



**2024 European Off-Road Running Championships: 31st May – 2nd June 2024
Annecy, France**

Selection Policy – Published February 2024

OVERVIEW

This policy describes the process for the selection of team members to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland (GB & NI) at the 2024 European Off-Road Running Championships in Annecy, France.

AIM

UK Athletics (UKA) intends to select full GB & NI men's and women's senior and junior teams for this competition (4 athletes per team) based on the following aims (in priority order):

- Challenge for individual and/or team medals at the 2024 European Off-Road Running Championships AND
- Provide opportunities for developing athletes with the potential for future success at senior outdoor major championships (including future Mountain & Trail championships) where, in the view of the selectors, a team is unlikely to win a medal.

For 2024, selected athletes will be required to make a personal contribution to compete at the European Off-Road Running Championships

EVENTS

- Trail Race - 62km, 3500m ascent/descent
- Uphill Only Race – approx.7 km, 1000m ascent
- Classic Up-and-Down Race – approx. 16km, 1000m ascent/1000m descent
- Junior (U20) Uphill Only Race – approx. 6km, 800m ascent
- Junior (U20) Classic Up-and-Down Race – 5.9km, 430m ascent, 450m descent

QUALIFICATION

TRAIL RACE

For selection the following apply:

- There will be no official trial for the Trail Race. Selection will be by “Performance Matrix”
- Athletes must show fitness and form in a race of a similar distance, terrain and elevation to the prospective championship course in France between 1 June 2023 and 25 February 2024 inclusive. For clarity this must be a minimum of 45km with 1900m elevation

- Athletes submitting trail race performances prior to 1 January 2024 must also show evidence of current fitness between 1 January and 25 February 2024 inclusive
- Athletes wishing to show fitness early in 2024 over the distance are encouraged to compete at the Transgrancanaria Marathon (46km, 1900m) in Grand Canaria, Spain, Friday 23 February
- Please contact Angela Mudge (angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk) to discuss the suitability of any target races and requirement for evidence of current fitness
- All athletes wishing to be considered for selection must submit an expression of interest form at this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/Jc3esPjZSs>. If you have issues completing the form please email Off-Track Endurance Manager, Tom Craggs (tcraggs@englandathletics.org). The deadline for expressions of interest for the trail race is **23:59 on 26th February 2024**

MOUNTAIN RACES

The Trial races will be the primary means of selection. Athletes are expected to compete in the Trial races unless they have extenuating circumstances.

19 April 2024: Uphill Only and Junior (U20) Uphill Only Race: Skiddaw, Dodd Wood

Entries open 1 March on www.sientries.co.uk. Updated information will be posted here, under the 'European Off-Road Running Championships' tab:
<https://www.uka.org.uk/competition/running/mountain-running/>

21 April 2024: Classic Up-and-Down Race and Junior (U20) Classic Up-and-Down Race: Lonscale, Keswick, Cumbria.

Entries open 1 March on www.sientries.co.uk. Updated information will be posted here, under the 'European Off-Road Running Championships' tab:

<https://www.uka.org.uk/competition/running/mountain-running/>

Athletes seeking selection but not competing at the Trials must submit an expression of interest form at this link - <https://forms.office.com/e/Jc3esPjZSs>. If you have issues completing the form please email Off-Track Endurance Manager, Tom Craggs (tcraggs@englandathletics.org). The deadline for expressions of interest for the trail race is **23:59 on 18th April 2024**

SELECTION MEETING

1. The team will be selected in two phases.
 - a. The first round of selections will be in week commencing 4 March 2024 for the Trail Race
 - b. The second round of selections will in week commencing 22 April 2024 for the Senior and Junior Uphill Only Races, the Senior Classic Up-and-Down Race and the Junior Classic Up-and-Down Race (4)
2. Selection will be subject to the maximum entries as permitted by European Athletics (EA) as detailed below. Three athletes form a scoring team.
 - i. Four (4) Senior Men Trail Race
 - ii. Four (4) Senior Women Trail Race
 - iii. Four (4) Senior Men Uphill Only
 - iv. Four (4) Senior Women Uphill Only
 - v. Four (4) U20 Men Uphill Only
 - vi. Four (4) U20 Women Uphill Only
 - vii. Four (4) Senior Men Classic Up-and-Down Race
 - viii. Four (4) Senior Women Classic Up-and-Down Race

