



SELECTION POLICY

WORLD ATHLETICS RACE WALKING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS: APRIL 12, BRASILIA, BRAZIL

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

QUALIFICATION PERIODS		
Date	Event	Notes
1 Jan 2025 to 22 March 2026	All Events	
IMPORTANT INFORMATION		
1 February 2026	National Team Declaration Form	Online Form
23 March 2026	Final selection all events	

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 Any athlete aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2008 or 2007) may compete in the Senior Half Marathon race or the U20 race, but not the Marathon Race. Any athlete aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010 or 2009) may compete in the U20 race ONLY.

2.2 For the Senior races, teams of not more than seven (7) athletes can be entered, of whom five (5) athletes will be allowed to start in each race of whom three (3) will score. For the U20 races, teams of not more than five (5) athletes can be entered, but not more than three (3) shall be allowed to start in each race of whom two (2) will score.

2.3 Individual entries are accepted in all races.

3. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY:

3.1 To achieve our High Performance vision of “more athletes winning on the world stage” Athletics Ireland has set the selection criteria and philosophy for the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships, where a Team/Individual(s) selected to compete, will have the potential to **achieve a top 8 (team finish), or top 30 (individual finish)**.

4. SELECTION PROCESS:**Participation Criteria**

4.1 Nothing in this Policy obliges Athletics Ireland to select a full contingent of athletes in any 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 World Athletics Entry Rules. **Achieving a Performance Standard gives no right or guarantee of selection.**

Eligibility

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

4.2.1 Fill out a [National Team Declaration Form](#) (NTDF) on the High Performance section of AAI website.

4.2.2 Satisfy all World Athletics eligibility, nationality and LOC championship participation rules.

4.2.3 Be a registered member of Athletics Ireland.

4.2.4 Complete and submit the World Athletics Athlete Acknowledgement and Agreement.

4.2.5 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 team into disrepute.

4.2.6 Hold a current valid Irish passport.

Performance Standards

4.3 Athletics Ireland has set its own Performance Standards for the purposes of this Selection Policy. Only World Athletics recognised performances and events will be accepted. Athletics Ireland's Performance Standards for each of the events to be conducted at the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships are set out in clause 6.

Qualifying Period

4.4 Athletics Ireland has set the Qualification Periods for this event, in which Performance Standards must be achieved, from 1 Jan 2025 to 22 March 2026.

General Selection Criteria

4.5 The Selection Panel may "exercise their sole discretion" to select a team or individual(s) that meets with the eligibility and entry rules of the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships and as stipulated in this Selection Policy.

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 (in all or any events) during the qualification period, achieving the performance standard and showing current form and fitness

B. Statistical data (ranking/performance list, performance-time curves, course ratings, altitude/wind adjustments)

C. Championship performance history

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 discretion to decide which of the athlete(s) is to be selected.

Individual Selection Criteria

4.7 For an athlete **to be considered for selection** to the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships an athlete must achieve a Performance Standard (see clause 6) within the Qualification Period. If an athlete has achieved a Performance Standard prior to 1 December 2025 only, they will be expected to show form and fitness between 1 December 2025 and 22 March 2026 by achieving a result(s) at a standard close to the listed Performance Standards.

Selectors Meeting

4.8 Final selection for all events will be on **23 March 2026**.

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

Selection Announcement

4.9 The Selections for the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships will be published on the High Performance section of Athletics Ireland website after the selection meeting.

Selection Queries

4.10 Athletes may seek clarification regarding selection with the Athletics Ireland [Performance Director](#).

After Selection

4.11 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.

4.11.1 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.

4.12 An athlete who enters the Athletics Ireland Team Camp and/or the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships 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 Physio (or appointed Team Physio).

4.12.1 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.

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

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 NTFD 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 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.

Meet Information

5.2 Selected athletes' personal coaches/family outside of the selected "Official Irish Team" will be responsible for their own travel, accommodations, tickets, and accreditations for the 2026 World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships.

6. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

Men	Event	Women
45:30.00	U20 10km	51:30.00
1:29:30 (1:24:00 20km)	Senior Half Marathon	1:41:40 (1:36:00 20km)
03:16:00 (2:37:00 35km)	Senior Marathon	3:41:15 (2:58:00 35km)