



AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY
2026 WORLD UNDER 20 ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS
EUGENE, OREGON, USA
5 – 9 August 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 Under 20 Championships in Eugene, Oregon, USA, 5-9 August 2026 (the **Competition**).
- 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 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 Under 20 Championships;
- 2.2 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;
- 2.3 Select as large a team as is possible 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.
 - 2.3.3 Overriding financial impact on Australian Athletics and the individual team member levy.
- 2.4 Reward participation in the Australian Under 20 Championships.
- 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.

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 discipline in which the athlete is seeking selection. The form must be submitted no later than 5:00pm Wednesday 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 Director of Performance Sustainability and/or 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 Director of Performance Sustainability and/or 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; and
- 3.11 Be born in 2007, 2008, 2009, or 2010. Athletes born in 2009 or 2010 may compete in a maximum of three track events (including relays), of which only 2 can be over 200m (whether an individual event or relay leg).

The rules of the governing body applicable to the Competition can be found here at the World Athletics site and in the regulations for the competition which are found at [C1.2 - World Athletics Series Regulations](#). The specific qualification system and entry standards are attached.



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 Two (2) athletes per individual event;
 - 4.1.2 One (1) team in each relay for the men's and women's 4x100m relays and one (1) team in each relay for the men's and women's 4x400m relays.
 - 4.1.3 One (1) team for each of the mixed 4x100m and 4x400m relays.
- 4.2 The event selection standards are those determined by World Athletics and will be published on the World Athletics website (and in this document when available). All selection standard performances by eligible athletes must be achieved within the Qualification Period (start of the period determined by World Athletics, end of the period determined by Australian Athletics. Athletes will not be selected if they have not achieved the relevant selection standard, with the exception of athletes competing in the relays only.
- 4.3 Official Performance:
- 4.3.1 All performances must be achieved during official competitions which must be sanctioned by World Athletics. A complete list of [sanctioned competitions is available online](#).
 - 4.3.2 All performances accepted by World Athletics and appear in World Athletics lists as valid performances will be accepted by Australian Athletics.
- 4.4 Qualification Period:
Start: 1 October 2025
End: 23:59 (AEST) on 30 April 2026
- 4.5 Selection Trials:
A trial will be held for all events except the 3000m.
The trials will be held in Brisbane, Queensland as the Australian Under 20 Championships and the combined events in Sydney, NSW as the Australian Under heptathlon and decathlon championships. The selection trial for the 5000m Walks (and Australian Championships) will be held in Canberra on 25 and 26 January 2026.
- As there is no trial for the 3000m, there will be no Automatic Selections. The Selection Panel will, therefore, make discretionary selections following the principles below. Special weight for selections in the 3000m will be placed on performances from both the Under 20 3000m race at the Zatopek meet and the Open National 3000m Championships at a location to be determined. Athletes are therefore encouraged to compete at these events if qualified.



- 4.6 Compete in the event discipline in which they seek selection in the 2026 Australian Athletics Championships, specifically in the Under-20 age group, if applicable, with the exception of those athletes whose event is not being conducted. To meet this criterion, any athlete wishing to compete in an alternate event (or in the Open category) at this qualifying event, 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 Director of Performance Sustainability and/or General Manager of High Performance. For athletes attending college outside of Australia, competing at the trials is not required (but is strongly encouraged), but an exemption request should be submitted. Athletes submitting an exemption should note they are only eligible for discretionary selections (those seeking medical exemptions must include the appropriate documentation from a medical professional, any exemption given does not assume any special consideration);
- 4.7 Special conditions:
- 4.7.1 Further, and for the avoidance of doubt, if World Athletics amends its qualification rules in any way, that may impact this Policy;
- 4.7.2 Australian Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy and will provide as much notice as practical to affected people.
- 4.8 Automatic Selection:
- 4.8.1 Subject to each athlete meeting all eligibility requirements set out in this Selection Policy, the following athletes will be automatically selected in the Team for the Competition:
- 4.8.1.1 The highest placed eligible athlete from each Selection Trial, provided they have met the selection criteria and qualifying standard by the end of the qualification period.
- 4.8.1.2 If the two highest ranked eligible athletes in an event have met the selection criteria and qualifying standard during the relevant qualification period, but do not contest the Selection Trial for any valid reason, the Selection Panel may, at their absolute discretion, declare there is no Trial in that particular event, and therefore all Selections will be discretionary selections.
- 4.9 Selection at the Discretion of the Selection Committee:
- 4.9.1 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 further athletes to the Team. This discretion will be exercised in line with the Australian Athletics Selection Philosophy. This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised.
- 4.9.2 In order to be eligible for discretionary selection, all athletes must meet the eligibility criteria set out above, and have achieved the selection standard within the qualifying period.
- 4.9.3 Without limiting its discretion, the Selection Committee, in consultation with the Director of Performance Sustainability and/or 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.



