



AUSTRALIAN
ATHLETICS

Selection Policy Information Session

2026 World Under 20 Championships – Eugene, USA

Caveat



- Any discussion in this forum or any statements within the presentation cannot be taken as stand-alone information regarding selection. All selections are based on the published selection policy and that policy only - which must be understood in full.
- Only the Chair of Selectors may speak on selection matters, others passing comments (including AA staff) have NO standing on selection.
- Feedback to the Chair of Selectors and Panel also should be direct, you must assume any feedback related to availability, results or injuries etc. will not be passed on (confidentiality etc.). You can't be in a position to say I told x person (not the Chair of Selectors)...

What has changed (compared to 2024)?



- There is no significant change compared to 2024 with the exception of changed/added events:
 - Mixed 4x100m added
 - Walks changed to 5,000m

Policy – Main Points



- Aim
 - Send the most competitive possible athletics team to represent Australia.
 - Select athletes and relay teams with the realistic potential to win a medal or finish in the top eight at the 2026 World Under 20 Championships or future World Athletics Championships and Olympic Games.
- Team Size
 - As large as possible considering rules of the competition.
- Trial
 - The Australian Under 20 Championships are the selection trials.

Policy Main Points (2)



- Automatic Selections
 - First eligible athlete in the trial
- Events Standards
 - These are mandatory for selection, World Athletics entry rules.
- Relays
 - Will aim to select teams for all relays, up to 7 athletes selected in relays (remembering any athlete in the overall team can be switched into relays)
- When announced
 - As soon as possible after 30 April (allowing for University Championships) and appeals processes.

Policy – Main Points (3)



- Non-Automatic Selections (4.9.4.1)
 - Athletes who did not win the Trial, but have met the performance standard during the selection period. If more than two athletes satisfy the Selection Criteria in an event, the relevant athletes will be selected based on the Selection Panel’s consideration of a variety of criteria, including, but not limited to, the following list (not in priority order and not exhaustive)
 - Position at the Selection Trial
 - Head-to-head performance against other eligible competitors
 - Potential to achieve a medal at future World Championships or Olympic Games
 - Potential to make the final at the 2026 World Athletics Under-20 Championships
 - Current form
 - Injury/illness status
 - Previous competition history

Q & A



Note that the only questions answered are those related to selection. Any questions about preparation, safety or funding etc. should be directed to High Performance, statements not commented upon of questions for clarification.

- How does second position get selected.
 - As explained in slide 6, and 4.9.4.1 in criteria. The selectors are aiming to select the person who is expected to perform best in Eugene. There is no simple answer to this point.

Q & A (2)



- Is the national under 20 the selection trail ie winner is granted a place as long as they have met the qualifying time.
 - Yes, first eligible
- Does the 3rd qualify go with the team as a reserve?
 - No travelling reserves in individual events.
- Is it a requirement to compete at the U20s Australian Championship if you are the top ranked athlete for your event?
 - Athletes can still be selected in the team as the second athlete if they miss the Under 20 Championships (submit an exemption request) but it is a more difficult path if multiple athletes have qualified or may qualify.

Q & A (3)



- It seems that in the junior championships athletes can't compete in both U18 and U20 age groups. As a prerequisite for the U20s world champs is to compete in the U20s at nationals what is the best way forward as I would be more competitive in the U18s and would like to compete in that age group as well. Also is competing in the U18s a prerequisite for competing in the Oceania Championships Trophy to compete in the under 18s in that competition?
 - Athletes make their own decisions on what competitions to target based on their individual circumstances. We generally do not recommend competing in Oceania and World Under 20 though those qualified for the World Under 20 may easily be the “3rd” athlete for Oceania depending on the event.

Q & A (4)



- What are the main points of difference judges are looking to for selection, ability to perform in big events? or just mainly times? Of course keeping in mind top 1 makes the team if they have the qualifier.
 - The second selected athlete in individual events **MUST** also be qualified (World Athletics Rules). The criteria for the decision is on slide 6 and competitiveness is a significant factor.
- How many 400m athletes are you wanting to select in total to fill both individual and relay events?
 - We expect there will be up to 7 athletes of each gender who can run in the 4x400m relays.

Q & A (5)



- What happens if there's Injury (or sickness) at nationals and unable to compete but have met the qualifications during the season.
 - This is a leading reason for flexibility in the selection of the second qualified athlete. Sick and injured athletes need to request an exemption which are considered on their merits
- What documents and evidence must be submitted with a nomination (certified results, wind readings, etc.)?
 - No required, all results taken from World Athletics as only World Ranking Competitions (WRC) are considered valid.

Q & A (6)



- What injury information needs to be passed on?
 - Only required in the case of missing trials or justifying performances. Only valid with medical records and analysed by AA Medical team.
- Will U20 3000 be picked in 2 fastest times ?
 - No, all performances and results reviewed, same as other discretion places.
- Can the walkers continue to post qualify performances up to the close of the qualification period.
 - Athletes in all events can continue to post results to the end of the Australian qualification period.

Q & A (7)



- Exemption details for an U20 athlete opting to race open instead of U20
 - It is possible, same as in the past (but the events do not overlap). Request and exemption.
- Is it possible for athletes to be selected for more than 1 national team or should focus be on a single national team eg u20, Comm Games, etc.
 - Up to the individual though we generally recommend one as with one focus athletes are more likely to be successful as we have seen many times in the past.

Q & A (8)



- Re the discretionary selections, is any consideration given to results that are achieved in the US college competitions, specifically in events whereby the implement weights are heavier, or is it the case that only results achieved with U20 implement weights are considered in discretionary selections?
 - Only WRC results using the correct implements, see policy 4.3
- The policy states in clause 4.2 "athletes will not be selected if they have not achieved the relevant selection standard", therefore what happens if NO Australian athletes achieve the selection standard for a particular event (for example Men's high jump is 2.12). Will no-one be selected to compete in that event, or will you select the two highest ranked athletes or the top 2 two place getters at AA Junior Champs?
 - World Athletics does not accept entries from athletes who have not met the standards.

Q & A (9)



- During selection will the panel consider event crossover and athlete load when finalising the team, or are selections made strictly on top performances alone? Is there scope for discretionary selection where an athlete demonstrates strong potential but had reduced training in late 2025 due to HSC finals?
 - All known factors are considered but performance (including competitiveness) is the overriding factor as per aims.
- If an U20 exemption is granted to miss U20 Nationals and race Open Nationals instead... does that mean selection is discretionary still for Eugene? For example, an U20 athlete with multiple qualification times to their credit races in Sydney instead of Brisbane, what are implications in missing the U20 race?
 - If trials are missed (whatever the reason) then athletes can only be selected as a discretionary place.

Thanks for listening



- [Australian Team Information](#) (including policy etc.)
- [World Athletics Information](#) (see Qualification System)
- Further information – selectors@athletics.org.au
- Wishing all athletes all the best

Peter Hamilton