

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY

2026 WORLD RACE WALKING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

BRASILIA, BRAZIL

12 April 2026

Version of 2 February 2026



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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 Race Walking Team Championships in Brasilia, Brazil, 12 April 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 World Championships:

- 2.1 Send the most competitive possible athletics team to represent Australia at the 2026 World Race Walking Team Championships;
- 2.2 Select athletes and teams with the realistic potential to win a medal at the 2026 World Race Walking Championships;
- 2.3 Providing major Championships experience to potential future Olympic and World Championships finalists (top eight places) or realistic medal contenders at future Commonwealth Games.
- 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.

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 (Athletes aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2026 may compete in any race. Athletes aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December 2026 may only compete in the U20 race. No athlete younger than 16 years of age on 31 December 2026 may be entered or permitted to compete.);



- 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 Friday 6 March 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 SIA e-learning modules: Anti-Doping Fundamentals, Annual Update, Competition Manipulation and Sports Gambling, and Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport; 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, submission of medical information/assessment forms, and/or any mandatory vaccinations required for travel;
- 3.11 Meet the Qualification Standard listed below in the event the athlete is seeking selection in the Team during the applicable period and under conditions that satisfy World Athletics and AA for such purpose;

Men	Event	Women
43:00 at 10km or 10,000m	10km (Under 20)	50:00 at 10km or 10,000m
1:26:00 at 20km or 1:31:30 at half marathon	Half Marathon	1:36:00 at 20km or 1:42:00 at half marathon
2:40:00 at 35km or 3:18:00 at marathon	Marathon	2:58:00 at 35km or 3:40:00 at marathon

Athletes with a proven international record (top 15 in the two most recent BME's) and a qualifier in the alternate event will be considered qualified in both senior events.

The rules of the governing body applicable to the Competition can be found 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 Five (5) athletes per senior individual event (half marathon and marathon race walk) of which three (3) athletes will score for the Team in each race.
- 4.1.2 Three (3) athletes per Under 20 individual event (10km race walk) of which two (2) athletes will score for the Team in each race.

4.2 An athlete should compete in the event in which they seek selection at the 2025 Australian Championships (marathon race walk) or 2026 Australian Championships (half marathon race walks and the 10kmW held in conjunction). To meet this criterion, any athlete wishing to compete in an alternate event at this competition, or seeking injury exemption from the event, should provide this request in writing for approval by the Chair of the Selection Committee in consultation with the General Manager - High Performance (those seeking medical exemptions must include the appropriate documentation from a medical professional, any exemption given does not assume special consideration);

4.3 Special conditions:

- 4.3.1 Further, and for the avoidance of doubt, if World Athletics amends its qualification rules in any way, that may impact this Policy;
- 4.3.2 Australian Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy and will provide as much notice as practical to affected people.

4.4 Performance Standards and Qualification Period.

4.4.1 The qualification period is:

Events	Dates
10km, half marathon, marathon race walk	1 January 2025 – 15 March 2026

4.5 Official Performance:

- 4.5.1 All performances must be achieved during official competitions which must be sanctioned by World Athletics. A complete list of [sanctioned competitions is available online](#). Performances on both the track and the road are accepted as qualifying performances.
- 4.5.2 All performances accepted by World Athletics and appear in World Athletics lists as valid performances will be accepted by Australian Athletics.

4.6 Selection Trial

4.6.1 A selection trial will be held for all events as per the table below:

Events	Competition	Dates
Under 20 10km race walk	Specific Trial, Adelaide	15 March 2026
Senior half marathon race walk	Australian Championships, Adelaide	15 March 2026
Senior marathon race walk	Australian Championships, Canberra	29 November 2025



4.7 Automatic Selection

4.7.1 Subject to each athlete meeting all eligibility requirements set out in this Selection Policy, the following athletes will be automatically selected in the Team in each event:

4.7.1.1 Any athlete that finished in the top sixteen (16) at the 2024 Olympic Games in an individual event will be automatically selected in the equivalent event, subject to compliance with section 3 and having nominated for that event.

4.7.1.2 The first two eligible athletes (excluding any athletes selected under clause 4.8.2) in the selection trial will be automatically selected for the same event, subject to compliance with section 3.

4.8 Selection at the Discretion of the Selection Committee

4.8.1 The Selection Committee may exercise discretion to select additional athletes, provided they meet the governing body's rules on field size and eligibility. For events with more than maximum permitted number of qualified athletes, selectors will prioritize those who best align with Aims of this Policy (Section 2). This discretion is absolute and may or may not be exercised.

4.8.2 Where more than maximum number of athletes are eligible, the Selection Committee will consider the following factors in no particular order of priority:

- Likelihood of a top-8 finish.
- Results of the trials for the competition.
- Head-to-head results (recent results prioritised)
- Demonstrate high-level performance throughout the Qualification Period.
- Proven ability to peak at major championships.
- Proven ability to meet or exceed qualification-level performances during international competitions.
- Have demonstrated improving results at distances between 10km - marathon walks throughout the 2024/25 and 2025/26 season/s.
- Recent form and fitness.
- Any additional factors deemed relevant by the Selection Committee in consultation with the National Federation General Manager – High Performance.

4.9 Selection Meetings

The Selection Committee will meet to determine the athletes who will be selected in the Team for in the week following 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
2 February 2026	Clause 3.11 additional wording added regarding the requirement to prove form and fitness to compete in the	AA CEO



	Competition, submission of medical information/assessment forms, and/or any mandatory vaccinations required for travel.	
2 February 2026	Updated clause 3.9 with relevant course names	General Manager - Integrity

11 Appendix 1: Funding

- 11.1 While not part of the selection criteria athletes should be aware that Australian Athletics reserves the right to impose a levy on athletes to participate in this Championship. Where a levy is to be imposed, athletes will be notified of the relevant amount payable at the time of selection. As a guide, it is likely to be in the range of \$3,000 - \$4,000.