

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY

2026 WORLD UNIVERSITY CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CASSINO, ITALY

14-15 March 2026

Version of 20 October 2025



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 University Cross Country Championships in Cassino, Italy, 14-15 March 2026 (the Competition). This Selection Policy aligns with the Australian Athletics Strategic Plan.
- 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 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

- 2.1 Australian Athletics aims to facilitate the following outcomes through the selection of athletes for the Competition:
- 2.2 AA aims to nominate a team to represent Australia on behalf of UniSport Australia (USA) at the World University Cross Country Championships:
 - 2.2.1 Selecting athletes that are realistic medal contenders (either as individual athletes or as a team) at the World University Cross Country Championships;
 - 2.2.2 Selecting athletes that are realistic top eight finishers (either as individual athletes or as a team) at the World University Cross Country Championships; and
 - 2.2.3 Providing major Championships experience to developing athletes.
- 2.3 There will be no Selection Trials for the Team. All selections are at the discretion of the Selection Committee. This discretion is absolute, and it need not be exercised.
- 2.4 Eligible athletes must satisfy the Selection Committee that:
 - 2.4.1 They will be capable of performing at a high level at the World University Cross Country Championships; AND
 - 2.4.2 They are a realistic medal contender (either as individual athletes or as a team) at the World University Cross Country Championships; or
 - 2.4.3 They are a realistic top eight finisher (either as individual athletes or as a team) at the World University Cross Country Championships; or
 - 2.4.4 They have the potential to represent Australia in future Junior or Senior teams.
- 2.5 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.



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 in which the athlete is seeking selection. The form must be submitted no later than 8 December 2025 all events. 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 may 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 Have been born between 1st January, 2001 and 31st December, 2008, and be either;
 - 3.11.1 Enrolled and currently studying a diploma or higher courses at a university, TAFE* (*conditions apply) or another tertiary institution (please note that deferred students are not eligible for selection), or
 - 3.11.2 Have graduated from a university in the year immediately prior to the event (i.e. graduated after March 2025).



- 3.11.3 Complete an official FISU Eligibility Criteria form (available from UniSport Australia) by 16 January, 2026. The FISU Eligibility Certificate must be signed by the athlete's relevant University Registrar or equivalent confirming the FISU/AUS eligibility requirements set out above and then sealed with the University Seal. Without the FISU Eligibility Certificate, athletes will not be provided with accreditation.

4 Selection Procedure

- 4.1 Qualification Standards:
There are no specific qualifying or performance standards defined by the governing body applicable to this Competition.
- 4.2 Selection Trial
There will be no Selection Trials for the Team. All selections are at the discretion of the Selection Committee. This discretion is absolute, and it need not be exercised.
- 4.3 Pursuant to the rules of the governing body applicable to this Event, Athletics Australia may select (relays are excluded here as not athletes will be selected for the relays only):
- 4.3.1 Four (4) athletes in the Men's Short Race (approximately 3km).
 - 4.3.2 Four (4) athletes in the Men's Long Race (approximately 10km).
 - 4.3.3 Four (4) athletes in the Women's Short Race (approximately 3km).
 - 4.3.4 Four (4) athletes in the Women's Long Race (approximately 10km).
 - 4.3.5 The full team size will not be more than 16 athletes, across both relay and individual races.
- 4.4 Selection at the Discretion of Selectors in the non-Relay events
- 4.4.1 Selections will be made at the discretion of the Selectors. This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised.
 - 4.4.2 Athletes must satisfy the Selectors that they will be capable of performing at a high level at the World University Cross Country Championships, and must:
 - 4.4.2.1 Meet the eligibility criteria set out in section 3;
 - 4.4.2.2 Satisfy the Selectors that they are will be capable of performing at a high level at the World University Cross Country Championships; AND
 - 4.4.2.2.1 They are a realistic top eight finisher (as individual) or;
 - 4.4.2.2.2 They are a potential future Olympic and World Championships top eight finisher.
 - 4.4.3 Without in any way limiting the discretion set out in this clause, the Selectors may take into account the following matters when selecting athletes and in particular selecting between athletes if more than four athletes are eligible:
 - 4.4.3.1 Quality of performances in the 2025 Cross Country season, especially the Australian Athletics Cross Country Championships,
 - 4.4.3.2 Quality of performances in road and track events considered relevant by the Selectors as an indication of form and fitness for cross country,
 - 4.4.3.3 History of past performances including track and road events,
 - 4.4.3.4 Current form,
 - 4.4.3.5 Potential to be competitive at the 2026 World Cross Country Championships.



4.4.3.6 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, including without limitation those factors listed in the Athletics Australia Selection Philosophy to identify priority athletes.

4.5 Relay events

4.5.1 The selectors will not select any relay teams and therefore there will not be any relay only athletes. The team management may enter one or more relay teams from with the athletes selected for the individual events.

4.6 Official Performance:

All performances must be achieved during official competitions which must be sanctioned by the relevant governing body and organised in conformity with the rules of that governing body.

5 Selection Meeting

5.1 The Selection Committee will determine the athletes who will be included in this team by 25 January 2026.

5.2 All athletes who nominate will be notified of their selection or non-selection as soon as possible.

5.3 The team will be publicly announced after the notification to all athletes and any and all appeal periods or appeals are completed.



6 Further Obligations after Selection

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

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

- 8.1 Due to the short time frame from selection to the competition then replacements will not be considered except in the case of the relay. Depending on the exact timing for any replacement then either an athlete may travel from Australia or if time is an issue an athlete already residing the USA will be considered. Such replacement will be managed by the team staff.

9 Selection Appeal Process

The selection appeal process is available in a separate document.

10 Amendment to Policy

- 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
20 October 2025	First Version	AA CEO