



SELECTION POLICY

WORLD ATHLETICS U20 CHAMPIONSHIPS, 4-9 AUGUST, EUGENE, USA

GENERAL INFORMATION

In the interest of long-term athlete welfare, Athletics Ireland will only consider athletes **under 18 years of age (U18)** to be eligible to compete at **one major championship in 2026** (either the World U20 Championships or the European U18 Championships). Only in exceptional circumstances may an athlete be considered for more than one.

QUALIFICATION PERIODS		
Date	Event	Notes
1 November 2025 to 12 July 2026	Qualifying Period for All Events	
IMPORTANT DATES		
01 May 2026	National Team Declaration Form	Online Form
4-5 July 2026	National U20 Championships	Dispensation Request Form
14 July 2026	Final selections all events	

1. World Athletics Entry Conditions:

- 1.1 A maximum of two athletes from any one Member can compete in each event (with the exception of the Relays).
- 1.2 Only athletes aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 on 31 December 2026 (born in 2010, 2009, 2008, or 2007) may compete.
- 1.3 The maximum number of events in which an U18 athlete (born in 2010 or 2009) can compete is two individual events plus one of the relays. If the two individual events are Track Events, only one of these may be longer than 200m.
- 1.4 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](#).
- 1.5 Performances achieved in mixed competitions in track events will not be accepted. For Race Walks the results of mixed races will always be accepted.
- 1.6 Wind assisted performances will not be accepted (over 2m/sec).
- 1.7 Short-track (including Indoor) performances will be accepted.
- 1.8 Hand-timed performances for events up to and including 800m will not be accepted.
- 1.9 For the running events of 200m and over, performances achieved on **over-sized tracks** will not be accepted.
- 1.10 For Race Walks, road performances will be accepted.

2. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY:

2.1 To achieve our High Performance vision of “more athletes winning on the world stage”, while identifying World Athletics U20 as key Pathway Championships facilitating transition to senior competition, Athletics Ireland has set the selection criteria and philosophy for the 2026 World U20 Championships, where an Individual selected to compete, will be **expected to be capable of in a podium, top 12 finish, or top 24 finish**, and a relay team selected will be **expected to be capable of a top 8 finish**.

3. SELECTION PROCESS:

Participation Criteria

3.1 Nothing in this Policy obliges Athletics Ireland to select a full contingent of two (2) individuals or a relay team in any particular event regardless of the World Athletics Entry Rules or the World Athletics qualification 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

3.2 In order to be eligible for selection all athletes must:

- 3.2.1** Fill out a [National Team Declaration Form \(NTDF\)](#) on Athletics Ireland High Performance website before 01 May 2026
- 3.2.2** Satisfy all World Athletics, eligibility, nationality and European championship participation rules.
- 3.2.3** Be a registered member of Athletics Ireland and hold a current valid Irish passport.
- 3.2.4** Complete and submit the World Athletics Athlete Acknowledgement and Agreement.
- 3.2.5** Remain in “good standing” with Athletics Ireland and at all times and 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

3.3 Athletics Ireland’s Performance Standards for each of the events to be conducted at the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships are set out in clause 5.

Qualification Period

3.4 Athletics Ireland has set its own periods in which the Performance Standards must be achieved. Selection will be based on the performances (for all events) during the period of 1 November 2025 to 12 July 2026.

General Selection Criteria

3.5 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 U20 Championships and as stipulated in this Selection Policy.

3.5.1 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

3.6 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

3.7 For an individual athlete to be considered for selection to the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships an athlete must achieve at least (two) Performance Standards in a particular event within the Qualifying Period, except for:

3.7.1 In the M/W 3000mSC, 3000m, 5000m, 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.

3.8 An athlete that has been selected for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships in one event who has also achieved one Performance Standard in another event will also be considered for selection in that event and may compete in either or both events if selected (the Selectors will confirm the selection of one/both events).

3.9 Athletes seeking selection for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships must compete in the 2026 Athletics Ireland National U20 Championships, unless dispensation has been requested (no later than 28 June 2026), except in the case of genuine illness or injury occurring after that date and verified by AAI’s medical Doctor / Lead Physio.

3.10 An athlete who wins AAI’s National U20 Championship (in the event in which they are seeking selection) and has achieved the required performance standard(s) within the qualification period will be automatically selected (given that the conditions of form/fitness are met).

Relays

3.11 For a relay panel to be considered for selection to the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships that panel must achieve an entry standard during the qualification period on at least one (1) occasion, or;

3.11.1 In the case of Men's and Women's 4x400m and Mixed 4x400m, selectors will consider a relay panel for selection if no standard has been achieved but the following conditions are met:

3.11.1(a) In the men's 4x400m if the aggregate of the best performances by the fastest four (4) athletes available for selection during the Qualification Period is less than or equal to 3:12.00.

3.11.1(b) In the women's 4x400m if the aggregate of the best performances by the fastest four (4) athletes available for selection during the Qualification Period is less than or equal to 3:41.00.

3.11.1(c) In the Mixed 4x400m if the aggregate of the best performances by the fastest two (2) male athletes and fastest two (2) female athletes available for selection during the Qualification Period is less than or equal to 3:28.0.

3.12 Regardless of the conditions set out in clause 3.10, Selectors will only consider a relay panel for selection if all probable selections are available to compete in that event at the championships.

3.13 In the case of a relay panel being selected, a maximum of five (5) athletes will be selected per relay panel, or a maximum of six (6) athletes (three (3) male and three (3) female) in the Mixed 4x400m.

3.14 The Selection Panel, in conjunction with the appointed relay coach, 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.

3.15 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

3.16 The Selection meeting to consider athletes for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships will be held on 14 July 2026.

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

After Selection

3.17 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.

3.17.1 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).

3.17.2 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.

3.18 An athlete who is selected for the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships 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).

3.18.1 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.

3.19 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

3.20 Athletes can seek clarification regarding selection and/or selection requirements with the Athletics Ireland [Performance Pathway Manager](#).

Non-Selection Appeals Process

3.21 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.

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

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

3.22.2 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.

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

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

3.24.1 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

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

4. GENERAL INFORMATION:

4.1 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 World Athletics participation rules and/or guidelines. Any amendment to the criteria will be published on the Athletics Ireland website.

Meet Information

4.2 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 U20 Championships.

5. ATHLETICS IRELAND - PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:

Men		Women
Standard	Event	Standard
10.46	100m	11.70
21.15	200m	24.00
47.10	400m	54.20
1:48.75	800m	2:06.00
3:45.50	1500m	4:22.00
8:02.00	3000m	9:18:00
13:55.00	5000m	16:10.00
8:55.00	3000m SC	10:26.00
13.85 (.991m)	110mH/100mH	13.70
52.40	400H	59.50
20:45.00 (43:20.00 10km)	5000m Race Walk	23:52.00 (49:05.00 10km)
40.25	4x100m	45.50
3:09.00 or aggregate of best 4 performances <= 3:12.00	4x400m	3:38.00 or aggregate of best 4 performances <= 3:41.00
3:25.00 or aggregate of best 2 male and best 2 female performances <= 3:28.00	Mx 4x400m	3:25.00 or aggregate of best 2 male and best 2 female performances <= 3:28.00
7100 pts	Combined Events	5350 pts
2.12	High Jump	1.82
5.15	Pole Vault	4.05
7.60	Long Jump	6.30
15.60	Triple Jump	13.05
18.60 (6kg)	Shot Put	14.70
56.20 (1.75kg)	Discus Throw	50.00
69.00 (6kg)	Hammer Throw	59.00
69.50	Javelin Throw	50.75