

Celtic Cross Country, U20 and U23, Leeds, England, February 8th 2025

Introduction

Athletics Ireland is pleased to announce an International Cross-Country opportunity for U20, and U23 Athletes. Recognising the importance of cross country in the development of endurance athletes and the importance of gaining international competition exposure as part of the preparation for participation at the major Cross-Country Championships, Athletics Ireland is delighted to announce that teams will participate in the UK Cross Challenge, incorporating the Celtic Cross Country and Home Countries International on Saturday 8th February 2025.

TEAM OBJECTIVES AND SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

We are aiming for a successful outcome both in terms of a) final team standings, which should be reflective of Ireland's strong tradition of team success at these events and in the sport of cross country running generally, and b) making a positive contribution to individual athlete development with the aim of successfully transitioning age-category athletes through the categories and into full senior international championships in the coming years. We will aim to select full teams as described below:

- U23 Irish Team (4 athletes male & female)
- U20 Irish Team (4 athletes male & female)

1. SELECTION PROCESS:

Eligibility In order to be eligible for selection all athletes must:

- 1.1 Fill out a [National Team Declaration Form](#) (NTDF) on Athletics Ireland High Performance website before 15th January.
- 1.2 Satisfy all World Athletics eligibility and nationality participation rules.
- 1.3 Be a registered member of Athletics Ireland.
- 1.4 Remain in "good standing" with Athletics Ireland and at all times comply with any established code of conduct or athlete agreement and otherwise conduct themselves in a way that does not bring their sport or the National Team into disrepute.
- 1.5 Selected athletes will be asked to complete the European athletics [lrunclean](#) online program.

Performance Period

1.6 Selection will be based on the performance(s) on 17 November 2024, and 1 Dec 2024 at the National Cross Country Championships only. No other races will be taken into consideration for initial selections. In the event that an athlete declines selection then places may be offered to other athletes at the discretion of the Performance Endurance Lead or Juvenile committee taking into account the selection philosophy objectives

General Selection Criteria

- 1.7 Athletes that qualify for the European XC Championships can also be selected for the Celtic XC Championships.
- 1.8 Following the National Cross-Country championships athletes will be selected according to the criteria set out for specific age groups in section 1.7.
- 1.9 Selection information for the Ulster and Northern Ireland teams will be available at Athletics Northern Ireland Website.

1.10 Celtic Cross Country 2025 AAI Team Selection Criteria

1.11 The first two eligible athletes male and female over the line in each of the **U19 National Juvenile Championships Dec 1st and U20 National Inter Club XC Champs Nov 17th (Born 2006/2007/2008)**, that are not eligible for the Ulster and Northern Ireland team for the event will be selected for **Celtic International XC U20 team**. In the event that any of the first four athletes are not available, or there is overlap then the next eligible athletes from the U19 National Juvenile Championships Dec 3rd and/or National Inter Club XC November 17th will be considered.

1.12 The first four eligible athletes male and female over the line at the u23 race (Born 2002/2003) in National Inter Club XC on November 17th will be selected for **Celtic International XC U23 team**. In the event that one or more of the first four athletes from the National Inter clubs XC u23 race is not available, remaining places on the team may be filled from any combination of available athletes from the u23 race (Born 2003/2004) and U20 race (Born 2005) in the National Inter clubs Cross Country, at the discretion of the Performance Endurance Lead.

1.13 Selection Queries

U20, u23 and Senior Athletes can query (i.e. seek clarification regarding selection and/or requirements regarding what they need to do to meet selection requirements) with the [National Endurance Lead](#). U17 Athletes can query with [AAI Juvenile Committee via the secretary](#).

2. GENERAL INFORMATION:

2.1 The criteria may be amended at any time by the Directors of Athletics Ireland if Athletics Ireland is of the opinion that such amendment is necessary in the best interests of Athletics Ireland or as a result of any change in participation rules and/or guidelines. Any amendment to the criteria will be published on the Athletics Ireland website.

2.2 Gear:

Selected athletes will be provided with competition singlet and shorts and track or equivalent.

2.3 Substitutions:

Following selections substitutions may be made in the event of an athlete being sick or injured & unable to compete and this will be at the discretion of the Performance Endurance Lead and Juvenile Committee.

2.4 Appeals:

No non-selection appeals will be considered for this development event.

2.5 Notification of Selection: Selection will be announced by 16th January 2025