



## SELECTION POLICY

## WORLD ATHLETICS INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS: MARCH 20 - 22 2026, Torun, POLAND

GENERAL INFORMATION

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

QUALIFICATION PERIODS		
Date	Event	Notes
1 November 2025 to 8 March 2026	Standards for All Events except CE	
IMPORTANT DATES		
1 February 2026	National Team Declaration Form (NTDF)	<a href="#">Online form</a>
15 February 2026	Dispensation Request	<a href="#">Online form</a>
28 February & 1 March 2026	Athletics Ireland Indoor Championships	
9 March 2026	Final selections all events, on or before	
11 March 2026	WA publish final list of qualifiers by Entry (A) Standard and by Top lists, where pre entered by Member Federation	
12 March 2026	Final Entry Deadline	

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](#).
- 1.2** Performances achieved in mixed competitions in track events between male and female participants will not be accepted.
- 1.3** Wind-assisted **performances** will not be accepted.
- 1.4** **Hand-timed performances** in 60m, 100m, 400m, 800m, 60m Hurdles, and 100m/110m Hurdles will not be accepted.
- 1.5** For the running events of 400m and over, performances achieved on **oversized indoor tracks** will be accepted towards the outdoor standards and world rankings.
- 1.6** Performances must be achieved on tracks in accordance with World Athletics requirements.

2. ENTRY RULES:**2.1 Individual Events** (except combined events)

**2.1.1** Each Member will be allowed to participate with a maximum of two qualified athletes (three in case of a Wild Card) in each event, subject to the below.

**2.1.2** A third (fourth in case of a Wild Card) qualified athlete can be entered as a reserve.

**2.2 Individual Athletes (except Combined Events) can qualify in one of the following ways:**

**2.2.1** By achieving the Entry Standard (AAI A standard) within the qualification period in accordance with the conditions detailed below.

**2.2.2** By World Indoor Tour Wild Card

**2.2.2(a)** The individual overall winner of each event of the World Indoor Tour 2026 will automatically qualify for the World Athletics Indoor Championships by Wild Card.

**2.2.2(b)** The Member Federation of the World Indoor Tour winner will have the ultimate authority to enter the athlete or not, based on its own criteria or qualification system.

**2.2.2(c)** If a Member Federation has three athletes qualified as a result, all three will be permitted to compete.

**2.2.3** By virtue of their position in the Top Performance list from 1 November 2025 to 8 March 2026 to complete where necessary, the target number of athletes in each event. **Please note, Athletics Ireland requires athletes qualifying by virtue of Top Performance List to also have achieved a B standard as detailed in Clause 6 of this policy.**

**2.3 Combined Events**

**2.3.1** Up to fourteen (14) athletes will be invited by World Athletics in the Heptathlon and in the Pentathlon as follows:

**2.3.1(a)** Member Federations will be required to send to World Athletics a declaration of interest on behalf of the athlete to compete at 2026 World Indoor Championships by 31 December 2025.

**2.3.1(b)** On 9 January 2026 World Athletics will publish a list of qualified athletes together with a list of reserve athletes, from their World Rankings.

**2.3.2(c)** One athlete may be invited at the discretion of World Athletics.

**2.3.3(d)** The competing 14 athletes will be confirmed at the same time as all final entries close.

**2.3.2** In total no more than two male and two female athletes from any one Member will be invited. Upon refusals or cancellations, the invitations shall be extended to the next ranked athletes in the same lists respecting the above conditions.

**2.4** For the **Relays**, there is no entry standard, and each Member Federation will be able to enter up to eight (8) athletes in each team.

**2.5** Athletes younger than 16 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2011 or later) may not compete in any event. Athlete aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010 or 2009) may compete in any event except the Shot Put. Athletes aged 18 or older on 31 December 2026 (born 2008 or before) may compete in any event

### **3. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY:**

**3.1** Athletics Ireland has established the Selection Criteria consistent with its High Performance vision of “more athletes winning on the world stage”. The 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships is an event where an athlete selected to compete as an individual will be **expected to be capable of obtaining a podium, top 8, or top 16, or top 24 finish**.

### **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. **Achieving a Performance Standard gives no right or guarantee of selection.**

#### **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.

**4.2.2** Must compete in Athletics Ireland’s National Indoor Championships on 28 February & 1 March 2026.

**4.2.3** Satisfy all World Athletics eligibility, nationality and world championship participation rules.

**4.2.4** Be a registered member of Athletics Ireland.

**4.2.5** Complete and submit the World Athletics Athlete Acknowledgement and Agreement.

**4.2.6** 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.

#### **Performance Standards**

**4.3** Athletics Ireland has adopted the World Athletics Performance Standards as it’s A Standards for the purposes of this Selection Policy. Athletics Ireland requires athletes qualifying by virtue of Top lists, or by invitation in Combined Events, to also have achieved a B standard during the qualification period. There are no qualifying standards for 4x400m relays. The Standards for each of the events to be conducted at the 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships are set out in clause 6.

#### **Qualifying Period**

**4.4** Standards for all events except CE must be achieved between 1 November 2025 and 8 March 2026.

#### **General Selection Criteria**

**4.5** The Selection Panel may “exercise their sole discretion” to select an athlete(s) or relay team that meets with the eligibility and entry rules of the 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships and as stipulated in this Selection Policy. This includes selections for relay teams, individuals and for instances when there are more than 2 athletes who have met the performance standard.

