



## SELECTION POLICY

**2026 EUROPEAN THROWING CUP: 14-15 MARCH – NICOSIA, CYPRUS**

This policy should be read in conjunction with the [Selection Panels Terms of Reference](#).

QUALIFYING PERIODS		
Date	Event	Notes
1 January 2025 to 1 March 2026	All events	
IMPORTANT DATES/CHECKLIST		
1 February 2026	Deadline for National Team Declaration Form	<a href="#">Online Form</a>
2 March 2026	Final Team Selections	Names published after selection date on AAI website

**1. ENTRY CONDITIONS:**

**1.1** Performances must be achieved in a competition conducted according to World Athletics Competition and Technical Rules or authorised by World Athletics, its Area Associations or its National Member Federations and published on the [World Athletics Global Calendar](#).

**2. ENTRY RULES**

**2.1** Each team shall consist of up to 3 (three) athletes entered in each event for Senior Men and Senior Women of which a maximum of 2 (two) may participate and 2 (two) athletes in each event for Under 23 Men and Women of which a maximum of 1 (one) may participate.

**2.2** Member Federations not entering teams may enter athletes to compete as individuals, each event being considered separately.

**2.3** Each athlete may be entered in one age group of an event at the European Throwing Cup and he/she can only compete in the age group for which he/she was entered. For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete can be entered in different age groups in different events but cannot compete in the same event in two age groups.

**2.4** Except in the Shot Put (men) and Hammer Throw (men), only athletes aged at least 16 (sixteen) years on 31 December of the year of the competition may participate in the European Throwing Cup.

**2.5** Only athletes aged at least 18 (eighteen) years on 31 December of the year of the competition may participate in the Senior Men's Shot Put and Hammer Throw (men).

**2.6** Only athletes aged at least 16 (sixteen) years and not more than 22 (twenty two) on the 31 December of the year of the competition may participate in the Under 23 events.

**3. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY:**

**3.1** Athletics Ireland values the importance of the European Throwing Cup and the part it plays in the progression of Irish Throws Athletes. Athletics Ireland intends to support athlete's participation at the European Throwing Cup to reflect our aim of improving our standing in the European Team Championships, and to assist in developing throwers who the Selection Panel believes are showing realistic progression towards European Championships, World Championships or Olympic Games qualification.

**4. SELECTION PROCESS:****Participation Criteria**

**4.1** Nothing in this Policy obliges Athletics Ireland to select a full contingent of athletes in any particular event regardless of the Entry Rules or the Performance Standards. Athletics Ireland will select its Team according to the criteria set out in this Policy as allowed by Entry Rules.

## Eligibility

**4.2** In order to be eligible for selection all athletes must:

- 4.2.1** Fill out a [National Team Declaration Form \(NTDF\)](#) on Athletics Ireland High Performance website by 1 February 2026.
- 4.2.2** Satisfy all World Athletics eligibility, nationality and world championship participation rules.
- 4.2.3** Be a registered member of Athletics Ireland.
- 4.2.4** 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.
- 4.2.5** Athletics Ireland may enter only those athletes who have received certification for having completed the European Athletics Anti-Doping Education Programme – [I Run Clean](#).
- 4.2.6** Hold a valid current Irish passport.

## Performance Standards

**4.3** Athletics Ireland has set its own Performance Standards for the purposes of this Selection Policy. The Performance Standards for each of the events to be conducted at the 2026 European Throwing Cup are set out in clause 6.

**4.3.1** Additionally, EA have set Performance Standards for the Senior Events. In the Senior Events, 1 (one) athlete may participate without having achieved the EA performance Standard. For a second athlete to participate, at least 1 (one) athlete must have achieved the EA Performance Standard, within the respective qualification period.

## Qualification Periods

**4.4** Athletics Ireland has set its own Qualification Periods in which the Performance Standards must be achieved. Selection will be based on performances during the Qualification Periods of 1 January 2025 to 1 March 2026.

## General Selection Criteria

**4.5** The Selection Panel may “exercise their sole discretion” to select an athlete(s) that meets with the eligibility and entry rules of the 2026 European Throwing Cup.

**4.5.1** The Selection Panel may use their sole and overriding discretion to consider any factor or combination of factors that, in their opinion, are relevant to the selection of an athlete, including, but not necessarily limited to the following general principles:

- A. Consistency and Repeatability** of performances during the qualification period, showing current form and fitness
- B. Statistical data** (ranking/performance list, performance-time curves)
- C. Championship performance history**, in particular, the history of the athlete’s on-demand performances at championships
- D. The competitive head to head record** of each athlete
- E. Injury and illness** history

**4.6** Where there are more athletes that have achieved the selection criteria in this policy beyond the maximum entry limit in any one event, the Selectors will have sole and overriding discretion to decide which of the athlete(s) is to be selected.

## Individual Selection Criteria

**4.7** Any eligible athlete who has achieved one or more Performance Standards in a given event during the Qualification Period may **be considered for selection** to the 2026 European Throwing Cup.