- ix. Four (4) U20 Men Classic Up-and-Down Race
 - x. Four (4) U20 Women Classic Up-and-Down Race
3. The final team will be announced in the week commencing 22 April 2024.

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 two (2) rounds.

5. Round 1 – Trail Race

- a. There will be no official trial for the Trail Race. Selection will be by “Performance Matrix”
- b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the team places in line with the aims of the Selection Policy and based on the following criteria (the criteria below are not listed in any priority order):
 - i. Performance in a race of a similar distance, terrain and elevation to the prospective championship course in France between 1 June 2023 and 25 February 2024. For clarity this must be a minimum of 45km with 1900m elevation Athletes’ current form and fitness from 1 January 2024 – 25 February 2024 inclusive.
 - ii. Athletes’ relevant previous Mountain & Trail running competition history
 - iii. Relevant head to heads during Mountain & Trail races
 - iv. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition

6. Round 2 – Mountain Races

- a. The first two placed eligible athletes at the Trials will be automatically selected for the respective mountain races. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first two 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 aims of the Selection Policy and on the following criteria (criterion i “Performance at the Trials“ has priority; the other criteria below are not listed in any priority order):
 - i. Performance at the Trials
 - ii. Athletes’ current form and fitness from 1 January – 21 April 2024
 - iii. Shown consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
 - iv. Athletes’ previous Mountain & Trail running competition history
 - v. Head to heads during the 2023/2024 Mountain & Trail running season
 - vi. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition
7. The selection panel may take injury and illness into account when making selection decisions, including as a reason for non-selection. Injury or illness do not exempt an athlete

from the requirement to demonstrate form and meet the performance criteria as listed under paragraphs 5.b and 6.b.

Reserves

8. UK Athletics will select two non-travelling reserves for each team. 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 and 6.b.

SECTION 3: SELECTION PANEL

9. The Selection Panel will be chosen based on their expertise and knowledge in the field of Mountain & Trail Running.
10. The Selection Panel for the event shall comprise as follows:
 - a. Voting Members: Relevant experts in Mountain & Trail Running
 - b. The UKA Endurance Strategy Manager may (but is not obliged to) invite any other person to attend the selection meeting including:
 - i. Independent observer
 - ii. UKA Athlete Commission Member
 - iii. Team Leads for Championship
 - iv. Note-takers
11. 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. If the Chairperson is deemed to have a conflict, another member of the Selection Panel will be appointed as temporary Chairperson.
12. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote, if required.

SECTION 4: DE-SELECTION

13. 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 follow conditions of selection

Final selection of all athletes is subject to agreement of the athlete's racing programme with the respective team staff member between the date of selection and the Championships.

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 Chair of Selectors and UKA Endurance Strategy Manager.

SECTION 5: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Appeals

14. 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 2024 European Off-Road Running Championships.

Amendment

15. 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

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

Jurisdiction

17. 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

18. Contact details are as follows:

- For any questions relating to the selection policy (including those relating to athletes based overseas) please contact National Endurance Manager (Off Track) for England & UK Athletics (tcraggs@englandathletics.org)

APPENDIX 1 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Be eligible to compete for GB & NI (i.e., full British passport holder);
- b. Minimum age for the trail event is 18 years on 31 December 2024 (born in 2006 or earlier)
- c. For junior (U20) athletes, be born in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008
- d. 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 10 May;
- e. Not currently serving a period of ineligibility or a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation or for any other reason of misconduct;
- f. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct;
- g. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club prior to the selection meeting;
- h. 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/>