



2023 European Cross Country Championships: 10th December 2023 Bruxelles, Belgium

Selection Policy – Published August 2023

OVERVIEW

This policy describes the process for the selection of team members to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland (GB & NI) at the 2023 European Cross Country Championships in Bruxelles, Belgium.

AIM

UK Athletics (UKA) intends to select athletes with the following aims:

- Medal success at the 2023 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).

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 doubt, 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).

TRIALS

The Official Trial ("the Trials"), takes place in Liverpool as part of the UK Athletics Cross Country Challenge on **Saturday 25th November 2023**. 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 (EOI) to compete in the trial by **Sunday 12th November 2023**. 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 24th November 2023**. 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).

SELECTION MEETING

1. The selection meeting will take place on Monday 27th November 2023.
2. Selection will be subject to the maximum entries as permitted by European Athletics (EA) as follows:
 - i. Six (6) Senior Men
 - ii. Six (6) Senior Women
 - iii. Six (6) U23 Men
 - iv. Six (6) U23 Women
 - v. Six (6) U20 Women
 - vi. Six (6) U20 Women
 - vii. Four (4) Mixed Relay; Two (2) Male and Two (2) Female
3. The final team will be announced on 28th November 2023.

SECTION 1: ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION

4. To be considered for selection, athletes must satisfy the Eligibility Criteria set out in Appendix 1 – Eligibility Criteria.

SECTION 2: SELECTION PROCESS

Selection Rounds

The Selection Panel will select athletes in four (4) rounds.

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 NOT be automatically offered to the next 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 places based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority order):
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 26th November 2023;
 - ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
 - iii. performance at the Trials;
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2023 cross country season;
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.

6. Round 2 – 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 places based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority order):

- i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 26th November 2023;
- ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
- iii. performance at the Trials;
- iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2023 cross country season;
- v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.

7. Round 3 – 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 places based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority order):
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 26th November 2023;
 - ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
 - iii. performance at the Trials;
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2023 cross country season;
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.

8. Round 4 - Senior Mixed Relay

- a. The Panel will select a mixed relay team consisting of four (4) senior/U23 athletes - 2 male and 2 female, who will each run 1 lap of the course (approx. 1500m per lap).
 - b. The first placed eligible athlete from each short-course race at the Trials will be automatically selected for the relay. For the avoidance of doubt, if the first placed individual at the Trials declines selection (through injury or any other reason) their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete in the short-course Trial. Their place will be re-allocated based on point c below:
 - c. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining places based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority orders):
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 26th November 2023;
 - ii. athletes' previous cross country competition history;
 - iii. performance at the Trials;
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2023 cross country season;
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.
9. In relation to selections for places where athletes are compared (see paragraphs 5.c, 6.c, 7.c and 8.c), and athletes considered have suffered from illness/injury. The Selection Panel may take their injury/illness into account as a reason not to select the athlete and there is no obligation on the Selection Panel take into account illness/injury as an exemption from the requirement to perform in the case of an athlete whose performances may have suffered due to illness/injury.
10. Eligible junior athletes will only be selected to compete in the senior event at the discretion of the selection panel and only if the Panel deem it to be in the long-term interests of the individual athlete (and provided they have demonstrated the ability to perform at senior level).

Reserves

11. UK Athletics will select two non-travelling reserves for each 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.b, 7.b, and 8.c.

SECTION 3: SELECTION PANEL

12. The Selection Panel will be chosen based on their expertise and knowledge in the field of Cross Country.
13. The Selection Panel shall comprise as follows:
- a. Voting Members:
 - i. WCP Endurance Performance Manager or, if unavailable for an exceptional reason, an appropriate substitute as nominated by the Head Coach;
 - ii. UKA Endurance Strategy Manager or, if unavailable for an exceptional reason, an appropriate substitute as nominated by the Head Coach
 - iii. A relevant team coach, as nominated by the WCP Endurance Manager
 - b. The WCP Endurance Performance Manager may (but is not obliged to) invite any other person to attend the selection meeting 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.
14. In the event of an actual, potential, or possible conflict relating to any selector, the actual, potential or possible conflict shall be reported to the Chairperson of the selection meeting who shall determine whether the selector in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). The Chairperson may appoint an alternative selector if necessary.
15. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The WCP Endurance Performance Manager shall have a casting vote, if required. If the WCP Endurance Manager is unable to vote due to a conflict, the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager shall have a casting vote, if required.

SECTION 4: DE-SELECTION

16. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Selection Panel or UKA in the event of:
- a. the athlete ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection Policy, or other strategy document communicated by UKA;
 - b. following application of the Medical De-Selection Protocol set out in the Team Member Agreement;
 - c. any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension;

- d. any serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct;
- e. UK Athletics reasonably considering that the athlete will be unable to perform at the level required or expected due to any reason including loss of form or failure to recover fully or as expected from injury or illness; or
- f. failure to opt-in to team training or events.

In the event of de-selection, the Selection Panel will meet again to decide on a replacement athlete. In the event there is not time for the Selection Panel to meet, the decision will be taken by the Head Coach and WCP Endurance Performance Manager, with the decision of the Head Coach being final in the event of disagreement.

SECTION 5: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Appeals

17. There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the GB&NI Team made by the Selection Panel. The provisions of the UK Athletics Selection and Nomination “Fast” Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB&NI team selections for the 2023 European Cross Country Championships.

Amendment

18. UK Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at any time in 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.

Governing law

19. This Selection Policy shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

Jurisdiction

20. Any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this Selection Policy shall be submitted for determination exclusively to arbitration under the auspices of Sports Resolutions (UK) Limited and subject to the procedural control of the English Courts

Contacts

21. Contact details are as follows:
- For any questions related to the selection policy (including those relating to athletes based overseas) and the trial races please contact Cerys Miller (cmiller@britishathletics.org.uk).

APPENDIX 1 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Be eligible to compete for GB & NI (i.e., full British passport holder);
- b. For U23 athletes, be born in 2001, 2002 or 2003.
- c. For junior (U20) athletes, be born in 2004, 2005, 2006 or 2007.
- d. For the senior mixed relay athletes must be born in 2003 or earlier (i.e., they must be senior or U23 athlete)
- 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 2023 European Cross Country Championships selection meeting on 27th November.
- f. Not currently serving a period of ineligibility or a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation or for any other reason of misconduct;
- g. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct;
- h. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club;
- i. Sign the UK 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 <https://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.