World Athletics Championships Beijing 2027

Qualification System

Introduction

World Athletics is responsible for establishing the qualification system and entry standards for athletes to participate in the World Athletics Championships Beijing 2027. This qualification system sets out the conditions and system by which athletes may become eligible for selection by their Member Federations to compete as part of their national teams at the Championships. Eligibility for selection is subject always to meeting World Athletics' Eligibility Rules (see here) which, for example, cover athletes not being subject to a current suspension or declaration of ineligibility, being biological female to participate in the female category or subject to an application for or decision to transfer their allegiance to represent another Member Federation. World Athletics' Rules and Regulations therefore apply to athlete eligibility to participate at the World Athletics Championships Beijing 2027 but do not govern selection decisions made by Member Federations to represent them at the Championships.

The qualification system and entry standards determine an athletes' eligibility for selection only and may form part of the Member Federation's wider selection policy and procedures. The final selection of individual athletes to represent a Member Federation remains the sole responsibility of each Member Federation and is governed by its own selection policies and procedures. Member Federation selection policies may take into account a range of factors, including (but not limited to) qualification standards, world rankings, performance consistency, performance at national trials, fitness, and strategic team considerations.

Member Federations are also responsible for entering athletes into the World Athletics event entry system by the stated deadlines, including the early identification and pre-entry of athletes who have achieved the qualification requirements stated in this document. Member Federations must factor in the periods and deadlines in this document when making their selection decisions / hold their trials and ensure a fair process is in place for athletes to challenge such decisions. Any questions or disputes relating to an athlete's selection or non-selection must therefore be addressed in accordance with the relevant Member Federation's selection policies and procedures.

This document should be read alongside all official World Athletics circulars to Member Federations, which concerning the detailed qualification system, entry standards, and key deadlines applicable to the World Athletics Championships Beijing 2027.

Entry conditions

- **Individual Events**
  Each Member Federation will be allowed to participate with up to a maximum of three qualified athletes (four in case of a Wild Card) in each event, subject to the below. A fourth (fifth in case of a Wild Card) qualified athlete can be entered as a reserve.

- **Relay Events**
  Each Member Federation will be allowed to enter one qualified team in each relay event, subject to the below. A total of six athletes may be entered. For Men's and Women's 4x100m and 4x400m these must include the individual athletes entered in the respective individual event (100m and 400m).

- **Unqualified athletes**
  Members who have no:
  - male and/or no female athletes qualified through the Entry Standards (see below);

- male and/or no female athletes qualified by World Rankings;
- qualified relay team;

may enter one unqualified male athlete OR one unqualified female athlete in one individual event of the World Athletics Championships Beijing 2027 (except Field Events (see next two paragraphs), Combined Events, 10,000m and 3000m Steeplechase).

Members whose best athlete excels in a Field Event, may submit to World Athletics the name of their athlete whom they would like to enter together with their best performance during the qualification period. The Technical Delegates will decide whether or not to accept such an entry and, to do so, may seek the opinion of the relevant Area Association.

If the Host Country does not have a qualified athlete in an event, or a qualified Relay Team, it may enter one athlete (or Relay Team) in that event, noting that in the Combined Events and Field Events, this will be subject to the approval of the Technical Delegates.

Unqualified athletes will be added to the target number of qualified athletes in each event.

Where the approval by the Technical Delegates is required, preference will be given to the athletes in the best world rankings position as at the closing date for applications (to be sent to teamservices@worldathletics.org):

- **26 April 2027** for the Marathon
- **16 August 2027** for the Race Walks and Field Events

- **Age categories**

Athletes younger than 16 – No athlete younger than 16 years of age on 31 December 2027 (born in 2012 or later) may be entered.

Qualification System: Criteria

- **General**

The Qualification System will be based mainly on a combination of Entry Standards and World Rankings. Approximately 40% of the athletes will be set to qualify through Entry Standards and 60% through World Rankings.

- **Qualification period valid for Entry Standards and World Rankings**

For the Marathon: 18 months from 3 November 2025 to midnight 2 May 2027 (regardless of the time zone).

