



SELECTION POLICY

2026 WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS: MAY 2-3, GABORONE, BOTSWANA**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

QUALIFICATION PERIOD		
Date	Event	Note
1 January 2025 to 5 April 2026	All Relay Events.	
IMPORTANT DATES		
1 February 2026	Deadline for National Team Declaration Form.	Online Form
7 April 2026	World Athletics publish final Road to Gaborone list.	
8 April 2026	Final selection all relay events.	Names published after selection date on AAI website.
11 April 2026	Deadline for National Federations to pre-enter teams that they will enter if qualified.	
13 April 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 A maximum of 24 Teams will qualify in each event:
 - 1.2.1 The top 8 teams in the 2025 Tokyo World Championships will qualify automatically.
 - 1.2.2 For Mixed 4x100m the top 24 teams listed in the [Road to Gaborone](#) will qualify
 - 1.2.3 The host country may enter one team in each event regardless of any entry conditions.
 - 1.2.4 The remaining teams will be determined through the [Road to Gaborone](#) in the qualification period from 1 January 2025 to 5 April 2026.
- 1.3 At least two different international teams must compete in the race, where “international teams” means at least two different national teams, or one team composed by athletes of different countries (e.g. a university or club team).
- 1.4 Short Track (indoor) performances will be accepted.
- 1.5 Hand-timed performances for the 4x100m will not be accepted.
- 1.6 Performances achieved on over-sized short tracks (indoor) tracks will be accepted.

2. ENTRY RULES:

- 2.1 Any athlete aged at least 16 on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010 or earlier) may compete. Athletes younger than 16 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2011 or later) cannot compete.
- 2.2 The programme shall comprise of six relay events; Men’s, Women’s and Mixed 4x100m, Men’s, Women’s and Mixed 4x400m.
- 2.3 A maximum of one team from any one Member (Nation) can compete in each relay event and a maximum of eight athletes may be entered for each Relay Team. Any four athletes, among those entered for the competition, may then be used in the composition of the team, except in the Mixed 4x400m where only 1 substitute will be allowed.

3. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY:

- 3.1 The 2026 World Athletics Relays is the primary qualification opportunity for sprint relay teams for the 2027 World Championships. As such, Athletics Ireland will consider selecting any team(s) which have met the qualifying standards or which qualifies by top lists, and selectors believe has the potential to qualify for the 2027 World Championships.

4. SELECTION PROCESS:**Participation Criteria**

4.1 Nothing in this Policy obliges Athletics Ireland to select a relay team in any event or a full contingent of individuals on any particular relay team regardless of the Entry Rules. Athletics Ireland will select its relay team according to the criteria set out in this Policy as allowed by Entry Rules. **Achieving qualification 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 the High Performance section of Athletics Ireland website before 1 February 2026.
- 4.2.2** Satisfy all World Athletics (WA) eligibility, nationality and 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** Hold a valid current Irish passport.

Performance Standards

4.3 There are no Performance Standards for this championships.

Qualification Period

4.4 The Qualification Period in which the Performance Standards must be achieved is **1 January 2025 to 5 April 2026**.

General Selection Criteria

4.5 The Selectors may “exercise their sole and overriding discretion” to select a relay team that meets with the eligibility and entry rules of the 2026 World Athletics Relays.

- 4.5.1** Any team that finished in a top 8 position at the 2025 World Championships will be automatically considered for selection.
- 4.5.2** Any team that qualifies as one of the next best ranked teams [Road to Gaborone](#) will be considered for selection if selectors are satisfied that the team has the potential to achieve qualification to the 2027 World Championships.
- 4.5.3** Selectors will only consider teams for selection (and therefore pre-entry) that have achieved a top 32 placing on the final [Road to Gaborone](#) list due to be published on 7 April 2026.

4.6 Notwithstanding these criteria, if there is insufficient availability from our leading athletes to form a relay team that will be competitive at the 2026 World Athletics Relays, the Selectors reserve the right not to select a given relay team.

Individual Selection Criteria

4.7 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, throughout the qualifying period** (ranking/performance list, performance-time curves, altitude/wind adjustments)
- C. Championship performance history**, particularly 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.

4.8 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 before final relay declarations. For selection purposes there are “No Appeals” against the final running order or to the selection of the “Strike Four” athletes.

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 World Athletics Relays given the athlete shows form and fitness.

4.10 Failure by a selected athlete to show form and fitness prior to the World Athletics Relays will, at the discretion of the Selectors, the High Performance Director and/or Team Coach result in an athlete who has been initially selected to the team being withdrawn.

4.11 Selectors reserve the right to withdraw a selected team from the Championships if one or more selected athletes withdraw/are withdrawn from that team prior to departure, and such withdrawal is considered to significantly detract from the team’s potential to fulfil the stated selection philosophy (See clause 3).

4.12 An athlete who enters the Athletics Ireland Team Camp and/or the 2026 World Athletics Relays village will be subject to an injury evaluation/assessment by the 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 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 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, WA, LOC or other relevant code of conduct may be withdrawn from the competition at the sole discretion of the Team Leader.

Selection Queries

4.14 Athletes can seek clarification regarding selection with Athletics Ireland’s [Performance Sprints Lead](#).

Non-Selection Appeals Process

4.15 The publishing of selected teams and 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.

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

4.16.1 Have submitted an NTDF in accordance with timelines contained in this Selection Policy and;

4.16.2 Submit a notice of their intention to appeal their non-selection via online [Notice of Appeals Form](#) within 24 hours of sending of Selection Notification email. The Notice of Appeal Form is submitted to the Chair of the Appeals Panel and the CEO of Athletics Ireland.

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

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

4.18.1 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

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

Selectors Meetings

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

4.20 Final selections for all relay events will be on **8 April 2026**.

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 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 officials/coaches accreditations authorised per team is limited. Officials and Team Coaches will be accredited on

this basis and named after the team selections.