

European Cross Country Championships – 12 December 2021 Dublin, Ireland

Selection Policy – Published September 2021

Overview

British Athletics consider the European Cross Country Championships as a key stepping stone towards success at future global track and field championships.

Full GB & NI men's and women's senior, U23 and junior teams will be selected for this competition (6 athletes per team) as well as a senior mixed relay team (2 senior men and 2 senior women). For the avoidance of date an athlete may only be selected for one event at the European Cross Country Championships (i.e. athletes will not be able to double up and compete in an individual and relay race).

The 2021 European Cross Country Championships policy has been structured to select a team with the following aims:

- Medal success at the 2021 European Cross Country Championships; AND
- Opportunities for developing athletes with the potential for future success at senior outdoor major championships (including future Cross Country championships).

The Official Trial ("the Trials"), takes place in Liverpool as part of the British Athletics Cross Country Challenge on **Saturday 27 November 2021**. For the first time in recent years two short-course races (one male and one female) will take place at Liverpool to act as a trial for the senior mixed relay team.

Athletes seeking selection for the relay team must compete in the short-course race at Liverpool. To do so they will need to submit an expression of interest to compete in the trial by **Tuesday 16 November 2021**. If no EOI is received by this date, the individual will not be able to compete in the trial and therefore will not be considered for selection in the relay team for the European Cross Country Championships. A relay expression of interest form can be found [here](#).

For individual races it is not mandatory to compete at the Trials, however not competing may risk non-selection. Athletes seeking selection but not competing at the Trials should submit an expression of interest by **Friday 26 November 2021**. An individual expression of interest form can be found [here](#).

Please note, U17 male athletes wishing to qualify for selection for the junior team via the Trials should register to compete in the U20 race at the Trials (U17 female athletes already compete in the U20 race at the Trials so will automatically be considered for the U20 team).

The health and safety of all athletes and staff selected will underpin our final preparations and competition arrangements. Selected athletes will be asked to confirm their decision to compete by signing an 'Opt In' form.

British Athletics will plan travel arrangements lowest risk to COVID-19.

Final selection will be at the discretion of the Performance Director, Olympic Head Coach and Selectors. All questions related to the selection policy (including those relating to athletes based overseas) and the trial races should be directed to Maddy Ibbett (mibbett@britishathletics.org.uk).

Eligibility

1. To be considered eligible for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:
 - a. Be eligible to compete for GB&NI (i.e. full British passport holder);
 - b. For U23 athletes, be born in 1999, 2000 or 2001;
 - c. For junior (U20) athletes, be born in 2002, 2003, 2004 or 2005;
 - d. For the senior mixed relay athletes must be born in 2001 or earlier (i.e. they must be a senior or U23 athlete) and must compete at the trials;
 - e. have completed the European Athletics 'I Run Clean™' anti-doping education programme via <https://www.irunclean.org/> and have a valid certificate number prior to the 2021 European Cross Country Championships selection meeting on 29 November 2021.
 - f. sign the British Athletics Team Members' Agreement ("TMA") and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of competition will result in their selection being withdrawn. The current version of the TMA can be found online at www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/.

Note: Athletes will be selected to compete in the age-group race for which they are eligible at the championships (i.e. U23 athletes will be selected for the U23 race, U20 athletes will be selected for the junior race). For the avoidance of doubt, should an U23 athlete finish ahead of a senior athlete in the joint race at the Trials, the U23 athlete will be selected for the U23 race, and will NOT be considered as one of the first senior athletes past the post. Exceptions to this rule (i.e. selecting U20 athletes to compete in the U23 race, or U23's in the in the senior race) may only be made at the discretion of the selection panel and only if they believe that doing so would be in the best interests of the team and the best long term interests of the individual athlete. Agreement of the individual athlete is also required.

Selection process

2. The team will be selected in one selection meeting on **Monday 29 November 2021**.
3. The selection panel ("the Panel") will be chosen based on their expertise and knowledge in the field of Cross Country. The Panel will also include an Athletes Commission member and/or a non-voting independent observer.
4. The team will be announced on Tuesday 30 November 2021.
5. Round 1 – Senior Individuals
 - a. The top 4 eligible senior athletes from each senior race at the Trials (not including any U23 athletes competing in the joint senior/U23 Trial race) will be automatically selected for the individual senior race.
 - i. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the top four at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their automatic selection WILL be offered to the next eligible senior athlete at the Trials.

- b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining two individual spots based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority orders):
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 27th November 2021;
 - ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
 - iii. performance at the Trials;
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2021 cross country season;
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.
6. Round 2 - Senior Mixed Relay
- a. The Panel will select a mixed relay team consisting of 4 senior/U23 athletes - 2 male and 2 female, who will each run 1 lap of the course (approx. 1500m per lap).
 - b. The top 2 eligible athletes from each short-course race at the Trials will be automatically selected for the relay.
 - i. For the avoidance of doubt, if either of the top two at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their automatic selection WILL be offered to the next eligible athlete in the short-course Trial.
7. Round 3 – U23s:
- a. The first four placed eligible U23 athletes at the Trials (in the combined senior/U23 trial race) will be automatically selected for the U23 race. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first four placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete at the trials. Their place will be re-allocated based on point b below.
 - b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining team spots based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority order):
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 27th November 2021;
 - ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
 - iii. performance at the Trials;
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2021 cross country season;
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition
8. Round 4 – Juniors (U20s):
- a. The first five placed eligible junior athletes (including U17's) at the Trials will be automatically selected for the junior race. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first five placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete at the trials. Their place will be re-allocated based on point b below.
 - b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining team spots based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority order):
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 27th November 2021;
 - ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
 - iii. performance at the Trials;
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2021 cross country season;
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition

9. British Athletics will select two non-travelling reserves for each individual team and the mixed relay. These athletes will be added to the final entry and will be called upon if logistically possible should any athlete withdraw. Non-travelling reserve places will be selected based on the criteria listed above in points 5.b, 6.a, 7.b, and 8.b.

Appeals

10. There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the GB&NI Team made by the Selection Panel. The provisions of the British Athletics Selection and Nomination “Fast” Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB&NI team selections for the 2021 European Cross Country Championships.

Amendment

11. British Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.britishathletics.org.uk.