



AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY

2026 OCEANIA CHAMPIONSHIPS – OPEN ABLE BODIED

DARWIN, AUSTRALIA

18 – 23 May 2026

Version of 5 September 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 Oceania Championships in Darwin, Australia, 18-23 May 2026 (the **Competition**).
- 1.2 This Selection Policy will, when approved by the Australian Athletics Board, constitute 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

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

- 2.1 Send the most competitive possible athletics team to represent Australia at the 2026 Oceania Championships;
- 2.2 Select athletes who are potential representatives at future World Athletics Championships and Olympic Games;
- 2.3 Use all available Australian places for athletes in individual events considering:
 - 2.3.1 The rules related to the Competition for qualification and entry purposes and;
 - 2.3.2 Maximum numbers of athletes allowed per nation.
- 2.4 Reward results in the Australian 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 including having met the minimum qualifying standard;
- 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 1 April 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 Meet all requirements in the rules of the governing body of the Competition (can be found here at the Oceania Athletics site).



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 Three (3) athletes per individual event;
 - 4.1.2 It is unlikely that relay teams shall be selected though relay teams may be entered from those individual athletes who are selected for the competition. A definitive decision will be made at the time of selection.
- 4.2 The event selection standards are those determined by Oceania Athletics and will be published on the Oceania Athletics website and added into this policy. All selection standard performances by eligible athletes must be achieved within the Qualification Period below.
- 4.3 Qualification Period:
Start: 1 September 2025
End: 22:00 (Australian Eastern Standard Time) on 19 April 2026
- 4.4 Selection Trials:
A trial will be held for all events according to the table below:

Event	Selection Trial	Venue	Date
10,000 metres	Australian Athletics 10,000m Championships	Melbourne, Vic	13 Dec 2025
10,000m Walk	Australian Athletics 10,000m Walk Championships	Canberra, ACT	25-26 Jan 2025
All other events	Australian Athletics Championships (Senior)	TBD	TBD

- 4.5 Automatic Selection:
Subject to each athlete meeting all eligibility requirements set out in this Selection Policy, all athletes will be automatically selected in the Team for the Competition (automatic selection is used due to the short time between the Trials and the Competition)
- 4.5.1 The two highest ranked nominated and eligible athletes from each Event's Selection Trial shall be selected;
 - 4.5.2 The next highest nominated athlete (at the end of the qualification period) in the Australian Top List since 1 September 2025 shall be selected as the third athlete;
 - 4.5.3 The next highest nominated athlete after the third selected athlete (at the end of the qualification period) in the Australian Top list since 1 September 2025 shall be selected as the reserve athlete (if any of the first three athletes cannot take their places).
- 4.6 An eligible athlete may compete in an unlimited number of events as long they have met the eligibility criteria.
- 4.7 There shall not be any selections at the discretion of the Selection Panel.



4.8 Official Performance:

4.8.1 All performances must be achieved during official competitions which must be sanctioned by World Athletics. A complete list of [sanctioned competitions is available online](#).

4.8.2 All performances accepted by World Athletics and appearing in the World Athletics lists as valid performances will be accepted by Australian Athletics.

4.9 Selection Meetings

The Selection Committee will meet to determine the athletes who will be selected in the Team for the Competition immediately after the end of the Qualification Period.

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 approved by its Board.

10 Approval and Change log

Date	Summary of Changes	Approved by
5 September 2025	First Version	AA Board

11 Financial Conditions

This is an entirely self-funded team. Athletes will be responsible for the costs including, but not limited to, flights, accommodation, uniform, and competition entry fees, as well as arranging all travel and accommodation.