AUSTRALIAN ATHLETICS

2027 World Championships Selection Policy Rationale

Australian Athletics (AA) has made some refinements to the selection policy for the 2027 World Athletics Championships. These refinements do not reflect a change in AA's philosophy, and we remain committed to sending the maximum number of athletes eligible at the closing date of the qualification period.

The policy remains one of the most inclusive of all World Athletics' Member Federations, and it is anticipated that Australia will have one of the largest teams at the 2027 World Athletics Championships

The introduction of AA ranking points standards, in addition to entry standards, also allows for more athletes to be selected at the conclusion of the 2027 Australian domestic season (Phase 1).

***AA provides the following rationale for three key changes, noting that the selection policy is the only official guide to the 2027 World Athletics Championships.**

Relays

Refinements made to relay-related events (100m, 200m, 400m) reflect AA's focus on and prioritisation of the 4x100m and 4x400m events at major championships.

Relay athletes will be selected early (Phase 1) and remain eligible for individual events, provided they achieve the entry standard within the qualification period, or meet the AA ranking points standard by **8 July 2027** (and are qualified for the competition at the closing date of the qualification period).

After this date, an athlete is committed to the relay squad to ensure the best preparation possible for relay success as one of 16 countries qualified. This is consistent with the aims of the selection policy – to select athletes and relay teams with the realistic potential to win a medal or place in the top 8 at the competition.

World Athletics Additional Invitations of Non-Qualified or Ranked Athletes

At the conclusion of the qualification period, World Athletics may offer additional invitations to athletes who are not qualified via entry standard or world ranking quota in the final published Road to Beijing, in order to reach its desired field sizes.

These athletes have not qualified via entry standard or world ranking quota within the qualification period, and Australian Athletics will not accept their invitation unless at the absolute discretion of the selection panel.

This change is aimed at balancing team inclusivity with high performance credibility and resourcing outcomes. This is viewed as a refinement of selection policy, which should always evolve based on experience and performance data.

Race Walks

The selection of athletes in race walk events will prioritise the Half Marathon, as it is the sole 2028 Olympic Games event in the discipline.

AA can select or conditionally select athletes in the Half Marathon in Phase 1 and fill remaining positions in the first two weeks of May 2027, allowing time for athletes not selected in the Half Marathon to attempt to qualify for the Marathon which will be selected or conditionally selected in the last week of June 2027.

This approach gives Half Marathon athletes an extended preparation time for the championships and supports the AA's board's philosophy.

In both the Half Marathon and Marathon, conditional selection is reliant on the athlete remaining qualified at the deadline of 22 August 2027.