**

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The selection appeal process is available as a separate document.

## **10 Amendment to Policy**

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- 10.1 This Policy may be amended at any time by Australian Athletics if it is of the opinion that such an amendment is necessary as a result of any change to the participation/eligibility rules of the governing body for the Competition, to give effect to the Policy following discovery of a drafting error or oversight, or for any other reason determined to be in the best interests of Australian Athletics. Australian Athletics shall not be responsible or liable in any way to any one as a result of any such amendment.



## 11 Approval and Change log

| Date             | Summary of Changes                            | Approved by |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 5 September 2025 | First Version                                 | AA Board    |
| 10 October 2025  | Updated with information from World Athletics | AA CEO      |
|                  |                                               |             |
|                  |                                               |             |

# World Athletics Relays Gaborone 26

## Qualification System



### Entry Rules

#### Age Categories

Any athlete aged at least 16 on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010 or earlier) may compete. Athletes younger than 16 on 31 December 2026 (born in 2011 or later) may not compete.

#### Events

The program shall comprise six relay events:

##### Men

4x100m

4x400m

##### Women

4x100m

4x400m

##### Mixed (Universal)

4x100m

4x400m

### Entries by Event

A maximum of one team from any one Member can compete in each relay event and a maximum of eight athletes may be entered for each Relay Team. Any four athletes among those entered for the competition, may then be used in the composition of the team, except for 4x400 mixed where only 1 substitution will be allowed (plus one possible injury replacement, certified by the Medical Delegate).

### Entry Conditions

A maximum of 24 teams will be entered in each event.

Top 8 teams in Tokyo World Championships 25 are qualified for entry to Gaborone 26 World Athletics Relays.

For 4x100 Mixed, the top 24 teams listed in the Top List (as described below) are qualified to Gaborone 26 World Athletics Relays.

The Host Country may enter one team in each event regardless of any Entry Conditions.

The remaining Teams (up to 24 in total per event) will be determined through the Top Lists in the **qualification period** from 1 January 2025 to Sunday 5 April 2026.

Teams competing in 4x100 Mixed and 4x400 Mixed will have the chance to qualify for the first World Athletics Ultimate Championships in Budapest.

Starting 10 November 2025, World Athletics will maintain a weekly list of Relay Teams ranked by performance according to the above, the final version of which will be published on Tuesday 7 April 2026. In order to allow for the possible re-allocation of unused places, Member Federations must pre-enter the relay teams they intend to propose for participation by 11 April (midnight Monaco time). Relay Teams not pre-entered will NOT be considered. World Athletics will then notify the next best team(s) as required to complete the 24 spots.

## World Athletics Relays Gaborone 26 Qualification System



Member Federations will then be able to submit their Final Entries by Monday 13 April 2026.

### Conditions for Validity of Performances

- All performances must be achieved during the period **1 January 2025 to Sunday 5 April 2026**.  
Performances must be achieved in a competition conducted according to World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules, and 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>.
- At least **two different international teams, must compete in the event**, where “international teams” means at least two different national teams, or one team composed by athletes of different countries (e.g. a university or club team).
- **Short Track (indoor) performances** will be accepted.
- **Hand-timed performances** for the 4x100m will not be accepted.
- Performances achieved on **over-sized short tracks (indoor)** will be accepted.