



AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS SELECTION POLICY

2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships

Cape Town, South Africa

6 – 10 October 2027

Version as at 10 August 2026



1 Overview

- 1.1 This Selection Policy sets out the basis on which the Australian Athletics will select its representative team for the 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Cape Town, South Africa to be held on the 6 – 10 October 2027.
- 1.2 This Selection Policy constitutes the Selection Criteria in respect of the selection of individuals for the Competition.
- 1.3 AA and the Selection Committee are bound by any Qualification System, Entry Standards and Qualification Periods as defined by WA in their rules for the Competition.
- 1.4 The Chair of the Selection Committee is the sole authority authorised to provide guidance on the content of this Selection Policy. Any guidance regarding selection matters received from other AA personnel or external parties, whether verbal or written, will not be considered valid.
- 1.5 Athletes and coaches should familiarise themselves with the content of the Selection Policy and check the AA website for further information which may be of assistance to them.
- 1.6 This Team is a collaboration between AA and AUTRA. As a Member Federation of WA, AA is authorised to nominate a Team to the Competition.

2 Definitions and Interpretation

- 2.1 In this selection policy the following words have the corresponding meaning:

AA means Australian Athletics, the Governing body for Athletics in Australia.

Appeal means an appeal, however described against non-selection to the Team.

Athlete means an individual registered to an AA Member Association in accordance with clause 3.2 of the AA By-Laws.

Australian Championship means an Australian Championship race at the 2027 kunyani Mountain Run event including long course trail, short course trail, classic mountain, and uphill mountain.

AUTRA means Australian Ultra and Trail Runner's Association.

CMO means the Chief Medical Officer who is a medical practitioner appointed by Australian Athletics and responsible for clinical leadership and oversight of medical services for the Team.

Competition means 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Cape Town, South Africa to be held on the 6 – 10 October 2027.

De-Selection means an athlete who was selected to the Team but later withdrawn or replaced as set out in clause 7.

Entry Standard means the performance standards set by WA for each event and available on the [WA website](#).

Member Association means a State or Territory athletics governing body that is affiliated with AA and recognised as a member of AA.

Qualifying Period means the defined period as set by AA and, where defined, WA during which performances or results may be achieved and recognised for the purpose of qualifying for selection.

Quota Athlete means an athlete entitled to receive free accommodation during the Competition for the period specified by Competition organisers.

Selection Committee means the committee comprised of individuals appointed by AA and AUTRA responsible for the selection of athletes to the Competition.

Selection Criteria means criteria imposed from time to time upon AA by World Athletics for the nomination or selection of an individual to the Competition.

Selection Policy means this Selection Policy that describes the aims and general principles and sets the eligibility and selection criteria that apply to the selection of athletes to the Team for the Competition, as amended from time to time by AA.

Team means the eligible athletes selected by AA for the Competition.

Trail Races means the short or long trail races of the Competition.

WA means World Athletics, the governing body for the Competition and international athletics governing body.

2.2 Interpretation

- a) Unless the context otherwise requires, reference to:
 - (i) a clause is to a clause of this Policy;
 - (ii) the singular includes the plural and the converse also applies.
- b) Where a word or expression is given a particular meaning, other parts of speech and grammatical forms of that word or expression have a corresponding meaning.
- c) Headings are for convenience only and do not form part of this Policy or affect its interpretation.

3 Selection Policy Aims

- 3.1 The Selection Committee will select Athletes for the Competition who will contribute to the following aims:
- a) Select Athletes with realistic potential to finish in the top 50% of the field in their respective event at the Competition;
 - b) Select Athletes who would contribute to a top five (5) team performance at the Competition.
 - c) Select Athletes who have the potential to finish in the top 50% of the field in the 2029 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships.

