



**AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS**

**AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY**  
**2026 WORLD ATHLETICS ROAD RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK**  
**19 – 20 September 2026**

Version of 25 May 2026



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## 1 Overview

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- 1.1 This selection policy (**Selection Policy**) sets out the basis on which Australian Athletics will select its representative team (**Team**) for the World Athletics Road Running Championships in Copenhagen, Denmark, 19-20 September 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

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The World Athletics Road Running Championships is not a first priority competition for Australian Athletics but aims to encourage leading athletes to participate if they so wish.

With that in mind Athletics Australia will select a team to provide competition opportunities at the highest level.

This team is largely self-funded although Australian Athletics will pass on the support from World Athletics for the athletes who fall within the World Athletics quota.

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

- 2.1 Send the most competitive possible athletics team to represent Australia at the 2026 World Athletics Road Running Championships;
- 2.2 Select athletes with the realistic potential to win a medal or finish in the top eight at the 2026 World Athletics Road Running 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 That athletes chosen must meet a minimum performance standard.
- 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

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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](http://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 August 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 may 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

The rules of the governing body applicable to the Competition can be found at the World Athletics site when available.



## 4 Selection Procedure

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### 4.1 Qualification Standards:

There are no specific qualifying standards defined by the governing body of the competition applicable to this Competition.

### 4.2 Team Size: Pursuant to the rules of the governing body applicable to this Competition, Australian Athletics may select up to:

4.2.1 Two (2) athletes in each of the road mile and 5km events;

4.2.2 Four (4) athletes in each of the half marathon events;

### 4.3 Performance Standard to be eligible for Selection:

To be eligible for selection in the Australian Team an athlete must have the following minimum performance standards in the applicable event in the applicable period. Standards for the mile and 5km are track times due to the variation in road courses. Road times for 5km and Mile may be considered if there are insufficient nominated athletes meeting the standard on the track.

| Event         | Qualification Period    | Men's Standard              | Women's Standard            |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Road Mile     | 1 Jan 2026 - 9 Aug 2026 | 1500m – 3:36<br>Mile – 3:54 | 1500m – 4:02<br>Mile – 4:25 |
| 5km           | 1 May 2025 - 9 Aug 2026 | 5000m - 13:25               | 5000m - 15:00               |
| Half Marathon | 1 Jan 2025 - 9 Aug 2026 | 1:04:00                     | 1:13:00                     |

### 4.4 Official Performance:

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

4.4.2 All performances accepted by World Athletics and appear in World Athletics lists as valid performances will be accepted by Australian Athletics.

4.5 An eligible athlete may compete in an unlimited number of events as long as they have been accepted by World Athletics and have been selected for each of the events in accordance with this Selection Policy.

### 4.6 Special conditions:

If World Athletics amends its competition rules related to this event in any way, that may impact this Policy, Australian Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy in accordance with the conditions below and will provide as much notice as practical to affected people.

4.7 If any athletes decline to accept selection before the close of entries by World Athletics, then the next athlete may be offered that place (following the requirements above).

### 4.8 Selection Decision/Meetings

The Selection Committee will determine the athletes who will be included in this team as soon as practical after 9 August.



## 4.9 Automatic Selection:

4.9.1 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:

4.9.1.1 The eligible athlete who has the best time in the applicable period (provided they have met the selection criteria standard) shall be selected. For the purposes of this clause the time used for automatic selection for the Road Mile will be the 1500m time. 5000m times will all be track times to allow appropriate comparison for automatic selection purposes.

## 4.10 Selection at the Discretion of the Selection Committee:

4.10.1 Subject to the rules of the governing body of the Competition relating to the number of athletes who may be selected for each event, 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.

4.10.2 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.

4.10.3 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.

4.10.4 Discretionary Selections will consider the follow factors:

4.10.4.1 If more athletes are eligible than the places available 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)

- Head-to-head performance against other eligible competitors
- Potential to achieve a medal at future World Championships or Olympic Games
- Recent performance history
- Previous competition history
- Current form
- Injury/illness status



## 4.11 Financial Conditions:

- 4.11.1 Australian Athletics will not provide financial support for the 2026 World Athletics Road Running Championships and therefore participating athletes, selected according to the terms of this policy, may be required to cover costs in addition to any assistance provided by World Athletics and the local organising committee.
- 4.11.2 Australian Athletics will pass on all funding received via quota places to the athletes ranked in those places.
- 4.11.3 Quota places provided by World Athletics are:
  - Mile: 1 male, 2 female
  - 5km: 1 male, 2 female
  - Half Marathon: 3 male, 3 female

## 5 **Further Obligations after Selection**

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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

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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

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- 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

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The selection appeal process is available as a separate document.

## 9 Amendment to Policy

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- 9.1 This Policy may be amended at any time by Australian Athletics and appropriately approved.

## 10 Approval and Change log

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| Date        | Summary of Changes | Approved by |
|-------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 25 May 2026 | First Version      | AA CEO      |
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