**4.8** Having considered athletes for selection that have achieved a qualification standard during the qualifying period and given that this event is positioned as a Development Event, selectors **may** then consider athletes that have not achieved a qualifying standard. When considering athletes that have not achieved a qualification standard during the qualifying period:

- 4.8.1** Selectors will consider athletes that have come closest to the qualification standards as identified by the athletes best throw during the qualification period, expressed as percentage of the qualification standard in that event.
- 4.8.2** Selectors will only consider athletes for selection that have not achieved a Qualification standard if they believe that participation at the 2026 European Throwing Cup is critical for that athlete’s preparation and qualification for upcoming major Championships.
- 4.8.3** Selectors will only consider athletes for selection that have not achieved a Qualification standard if fewer than six (6) athletes have been selected having achieved a qualification standard during the qualification period.

**4.8.4** Selectors will select a maximum of six (6) athletes in total if fewer than six (6) athletes have achieved a qualification standard, including athletes who have achieved a qualification standard and athletes who have not achieved a qualification standard. Nothing in this policy obliges Athletics Ireland to select as many as six (6) athletes, regardless of whether or not a qualification standard has been achieved.

#### After Selection

**4.9** For the purposes of clarity, it is the intended operation of this Policy that **all selections in the Team remain conditional** up to and through the championships given the athlete shows form and fitness.

**4.9.1** Failure by a selected athlete to show form and fitness prior to the Championships will, at the discretion of the Selectors, High Performance Director and/or Team Manager result in an athlete who has been initially selected to the team being withdrawn.

**4.10** An athlete who enters the Athletics Ireland Team Camp and/or the 2026 European Throwing Cup's village will be subject to an injury evaluation/assessment by the championship Team Management staff. The injury evaluation/assessment will be carried out by Athletics Ireland's medical team.

**4.10.1** If as a result of such injury evaluation/assessment the Team Physio, Team Management staff, and Team Leader/Manager considers an athlete does not have the standard of fitness or is otherwise not in condition to compete due to injury at a level appropriate to the event(s) for which they have been selected, the Team Leader/Manager will have the sole discretion to withdraw the athlete from the competition.

**4.11** An athlete who is found to have breached any Athletics Ireland, World Athletics, EAA, LOC or other relevant code of conduct may be withdrawn from the competition at the sole discretion of the Team Leader/Manager.

#### Selectors Meeting

**4.12** The Selection Panel members and the [Selectors Terms of Reference can be found here](#).

**4.12.1** Final Team selections will be on 2 March 2026 and will be published thereafter on the High Performance Section of AAI website.

#### Selection Queries

**4.13** Athletes may seek clarification regarding selection policy with the Athletics Ireland [Performance Field Events Lead](#).

#### Non-Selection Appeals Process

**4.14** The publishing of selected athletes (Selection Announcement) on Athletics Ireland website after a selection meeting will be **deemed the commencement of the 24-hour period to lodge non-Selection Appeals** in accordance with this Selection Policy.

**4.15** Any athlete who is not selected in accordance with this Selection Policy may appeal their non-selection to Athletics Ireland providing they:

**4.15.1** Have submitted an NTF in accordance with timelines contained in this Selection Policy and;

**4.15.2** Submit a notice of their intention to appeal their non-selection via online [Notice of Appeals Form](#) within 24 hours of the selection decision published on the Athletics Ireland website (i.e. the Selection Announcement). The Notice of Appeal Form is submitted to the Chair of the Appeals Panel and the CEO of Athletics Ireland.

**4.16** The [Selection Appeals Procedure](#) can be found on the HP section of Athletics Ireland website.

**4.17** The Grounds upon which a Selection decision may be appealed are limited to the following:

**4.17.1** There has been an alleged failure by Selection Panel to follow or apply the relevant Selection Procedure and/or criteria set out in the Selection Policy, and/or

**4.17.2** The decision for selection for the championship has been reached based on an error of fact.

## 5. [GENERAL INFORMATION:](#)

**5.1** This policy and 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 policy and criteria will be published on the Athletics Ireland High Performance website.

## 6. [ATHLETICS IRELAND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS](#)

MEN		CATEGORY AND EVENT	WOMEN	
STANDARDS	EA STANDARD*		STANDARD	EA STANDARD*
17.20m	NA	U23 Shot	14.25m	NA
52.00m	NA	U23 Discus	47.50m	NA
64.50m	NA	U23 Hammer	60.00m	NA
69.00m	NA	U23 Javelin	48.50m	NA
18.80m	20.00	Sen Shot	15.50m	17.50
56.00m	63.00	Sen Discus	51.50m	58.00
69.00m	75.00	Sen Hammer	63.00m	69.00
73.50m	80.00	Sen Javelin	52.00m	58.00

\*In order to enter a second athlete in senior events, at least one of those athletes must have achieved the EA standard.