4 Athlete Eligibility Criteria

As a condition of selection for the Competition in an individual event an athlete must:

- 4.1 Be a citizen of Australia. For the avoidance of doubt, Australian permanent residency is not acceptable. Athletes must hold or be eligible to hold an Australian passport;
- 4.2 Be a registered athlete of AA through their Member Association;
- 4.3 Satisfy all WA eligibility and qualification rules of the Competition, including the minimum age of eligibility;
- 4.4 Complete and submit the online nomination form for each event discipline in which the athlete is seeking selection. The form must be submitted no later than 23:59 AEDT, Monday 22 March 2027.
- 4.5 Be and remain in 'good standing' with AA and AUTRA, comply with the AA National Integrity Framework and Code of Conduct and conduct themselves in a way that does not bring themselves, their sport or AA into disrepute;



- 4.6 Commit to abiding by any AA Team Agreement, Code of Conduct and other relevant AA or WA policies and procedures as reasonably directed from time to time; and
- 4.7 Commit to completing all AA integrity education as set out in the AA Integrity Education Plan, and any other integrity education requirements AA or WA sets from time to time;
- 4.8 In addition to satisfying the requirement of clause 4.2, Athletes seeking selection in the Trail Races must also be a registered member of AUTRA.

5 Selection Procedure

- 5.1 The Selection Committee will consider Athletes for selection under this Selection Policy who have satisfied the eligibility criteria of clause 4.
- 5.2 In accordance with the WA rules applicable to this Competition, the Selection Committee may select:
 - a) up to four athletes in each of the men's and women's races in the uphill mountain event.
 - b) up to four athletes in each of the men's and women's races in the classic mountain event.
 - c) up to four athletes in each of the men's and women's junior races in the classic mountain event.
 - d) up to six athletes in each of the men's and women's races in the short trail event.
 - e) up to six athletes in each of the men's and women's races in the long trail event.
 - f) eligible athletes to the Team exercising their discretion.
- 5.3 The Selection Committee may identify one Quota Athlete per gender per Event which is included in the maxims identified in clause 5.1.
- 5.4 The Qualifying Period is 1 February 2026 – 21 March 2027.

Australian Championships

- 5.5 Australian Championships will be conducted for each of the following events at the kunyani Mountain Run in Hobart, Tasmania from 19-21 March 2027:
 - a. Classic Mountain open men and women (Foothills 14km event)
 - b. Classic Mountain under 20 men and women (Foothills 9km event)
 - c. Uphill open men and women (Vertical Kilometre event)
 - d. Short trail open men and women (Alpine Marathon 46km event)
 - e. Long trail open men and women (80km Ultra event)
- 5.6 The events listed in 5.5a, 5.5b, and 5.5c will constitute a selection trial in the equivalent events for the Competition.
- 5.7 There will be no selection trial for the Trail Races.
- 5.8 Athletes seeking selection in the Trail Races are encouraged to participate in the 2027 Australian Championships in the equivalent event that they are seeking selection in.
- 5.9 Participation in the Australian Championships is not a requirement of nomination, however as per 5.13, consideration will be given to performances in the 2027 Australian Championships, including head-to-head performances between athletes seeking selection.

Selection Timeframe

5.10 The Selection Committee will meet to determine the athletes who will be selected in the Team for the Competition in the days after the close of the Qualifying Period.

Automatic Selection Phase

5.11 Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria of this Selection Policy, an Athlete may be selected in the Automatic Selection Phase if they:

- a) Meet one of the following performance outcomes at the 2027 kunyani Mountain Run event:
 - i. Finish as the first Male or Female in the Australian Open Classic Mountain Running Championship to be conducted on Sunday 21 March 2027 in Hobart, TAS; or
 - ii. Finish as the first Male or Female in the Australian Open Uphill Mountain Running Championship to be conducted on Sunday 19 March 2027 in Hobart, TAS; or
 - iii. Finish as the First Male or Female in the Australian Under 20 Classic Mountain Running Championship to be conducted on Sunday 21 March 2027 in Hobart, TAS; or
 - iv. Finish as the first Male or Female in the Australian Short Trail Championship to be conducted as part of KMR Alpine Marathon 46km event to be conducted on 20 March 2027 in Hobart, TAS; or
 - v. Finish as the first Male or Female in the Australian Long Trail Championship to be conducted on Saturday 20 March 2027 in Hobart, TAS.

b) An Athlete selected by meeting one of the criteria of clause 5.1 is a Quota Athlete.

Discretionary Selection Phase

5.12 The Selection Committee may exercise discretion to select further athletes to the Team. This discretion will be exercised in line with the Aims of this Policy. This discretion is absolute and need not be exercised.