4.9.4 Discretionary Selections will consider the follow factors:

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

4.10 Relay Selection:

4.10.1 Australian Athletics may, at its absolute discretion, select a 4x100m relay team and/or a 4x400m relay team for any or all of the men's, women's or mixed events. There are no standards for these teams, and the Selection Committee will select teams where they believe they can progress to the final.

4.10.2 If an athlete is selected in a relay squad, the relay will form an integral part of that athlete's competition. Should this not be accepted by the individual athlete and/or coach, that athlete may be withdrawn from the team.

4.10.3 After completing individual Discretionary Selections the Selection Committee will then select athletes for relay teams at their absolute discretion (as above).

4.10.3.1 Athletes will be selected into the relay teams on a variety of criteria, including, but not limited to (not in priority order and not exhaustive):

- Commitment to the Australian Athletics relay program in 2025-2026
- Previous relay competitive experience
- Current form
- Head-to-head against other eligible athletes
- Injury/illness status



4.11 Selection Meetings:

The Selection Committee will meet in the week following the end of the qualification period to determine the athletes who will be selected in the Team.

4.12 Financial Conditions:

4.12.1 Australian Athletics will not provide full financial support for the 2026 World Athletics Under 20 Championships and therefore participating athletes, selected according to the terms of this policy, may be required to cover some costs in addition to any assistance provided by World Athletics and the local organising committee. It is expected that those costs will be approximately \$5,000 due to international flight options, but Australian Athletics will endeavour to keep this to a minimum. The allocation of any financial assistance offered by World Athletics or the local organising committee will be by the Director of Performance Sustainability in consultation with the General Manager - High Performance, whose decision will be final.

4.12.1.1 If an athlete were to subsequently withdraw, or be withdrawn, from the team, endeavours will be made to reimburse the individual. However, not all monies paid may be able to be recovered.

4.12.1.2 For athletes selected in the relay events only, if the athlete is not selected to race in any round (i.e. not race at all) at the World Athletics Under 20 Championships for performance reasons (i.e., not injury, illness, or behavioural), they will be reimbursed \$2,000 upon return to Australia.

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 Director of Performance Sustainability and/or 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 Director of Performance Sustainability and/or 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 appropriately approved.

10 Approval and Change log

Date	Summary of Changes	Approved by
23 July 2025	First Version	AA CEO
5 October 2025	Additional Information from World Athletics	AA CEO
2 February 2026	Clause 3.11 additional wording added regarding the requirement to prove form	AA CEO



	and fitness to compete in the 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

World Athletics U20 Championships Oregon 26 Qualification System and Entry Standards

Eugene, OR (USA) will host the 21st edition of the World Athletics U20 Championships (14 editions as World Junior Championships) after Lima 2024 and the second staged in Eugene.