For the 10,000m, Marathon Race Walk, Half Marathon Race Walk, Combined Events and Relays: 18 months from 23 February 2026 to midnight 22 August 2027 (regardless of the time zone).

For all other events: from 23 August 2026 to midnight 22 August 2027 (regardless of the time zone). Current event ranking rules and period will apply for World Rankings.

- **Qualification in Individual Events**

Athletes can qualify in one of four ways:

- By achieving the **Entry Standard** within the qualification period in accordance with the criteria detailed below.
- By virtue of the **Finishing Position** at designated competitions as follows:
  - The Area Champions in all the individual events (except for the Marathons) on condition that there is no entry of a qualified athlete from the same Area in the same event. The Member Federation of the Area Champion will have the ultimate authority to enter the athlete or not, based on its own selection criteria. See specific additional conditions below under “Area Champions”.
  - The top 5 finishers at the Platinum Label Marathons held during the qualification period and the winners of the Gold Label Marathons held in 2027 (until 2 May).
- By **Wild Card** as:
  - Defending World Champion from 2025

- Winners at the World Athletics Ultimate Championship 2026
- Winner of the 2026 editions of the:
  1. World Race Walking Tour (to participate in the Half Marathon RW OR the Marathon RW)
  2. World Combined Events Tour
  3. Leading hammer performer (by result) on the Continental Tour
- Winner of the 2027 Diamond League

If two or more athletes from the same country would qualify for a Wild Card in the same event, only one of them can be entered with this Wild Card. If a Member Federation has four athletes in one event as a result of this criterion, all four will be permitted to compete.

- By virtue of the **World Rankings Position** at the end of the respective ranking periods. In case of ties, athletes with the next best Performance Score will prevail. Performance Scores are calculated based on the following elements of the World Rankings System of all Athletics performances: the measured results of athletes (result score) and their placing during competitions (placing score). Further information on the World Rankings and the Performance Score can be found here.

World Athletics will keep a regularly updated running list of the qualification situation (Road to Beijing) for each event in the lead up to the World Athletics Championships. This will be published in due course on the Stat Zone section of the World Athletics Website (www.worldathletics.org/stats-zone).

Individual Athletes Ranking Process *(in brackets dates for the Marathons)*

- Following the end of the qualification period, based on the target numbers, for each event World Athletics will determine:
  - the number of athletes having achieved the qualification via Entry Standards (in case of tie for the last qualifying position, all tying athletes will be qualified. However, the consequential impact arising from ties will be that there will be a reduction the number of qualified athletes by World Rankings);
  - the number of athletes qualified by virtue of the Finishing Position at designated competitions
  - the eligible wild cards;
  - the athletes subsequently qualified by virtue of their World Rankings position to complete the target number in each event.
  - the athletes in the next best World Rankings positions.
- The list of qualified athletes eligible for selection by their Member Federation will be published on 05 May 2027 for the Marathon and 25 August 2027 for all other events. The publication of the list of qualified athletes must not be interpreted or construed as a 'selection' of an athlete by World Athletics or a reason for not selecting an athlete. Member Federations must confirm their selection of athletes in accordance with their selection policies and procedures.
- Member Federations shall be invited to pre-submit their entries by 27 August 2027 *(7 May for Marathon)*, midnight Monaco time and to include, in addition to the qualified athletes, also the next best by World Rankings they may wish to enter. The pre-submission of entries are effectively athletes who are consideration by the Member Federation for selection.
- In the case of withdrawals after pre-submission of entries, based on the pre-entries submitted by the Member Federation, World Athletics shall identify the next best athletes by World Rankings that may be proposed for entry by the Member Federation. World Athletics shall notify the respective Member Federation accordingly by 08 May 2027 or Marathons and for all other events 28 August 2027, midnight Monaco time.
- In the case of the Marathons, should World Athletics be made aware of withdrawals by 22 August, it will, subject to selection confirmation by the Member Federation, reallocate those places only to the next best-ranked athlete(s) who were pre-entered by 7 May.
- Member Federations must review and complete their final entries by the entry deadline of 30 August 2027 (midnight Monaco time).