5.13 The Selection Committee will consider the following discretionary factors. These factors are in no particular order of priority and will be considered in the conjunction with the Aims of this Policy:

- a) an Athlete's ability to finish in the top 50% of the field for their event(s);
- b) an Athlete's results during the Qualification Period;
- c) an Athlete's participation and results in the 2027 Australian Championships;
- d) an Athlete's competitive record and demonstrated ability to plan the peak of their season at a major event;
- e) an Athlete's ability to contribute to a top five (5) team performance;
- f) head-to-head performances at the 2027 Australian Championships; or
- g) any factor, or combination of factors that the Selection Committee considers relevant.

6 Obligations after Selection

Athletes selected in the Team for the Competition must:

- 6.1 Be a registered Athlete of AA through their Member Association;
- 6.2 Prove their fitness to compete in the Competition if requested to do so;
- 6.3 Undertake any medical assessments and testing if requested by the AA CMO;



- 6.4 Disclose to the AA CMO, any relevant medical history and known medical condition or issue that may be or become relevant to participation in the Competition;
- 6.5 Complete and submit medical information and assessment forms to the AA CMO, and/or any mandatory vaccinations required for travel;
- 6.6 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 National Anti-Doping Policy and the anti-doping rules of the governing body of the Competition; and
- 6.7 Sign an AA Team Agreement.
- 6.8 Pay any applicable fees and charges including but not limited to airfares, ground transport, accommodation, meals, entry fees, uniforms, insurance, and team levy.
- 6.9 For athletes selected in the short and long trail races, the following table developed by the AUTRA shows the required minimum time between participation in a race and the day of Competition:

	Long Trail	Short Trail
100 Miles	No less than 5 weeks	No less than 5 weeks
100km	No less than 4 weeks	No less than 4 weeks
50km	No less than 3 weeks	No less than 3 weeks
<50km	No less than 2 weeks	No less than 2 weeks

- 6.10 Failure to meet these Obligations After Selection may result in an athlete who has been selected in the Team being removed from the Team.

7 Athlete Withdrawal and Replacement

- 7.1 A selected athlete may no longer be part of the Team if they:
 - a. Elect to withdraw and notify AA in writing;
 - b. Are unable to compete due to injury or illness as confirmed by a medical practitioner approved by AA;
 - c. Breach the Team Agreement or refuse to sign the agreement;
 - d. Fail to complete any or all of the mandatory National Integrity Framework education course;
 - e. Fail to pay the relevant fees, including the team levy;
 - f. Do not comply with clause 4 of the Selection Policy;
 - g. Do not comply with the Australian National Anti-Doping Policy;
 - h. Become ineligible to compete in the Competition; or
 - i. Are entered into an event that is removed from the Competition.
- 7.2 An athlete who is withdrawn from the Team under clause 7.1 may appeal their De-selection in accordance with clause 9.
- 7.3 Replacement athletes will be determined in accordance with the following process:
 - a) Before Team selections are submitted to WA, any replacement athlete will be selected in accordance with this Selection Policy; or
 - b) After Team selections have been submitted to WA, any replacement athlete will be subject to the applicable WA rules of the Competition.



8 Extenuating Circumstances

- 8.1 In considering an athlete's performances, and their participation in events and competitions that may provide a basis for selection, the Selection Committee may, at their discretion, give weight to extenuating circumstances.
- 8.2 Extenuating circumstances are those that are beyond an athlete's control and may have compromised an athlete's ability to participate or make relevant attendances arising from:
- a) injury or illness;
 - b) travel delays;
 - c) equipment failure;
 - d) bereavement or personal misfortune;
 - e) any other legitimate reason; or
 - f) force majeure event
- 8.3 If an athlete is affected by extenuating circumstances, as soon as practicable they must advise the General Manager, Growth and Development in writing to adam.bishop@athletics.org.au and provide the reasons and any relevant supporting material or evidence.
- 8.4 The Selection Committee will consider any notification of extenuating circumstances on an individual basis and based only on the information provided to the General Manager, Growth and Development, which will be shared with the Selection Committee.

9 Non-Selection Appeal Process

The non-selection appeal process is available [here](#).

10. Amendment to Policy

- 10.1 AA reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy and will provide as much notice as practical to affected people.

11. Approval and Change log

Date	Summary of Changes	Approved by
10/8/2026	Published version	Chief Executive Officer