



## World Cross Country Championships – 30 March 2024, Belgrade, Serbia.

### **Purpose**

UK Athletics considers the World Cross Country Championships as a stepping-stone towards success at future global track and field championships, in line with the overarching Endurance strategy for UK Athletics.

The 2024 World Cross Country Championships selection policy has been structured to select a team with the following event objectives:

- Team medal success at the 2024 World Cross Country Championships.
- Supporting senior athlete preparation for future global track success; AND
- Opportunities for developing junior athletes with the potential for future success at Cross Country championships.

### **Selection Overview**

The team will be selected in a selection meeting on Monday 11 March 2024.

UK Athletics will select up to four (4) athletes for each male and female junior team, four (4) athletes for the universal mixed relay team and up to five (5) male and five (5) female individual senior athletes.

Selection for individual senior athletes will be based on performances achieved at:

- The 2023 European Cross Country Championships, Brussels, 10 December 2023.
- The UK Cross Challenge, Parliament Hill, London, 20 January 2024.
- The UK CAU Championships and UK Cross Challenge Final, (venue to be confirmed) 9 March 2024.

Junior athlete selection will take into consideration performances at:

- The UK CAU Championships and UK Cross Challenge Final, (venue to be confirmed) 9 March 2024.

Senior athletes wishing to compete in the mixed relay will need to complete the Expression of Interest (EOI) [form](#) for the Universal Mixed Relay team prior to 12:00 GMT 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

All athletes must meet the eligibility criteria set out at the end of this selection policy.

### **Selection Panel**

1. The selection panel (“the Panel”) will consist of the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager and WCP Endurance Performance Manager. In the event that a Panel member is unavailable any appropriate replacement shall be appointed to the Panel
2. The WCP Endurance Performance Manager may (but is not obliged to) invite any other person to attend the selection meeting in a non-voting capacity, including:
  - i. Chairperson;
  - ii. Independent observer;
  - iii. UKA Athlete Commission Member or BEAA representative
  - iv. UKA Medical representative;
  - v. Legal counsel for UKA;
  - vi. Note-takers.

3. The selection panel follows the process described below. Selections will be made based on a majority vote. The UKA Endurance Strategy Manager shall have the casting vote, if required.
4. The team will be announced on **Wednesday 13 March 2024**.

## **Selection Rounds**

### **5. Round 1 – Senior Athletes**

- a. The first two (2) female senior athletes and first two (2) male athletes who finish in top 12 at the 2023 European Cross Country Championships will be automatically selected for the individual senior race. For the avoidance of doubt, if any athletes who finished in the top 12 at the 2023 European Cross Country Championships decline selection (through injury or any other reason), the place WILL NOT be offered to any other senior athletes who competed at the 2023 European Cross Country Championships.
- b. The first female U23 athlete (1) and first male U23 athlete (1) who medal at the 2023 European Cross Country Championships will be automatically selected for the individual senior race.
- c. The first placed senior female athlete (1) and first placed senior male athlete (1), at the UK Cross Challenge at Parliament Hill, London on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024 will be automatically selected for the individual senior race.
- d. The first placed senior female athlete (1) and first placed senior male athlete (1), at the UK CAU championships and UK Cross Challenge Final (venue to be confirmed) on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024 will be automatically selected for the individual senior race.
- e. If any places remain, the panel will select senior athletes based on top three (3) finishers at the UK CAU championships and UK Cross Challenge Final (venue to be confirmed) on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- f. At the discretion of the Panel, any further remaining places will be selected based on performances at UK Cross Country Challenge races 2024.

### **6. Round 2 - Senior Mixed Relay**

The Panel will select a mixed relay team consisting of four (4) senior/U23 athletes – two (2) male and two (2) female - who will each run one (1) lap of the course.

- a. Athletes must complete the EOI before 12:00 GMT on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024 should they wish to be considered for selection.
- b. The Panel will select athletes based on the following criteria, which are not listed in any priority order:
  - i. The Panel will take into consideration athletes who have demonstrated the minimum standard time for 1500m of sub 4:10:00 (women) and sub 3:39:00 (men). Performances will have been achieved between 1 January 2023 and, midnight GMT 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Performances achieved in mixed track events between male and female participants will not be considered.
  - ii. Athletes' current form and fitness during the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
  - iii. Performances at the 2023 European Cross-Country Championships.
  - iv. Athletes' current form and performances at indoor competitions and/or cross-country competitions.
  - v. Performances in the Cross-Country Challenge races 2024.
  - vi. Athletes' previous cross-country competition history.
  - vii. Head-to-heads during the autumn 2023-2024 Cross Country season.
  - viii. Any other factors the Selection Panel deem relevant to this competition.

## **7. Round 3 – Junior Athletes (U20)**

The first three (3) placed female and male eligible junior athletes at the UK CAU Championships and UK Cross Challenge Final, (venue to be confirmed) Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March, will be automatically selected for the individual Junior race.

*Note:* athletes will be selected to compete in the age-group race for which they are eligible at the World Cross Country Championships. U20 eligible ages are different to the 2023 European Cross-Country Championships. See the 'Eligibility' section at the end of the Selection Policy for details.

- a. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining team places based on the following criteria, which are not listed in any priority order:
  - i. Performances at the UK Cross Country Challenge races 2024.
  - ii. Athletes' current form and fitness from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
  - iii. Athletes' previous cross-country competition history.
  - iv. Performances at the 2023 European Cross-Country Championships.
  - v. Head to heads during the autumn 2023-2024 cross country season.
  - vi. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.

## **Reserves**

UK Athletics will select two non-travelling reserves for each team event in the event selected athletes are unable to travel. These places will be selected at the Selection Meeting, based on the criteria listed above. These athletes will be added to the final entry and will be called upon to compete and the discretion of the Team Leader and if logistically possible.

## **Eligibility**

To be considered eligible for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:

- a. Be eligible to compete for Great Britain & Northern Ireland and hold a full British passport.
- b. For Junior (U20) athletes, be aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2024 (born in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008).
- c. Not currently serving a period of ineligibility or a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation or for any other reason of misconduct.
- d. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including but not limited to the Code of Conduct for International Athletes.
- e. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club.
- f. Sign the UK Athletics Team Members' Agreement ("TMA") or World Class Programme Athlete Agreement and abide by its terms and conditions. Failure to do so prior to the first date of competition will result in selection being withdrawn. The current version of the TMA can be found online at [www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/](http://www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/)
- g. Provide such performance, medical and training data requested by UK Athletics from time to time whether before or after selection.

## **Appeals**

There shall be no right of appeal for the selection of the GB&NI Team. The provisions of the UK Athletics Selection and Nomination "Fast" Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB&NI team selection for the 2024 World Cross Country Championships.

## **Amendment**

UK 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](http://www.britishathletics.org.uk).

### **Contact Details**

Questions related to the selection policy (including those relating to athletes based overseas) and the Mixed Relay Expression of Interest should be directed to Laura Burke ([lburke@britishathletics.org.uk](mailto:lburke@britishathletics.org.uk)).