- **Qualification in Relay Events**
  - Relay Teams can qualify in one of two ways
    - First twelve placed teams at the **World Athletics Relays** Gaborone 26.

- Be one of the best ranked teams at the end of the qualification period to fill the four remaining places. For the purpose of being ranked, the results of relay races will be valid only on the condition that they are part of a competition staged in compliance with World Athletics Rules and that at least two different international teams, representing at least two countries, compete in the competition. In case of a tie the results will be separated by the thousands. If the tie remains, the best performance achieved in the World Relays will take precedence.

- Relays Ranking Process
  - Following the end of the qualification period (i.e., 22 August 2027) and knowing the Relay Teams that have qualified from the 2026 World Athletics Relays, World Athletics will identify the teams qualified by virtue of their position in the World Athletics Top Performances Lists (according to the best performances in the whole qualification period).
  - World Athletics, within 48 hours of the closing of the Qualification Period, will notify the Member Federations concerned by email to their World Athletics email address (xxx@mf.worldathletics.org) and replies will be expected within 24 hours.
  - Upon refusals, cancellations or no reply, the next eligible relay team will be identified and invited. The invitation process will end on 27 August 2027, midnight Monaco time.
  - Any unqualified host country team will not take a quota place.

Target number of athletes / teams by event

(not including the unqualified athletes)

Events	Target Number
100m	48
200m 400m	48
800m	56
1500m	56
3000mSC	36
5000m	42
10,000m	27
100mH, 110mH, 400mH	40
Field Events	36
Combined Events	24
Marathon	100
Half Marathon Race Walk	50
Marathon Race Walk	50
Relays	16

Entry Standards

Men	Event	Women
9.95	100m	10.96
20.07	200m	22.45
44.45	400m	50.00
1:43.00	800m	1:57.50
3:30.00	1500m	3:58.00
12:50.00	5000m / 5km road	14:36.00
26:48.00	10,000m / 10km road	30:40.00
2:06:00	Marathon	02:23:20
8:08.00	3000m SC	9:06.50
13.18	110mH / 100mH	12.60
48.00	400m H	54.00
2.30	High Jump	1.96
5.90	Pole Vault	4.75
8.25	Long Jump	6.86
17.35	Triple Jump	14.40
21.50	Shot Put	19.30
67.20	Discus Throw	64.50
78.30	Hammer Throw	74.00
85.50	Javelin Throw	63.40
	Heptathlon	6550
8620	Decathlon	
01:23:00	Half Marathon Race Walk	01:33:10
03:01:00	Marathon Race Walk	03:28:00
Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists	4x100m	Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists
Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists	4x400m	Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists
Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists	4x100m Mixed	Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists
Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists	4x400m Mixed	Top 12 at WRE + 4 from Top Lists

Conditions for the validity of performances for qualification for selection purposes

- All performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by World Athletics, its Area Associations or its National Federations and conducted in conformity with World Athletics Rules & Regulations (including Competition & Technical Rules).
- In the case of National Permit competitions, in addition to compliance with the above, all performances must be achieved in a competition for which an application has been submitted in advance to World Athletics for inclusion in the Global Calendar through the established platform. The list of such competitions will be published on the Global Calendar (see here).

- For Entry Standards, all performances must be achieved in a competition in World Rankings Category C and above. Only exception are Road Running performances (Marathon, 10km and 5km) which can also be achieved in World Athletics Label (Category E) Road Races. Performances achieved in competitions in the lower categories will still be valid for World Rankings.
- For Track and Field Events, the following applies:

Performances achieved in mixed competition classifications in track events will not be accepted. Exceptionally, in accordance with Rule 9.4.1 of the World Athletics Technical Rules, performances achieved in events of 5000m and 10,000m simultaneous stadium competitions may be accepted in circumstances where there were insufficient athletes of one or both sexes competing to justify the conduct of separate races. And there was no pacing or assistance given by an athlete(s) of one sex to an athlete(s) of the other sex. If applicable, Member Federations must submit a specific request to the World Athletics Competitions department (competition@worldathletics.org) providing the documentation as required.