**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**, in particular, the history of the athlete's on-demand performances at major 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 discretion to decide which of the athlete(s) is to be selected.

#### Individual Selection Criteria

**4.7** An athlete may be considered for selection for the 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships by having:

- 4.7.1** Achieving an A Standard (see clause 6) within the respective Qualification Period.
- 4.7.2** By virtue of Top Performance lists in the respective qualification period **AND**, have achieved a B standard (see clause 6) within the respective Qualification Period.
- 4.7.3** being invited to compete in Combined Events as detailed in clause 2.3
- 4.7.4** having achieved a Wild Card as detailed in clause 2.2.2

**4.8** Athletes seeking selection for the 2026 World Athletics Indoor Championships must compete in the 2026 Athletics Ireland Indoor National Championships unless dispensation, for exceptional circumstances, has been requested (no later than 15 February 2026) and granted, except in the case of genuine illness or injury occurring after that date and verified by AAI's medical Doctor/Lead Physio.

**4.9** An athlete who wins AAI's National Indoor Championship (in the event in which they are seeking selection) and has achieved qualification as per the criteria laid out in this policy will be automatically selected.

**4.10** The Selectors will consider any established breach of any code of conduct or athlete agreement by an athlete as a member of an Athletics Ireland representative team in deciding whether to select an athlete. Such a breach may result in the Selectors not nominating an athlete for selection, who would otherwise satisfy these criteria.

#### Relay Teams

**4.11** There are no entry standards for the 4x400m relays. A relay team(s) will be considered for selection if:

- 4.11.1** At the end of the qualification period, the average of the best performance of the top 4 available athletes on the 2026 Indoor Performance List is equal to or better than 53.00 (Women) or 47.00 (Men), and the championships timetable is such that those athletes are available to compete in the relay at the championship, and those athletes have declared their availability to compete in the relay at the championship in advance of selections.
- 4.11.2** Notwithstanding clause 4.11.1, Selectors reserve the right to select an athlete to the relay panel, regardless of any performances in 2026 Indoor Season, if they feel confident that athlete has potential to strengthen that team. In such a scenario, Selectors will consider selecting a relay team if the best performance of the top 3 available athletes on the 2026 Indoor Performance List is equal to or better than 53.00 (Women) or 47.00 (Men).

**4.12** 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 to the relay panel, including, but not necessarily limited to the following general principles:

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

**F. Previous/current relay experience** (proven ability to pass and receive batons, championship experience, head to heads).

**G.** Relay splits taken from prior championship or non-championships events may be considered.

**H. Commitment to relay programme** and relay panel initiatives.

#### 4.13 Final Relay Team Selections

The “Strike Four” athletes for any Relay Team(s) that run at the championships will be **selected by the appointed Relay Coach in consultation with Team Management**. For selection purposes there are “No Appeals” against the final running order or to the selection of the “Strike Four” athletes.

#### After Selection

**4.14** 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.

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

**4.15** An athlete who enters the Athletics Ireland Team Camp and/or the 2026 World Athletics Indoor 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).

**4.15.1** 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, in consultation with the Performance Director, will have the sole discretion to withdraw the athlete from the competition.

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

#### Selectors Meeting

**4.16** Final selections for all events will be on **8 March 2026**.

**4.16.1** In the case of athletes qualifying by Top List, and having achieved a B Standard, all selections will be conditional pending publication by WA of the final list of qualifiers on 11 March 2026.

**4.16.2** Immediately after the Selection Meeting, Athletics Ireland will pre-enter those athletes who have met all qualifying criteria as per this policy and have been deemed selected. Athletes who have not met criteria, for instance those who have not achieved a B standard in events where a B standard is required, will not be pre-entered, and therefore will not appear on final list of qualifiers to be published by WA on 11 March 2026.

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

#### Selection Queries

**4.17** Athletes can seek clarification regarding selection policy from the [Athletics Ireland Performance Director](#).

#### Non-Selection Appeals Process

**4.18** 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 accord with this Selection Policy.

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

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

**4.19.2** 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

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

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

**4.21.1** 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

**4.21.2** 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 believes such amendment is necessary in the best interests of Athletics Ireland or because of any change in WA participation rules and/or guidelines. Any amendment to the criteria will be published on the Athletics Ireland website.

### Meet Information

**5.2** The number of accreditations authorized per team is limited overall to the number of participating athletes. Team Support Staff will be accredited on this basis and informed after the team selections.

**5.3** 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 Indoor Championship.

## 6. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

MEN		EVENT (Target Number)	WOMEN	
A Standard	B Standard		A Standard	B Standard
6.59	6.63	60m (56)	7.20	7.30
45.80	46.30	400m (30)	51.75	52.45
1:45.90	1:46.75	800m (30)	2:00.90	2:02.20
3:36.00	3:37.75	1500m (30)	4:06.00	4:09.75
7:33.00	7:41.00	3000m (15)	8:35.00	8:47.00
7.65	7.72	60m hurdles (48)	8.02	8.11
2.30m	2.25	High jump (12)	1.96m	1.92
5.90m	5.70	Pole vault (12)	4.70m	4.50
8.17m	8.00	Long jump (16)	6.75m	6.60
16.90m	16.55	Triple jump (16)	14.15m	14.00
21.20m	20.45	Shot put (16)	18.90m	17.70
As per clause 2.3		CE (14)	As per clause 2.3	
As per clause 4.11		4x400m (NA)	As per clause 4.11	