The Qualification System is based on the following principles:

- Entry Standards as per below table:
- No Entry Standard for Relays
- Qualification period starting on 1 October of the previous year and running until three weeks before the competition.
- Target numbers by event as per below table:

Target number	Men	Event	Women	Target number
64	10.50	100m	11.78	64
64	21.25	200m	24.35	64
56	47.40	400m	55.20	56
48	1:50.00	800m	2:09.00	48
45	3:47.50	1500m	4:27.00	45
20	8:04.00	3000m	9:27.00	20
18	14:08.00	5000m	16:25.00	18
30	9:00.00	3000m SC (0,91m-0,76m)	10:36.00	30
56	14.05	110mH (0,99m) 100mH (0,84m)	14.10	56
56	53.00	400m H (0,91m-0,76m)	1:00.75	56
34	20:50.00 (43:30.00)*	5,000m RW	24:00.00 (49:20.00)*	34
28	2.12	High Jump	1.81	28
28	5.12	Pole Vault	4.05	28
28	7.58	Long Jump	6.22	28
28	15.45	Triple Jump	13.00	28
28	18.30	Shot Put (6kg-4kg)	14.50	28
28	56.00	Discus Throw (1,75kg-1kg)	49.00	28
28	68.00	Hammer Throw (6kg-4kg)	57.50	28



28	68.50	Javelin Throw (800g-600g)	49.50	28
24	7100	Decathlon/Heptathlon	5280	24
24	No standard	4x100m Relay	No standard	24
24	No standard	4x400m Relay	No standard	24
24	No standard	4x100m Relay Mixed		
24	No standard	4x400m Relay Mixed		

* For the 5000m Race Walk, 10km and 10000m times will be accepted as will all road performances for both distances.

Entry Rules

- Only athletes aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010, 2009, 2008 or 2007 may compete. An U18 athlete will only be allowed to compete in a maximum of 3 track events (including relays) of which only 2 can be over 200m (whether an individual event or relay leg).
- A maximum of two athletes from any one Member can compete in each event (except for the Relays).
- Three athletes can initially be entered per event, provided each has achieved the Entry Standard, but only two will be allowed to compete.
- Members who have no male and/or female qualified athletes whom they wish to enter in any Championships event, may enter one unqualified male athlete OR one unqualified female athlete in one event of the Championships (except the Field Events (see below), Combined Events, 5000m and 3000m Steeplechase).
- Members who have no male and/or no female qualified athlete but whose best athlete excels in a Field Event, may submit to World Athletics, by the time of the Preliminary Entry deadline, the name of their athlete (plus performance) they would like to enter in the Field Event. The Technical Delegates will make the final decision and, to do so, may seek the opinion of the relevant Area Association.
- If the host country of the World U20 Championships does not have an athlete qualified in an event, it may enter one athlete in these events regardless of any entry standard.
- Every Member may enter one team for each relay race, composed by a maximum of six athletes. Any four athletes among those entered for the competition, whether for the relay or for any other event, may then be used in the composition of the team for the first round.



Conditions for Validity of Performances

- In accordance with the Technical Regulations, the qualification period runs from 1 October 2025 to 26 July 2026. To help Member Federations, the deadline for submitting the Final Entries remains at three Mondays before the start of the Championships, but there will be an extended qualification period of one week.
This means that Member Federations must submit the athletes' names, including reserves, and all other relevant information (names of officials, travel details and accommodation needs) by 20 July 2026 but will be allowed to make any changes to the composition of their team up to one week later, midnight 27 July 2026. Please note that this is NOT an obligation but an option which some Member Federations may wish to take advantage of.
- All performances must be achieved during an official competition organised or authorised by World Athletics, its Area Associations or its Member Federations, conducted in conformity with World Athletics Rules and for which an application has been submitted in advance through the Global Calendar Platform.
- Performances achieved in mixed competitions in track events will not be accepted. Exceptionally, in accordance with Rule 9 of the Technical Rules, performances achieved in events of 5000m may be accepted in circumstances where there were insufficient athletes of one or both genders competing to justify the conduct of separate races and there was no pacing or assistance given by an athlete(s) of one gender to an athlete(s) of the other gender. In this case, a specific request must be submitted to World Athletics before the end of the qualification period. For Race Walks the results will always be accepted.
- Wind assisted performances (over 2m/sec) will not be accepted.
- Hand-timed performances for events up to and including 800m will not be accepted.

Short track performances will be accepted (including indoor).

For the running events of 200m and over, performances achieved on over-sized tracks will be accepted.

For Race Walks, Road performances will be accepted (including 10km)