Performances which are wind assisted or for which a wind reading is not available will not be accepted for Entry Standards purposes (but will be valid for the World Rankings with the appropriate adjustments).

Hand timing performances in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 110m/100m Hurdles, 400m Hurdles and 4x100m Relay will not be accepted.

Short Track performances for races of 200m and longer, will not be accepted for Entry Standards. But will be accepted for World Rankings.

Performances in running events conducted on an oversized Short Track (its length is greater than 201.2m [220 yards] but no greater than 400m) shall be valid and recognised as if they were achieved on a standard 400m track.

Discus Throw performances for Entry Standards must be achieved within the confines of a traditional athletics facility unless otherwise approved at least one month in advance by World Athletics Competition Unit. But will be accepted for World Rankings.

For the Combined Events at least one of these conditions must be met:

- The wind velocity in any individual event will not exceed plus 4 metres per second.
- The average wind velocity (based on the algebraic sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) will not exceed plus 2 metres per second.

- For Road Races and Race Walks, the following applies:

Road Races (Marathons, Half Marathons, 10km, 5km)

- Performances for qualifying purposes may only be achieved on a course measured by a World Athletics/AIMS Grade "A" or "B" International Road Race Course Measurer with the measurement certificate established no more than 5 years before the date of the race.
- For Entry Standards the overall decrease in elevation between the start and the finish will not exceed 1:1000, i.e., 1m per km.
- For Entry Standards in the 5km and 10km, women's performances achieved in Mixed races will not be accepted.
- For World Rankings in case of performances achieved on courses with a drop in elevation which exceeds 1:1000, a correction will be made in the result score from which points will be deducted depending on the drop.
- The contact email address for any matters related to qualifying marathon courses is alessio.punzi@worldathletics.org.

Race Walks

- Performances for qualifying purposes may only be achieved on a course measured by a World Athletics/AIMS Grade "A" or "B" International Road Race Course Measurer with the measurement certificate established no more than 5 years before the date of the race.
- A minimum of 3 World Athletics Gold, Silver or Bronze Level Race Walking Judges must be on duty.
- Track performances on any Race Walk event which might contribute to the World Ranking will be accepted.
- The contact email address for any matters related to qualifying race walk competitions is competition@worldathletics.org.

Area Champions

The following regulations shall apply for Automatic Qualification to the World Athletics Championships (not applicable for Relays and Marathon):

1. The Area Champion (in each individual event to be contested at the World Championships) automatically qualifies for the World Championships on condition that there is no other qualified athlete entered from the same Area in the same event.
2. The Area Champion shall be the one who won the title at the last Area Championships, either in 2025, 2026 or 2027.
3. The Member Federation of the Area Champion will have the ultimate authority to enter the athlete or not, based on its own domestic standard or qualification system.
4. If the Member Federation of the Area Champion enters the athlete, they will be considered as qualified.
5. If the Area Champion, for whatever reason, is not entered, his place will not be delegated to the second placed athlete and the Qualification System: Criteria and Conditions apply.
6. For those Area Championships that do not have certain events, the Area Associations can organise alternate Area-specific event Championships with conditions conforming to Area Championships Regulations. World Athletics shall be notified of such alternative Championships at least two months in advance of the event being held.

Legal Notice

1. Failure to adhere to the deadlines and entries may result in further action (including sanctions) being taken against Member Federations by World Athletics.
2. All publications of lists arising from this document are subject to the individual athlete being eligible to participate in accordance with World Athletics' Rules and Regulations (see here). Athletes must not be subject to any disciplinary decision whether issued by Athletics Integrity Unit, World Athletics, the Disciplinary and Appeals Tribunal, the Safeguarding Case Management Group, Court of Arbitration of Sport or their Member Federation which suspends, prohibits or otherwise prevents their participation in athletics and therefore the World Athletics Championship Beijing 2027.
3. Except for Member Federation selection policies and procedures, Member Federations must not, under any circumstances, place on athletes additional conditions, requirements to or otherwise circumvent the conditions and criteria set out in this document or generally.