



SELECTION POLICY

2026 EUROPEAN ATHLETICS U18 CHAMPIONSHIPS 16-19 JULY, RIETI, ITALY

QUALIFICATION PERIODS		
Date	Event	Notes
1 November 2025 to 28 June 2026	Qualifying Period	
IMPORTANT DATES		
1 May 2026	National Team Declaration Form Deadline	Online Form
30 June 2026	Final selections all events	

1. CONDITIONS:

- 1.1** All performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by World Athletics (WA), its Area Associations, or its National Federations, and conducted in conformity with WA Rules and for which an application has been submitted to WA (World Rankings Competition Framework). No results will be considered from competitions not submitted to WA and not included into [World Athletics Global Calendar](#).
- 1.2** Performances achieved in mixed competitions in track events will not be accepted.
- 1.3** Wind assisted performances (over 2m/sec) will not be accepted; (For the combined events the conditions set in World Athletics Technical Rules will still be applied for qualification purposes, so at least one of the following conditions shall be satisfied:
- the velocity in any individual event shall not exceed plus 4 metres per second.
 - the average velocity (based on the algebraic sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) shall not exceed plus 2 m/s.
- 1.4** Short track performances will be accepted.
- 1.5** Hand-timed performances for events up to and including 800m and 4x100m Relays will not be accepted.
- 1.6** For Race Walks, results of races conducted on the road will be accepted.

2. ENTRY RULES:

- 2.1** Athletics Ireland may enter up to 3 (three) athletes in each individual event of whom up to 2 (two) may participate provided all of them shall have achieved the entry standard for that event.
- 2.2** Relay teams: Athletics Ireland may enter 1 (one) team in each relay event. Up to 8 (eight) athletes may be entered for each relay. From these 8 (eight) and from any other athletes entered for any event in the European Athletics U18 Championships, the 4 (four) athletes to participate must be nominated at the time specified for the Final Declaration.
- 2.3** Only athletes aged at least 16 (sixteen) and not more than 17 (seventeen) years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2009 and 2010) may participate in the European Athletics U18 Championships 2026.

3. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY:

3.1 Athletics Ireland recognises the importance of the European U18 Championships in the development of the next generation of international athletes. The Performance Standards and selection process set for this championship reflect a desire to select athletes that will have the opportunity to be competitive at the international U18 level, and to support their transition through the age-grades into full senior international competitors.

4. SELECTION PROCESS:**Participation Criteria**

4.1 Nothing in this Policy obliges Athletics Ireland to select a full contingent of individual athletes or a relay team 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 before 1 May 2026.
- 4.2.2 Satisfy all World Athletics, eligibility, nationality, and European Championship participation rules.
- 4.2.3 Be a registered member of Athletics Ireland and have a valid current Irish passport.
- 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 Have received certification for having completed the [European Athletics Anti-Doping Education Programme – I Run Clean](#).

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 only be accepted). Athletics Ireland’s Performance Standards for each of the events to be conducted at the 2026 European Athletics U18 Championships are set out in clause 6.

Qualification Period

4.4 Athletics Ireland has set its own Qualification Period in which the Performance Standards must be achieved. Selection will be based on performances (for all events) during the Qualification Period of 1 November 2025 to 28 June 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 European U18 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. The competitive **head-to-head record** of each athlete
- D. **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 individual athlete to be considered for selection to the 2026 European U18 Championships an athlete must achieve at least (two) Performance Standards in a particular event within the Qualifying Period, except for:

4.7.1 In the Boys and Girls 2000mSC, 3000m, 5000m Walk and Combined Events, because of the restricted nature of the performance period and limited qualifying opportunities, athletes will be considered for selection who have achieved 1 (one) standard.

Relay Teams

4.8 Athletics Ireland has sole discretion to consider the selection of “Medley Relay Team(s)” (100m, 200m, 300m, 400m) for the Championships.

4.8.1 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 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**, 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.

4.9 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 the Pathway Sprints & Relays Lead** and confirmed by Team Management before relay declaration are entered. For selection purposes there are “No Appeals” against the final running order or to the selection of the “Strike Four” athletes.

Selectors Meetings

4.10 The Selection meeting to consider athletes for the 2026 European U18 Championships will be held on 30 June 2026.

4.11 [Selection Panel and the Selection Panel Terms of Reference](#) can be found on the Athletics Ireland HP website.

After Selection

4.12 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.

4.12.1 Form and fitness is proven by the athlete achieving a performance/result prior to the championships that is close/better than the published Performance Standards set in (clause 5).

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

4.13 An athlete who is selected for the 2026 European U18 Championship or enters the Athletics Ireland Team Camp and/or championship 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).

4.13.1 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.

4.14 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.

Selection Queries

4.15 Athletes can seek clarification regarding selection and/or requirements regarding what they need to do to meet selection with [Athletics Ireland’s Performance Pathway Manager](#).

Non-Selection Appeals Process

4.16 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.

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

4.17.1 Have submitted an NTFD in accordance with timelines contained in this Selection Policy and;

4.17.2 Submit an appeal against 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

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

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

4.19.1 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

4.19.2 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 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 High Performance website.

Funding

Meet Information

5.2 The number of accreditations authorised 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 European Athletics U18 Championships.

6. ATHLETICS IRELAND - PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

EAA's Target Number	Boys	EVENTS	Girls	EAA's Target Number
32	10.72	100m	11.85	32
32	21.80	200m	24.40	32
32	48.75	400m	55.60	32
32	01:53.00	800m	2:09.50	32
25	03:53.50	1500m	4:25.50	25
15	08:23.00	3000m	9:35.00	15
32	14.05	.914 110mH/100mH .762	13.85	32
32	54.40	.838 400mH .762	61.40	32
25	6:00.00	2000m SC	6:55.00	25
24	2.03m	High Jump	1.76m	24
24	4.70m	Pole Vault	3.80	24
24	7.15m	Long Jump	6.04m	24
24	14.45m	Triple Jump	12.55m	24
24	17.60m	5kg Shot 3kg	15.44m	24
24	54.50m	1.5kg Discus 1kg	44.30m	24
24	66.10m	5kg Hammer 3kg	60.50m	24
24	62.80m*	700gr Javelin 500gr	48.50m	24
24	6700	Combined Events	5200	24
25	23:00.00	5000m Walk	25:15.00	25
16	No Standard	Medley Relay	No standard	16

*Boys Javelin standard has been amended to reflect a change to technical specification of 700g javelin introduced in advance of this season, which has had a significant impact on throwing performance with that implement in 2026.