



# Olympic Games Selection Policy – Track & Field

## GUIDANCE FOR ATHLETES

The information below is designed to help athletes and coaches become familiar with how the Olympic Games selection process works. It does not replace the Olympic Games Selection Policy: athletes and coaches should read this document in parallel with the policy itself, the link for which can be found at the end of these guidance notes.

### How are athletes ‘eligible for consideration?’

Athletes aiming for selection in individual events need to make sure that they fulfil **all** the ‘eligibility’ requirements before they can be considered for selection.

- ‘Eligibility’ requirements are:
  - **General eligibility** relating to BOA rules such as age, British Passport Holder, all elements relating to compliance as a team member. The full list can be found in Appendix 1 of the Selection Policy.
  - Athletes must attend their relevant **Trials**.
  - Athletes must have a **qualification standard**.
  - Athletes must demonstrate **‘Current Form’**.
- Being an ‘Eligible Athlete’ does not give you automatic selection. ‘Eligible Athletes’ will then be assessed and considered for selection in a rounds-based selection.

### How do Qualification Standards work?

- The main route to qualification is to achieve a World Athletics (WA) Qualification Standard in the event for which an athlete is seeking selection.
- For some events only, there is a secondary route via UKA-set standards combined with achieving a World Athletics World Ranking. Events with UKA-set standards are: both combined events; all field events; 100/110m hurdles; men’s 3000m steeplechase; both 10,000m events.
- For most events, the qualification standard must be achieved between 1 July 2023-30 June 2024. The 10,000m and Combined Events window is 31 December 2022-30 June 2024. The window applies to both WA and UKA standards.
- Athletes should note that those with the WA Qualification standard take precedence over those who have the UKA standard/world ranking position when being considered for places during the selection process.



#### Registered Office:

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## Current Form

- As the World Athletics Qualification window includes performances from last year, the panel will want to see that athletes are performing at or close to the qualification standards by assessing form.
- The period between 1 April-30 June 2024 is used to evaluate Current Form.  
*A note about 'Current Form': the only discretionary exception is where an exceptional athlete already has demonstrated their ability to achieve medal success at previous major global championships in the Paris cycle and is considered to have that potential to perform to the level required at the Games.*

## Additional Information on Participation at Trials

- **Doubling up**  
If an athlete wishes to be considered for more than one individual event, they should let the Head Coach know in writing. Athletes will not need to compete in their second event at the Trials to be considered for selection. For clarification, eligibility requirements apply to both events, meaning athletes will need to have a qualification standard and show current form to be considered.
- **Non-participation in Trials due to illness or injury**  
Any athlete who is not able to compete in the Trials due to illness or injury must report in writing in advance of the Trials to the Head Coach and Lead Doctor and must provide medical evidence from a consultation with a UKA doctor, a GP or emergency doctor. It is important to note that non-participation in the Trials – no matter how valid - will unavoidably put an athlete at a competitive disadvantage when being considered for selection.
- **Participation in alternative events – individual World Medallists**  
2023 individual World Medallists may compete in an alternative event at the Trials with the prior approval of the Head Coach. Those athletes must make their request in writing. If a World Medallist wants to be considered for selection in an event that is not their medal-winning event, they must be eligible (qualification standard) and will only be considered after Round 2.

## Selection Process – Individual Events

- Eligible Athletes only are taken to a rounds-based process and are assessed for selection. Athletes are considered for selection places in 4 rounds. Rounds take place in priority order.
- Round 1 selects the top 2 finishers from the Trials. Athletes must have the WA qualification standard.



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- Round 2 considers the 2023 individual World Championships Medallists only. For clarification these athletes are not exempt from the need to fulfil 'Eligibility'. *Athletes should note that all individual World Medallists have the WA qualification standard.*
- Round 3 considers remaining Eligible Athletes with a WA qualification standard.
- Round 4 considers remaining Eligible Athletes with a UKA-set standard. Their selection will also be subject to achieving a WA World Ranking position within the WA quota places.
- For Rounds 3 and 4, the panel will consider all eligible athletes based on UKA's performance objectives to maximise medals and achieve top 8 places. A range of criteria is used to assess this and to evaluate comparatively, where more than one athlete is in contention for a place. Details on the criteria used can be found in the policy. They include a range of performance data and insights. These criteria are used as a body of information to help guide the panel in its decision-making.
- For clarification, a WA World Ranking position within the WA quota, combined with a UKA-set standard does not guarantee selection.
- Athletes should note that the Panel is not obliged to fill all available places and that UKA's performance objective of maximising medals and achieving Top 8 is the overarching guide.

## Selection Process - Relays

- After the individual rounds, relay athletes are selected (Round 5). All athletes selected for individual 100m and 400m are automatically selected for the men's and women's 4x100m and 4x100m relay events.
- Relay-only athletes do not need to achieve a qualification standard but must fulfil the other 'eligibility' requirements (i.e. participation in Trials, show 'Current Form' and other general criteria as described in the Eligibility section).
- Eligible relay athletes are considered for the remaining places in each relay event.
- Athletes are considered using a similar range of criteria to the individual events and in addition some relay-specific criteria such as relay technical skills and tactical considerations.

## Notification of Nomination for Selection

- All athletes who have been nominated for selection will be contacted the day after selection, by midday GMT Tuesday 2 July. This means that athletes who have been nominated for selection subject to World Athletics Rankings will be included for notifications.
- The BOA takes the lead on the public announcement of athletes selected to compete in the Olympic Games.



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- Publication of the team list is only made after the Appeals process ends. The publication of the team list is planned for Friday 5 July 2024.
- Unfortunately, it is not possible, given numbers and a tight timeframe, to contact all athletes who have not been selected. This means that if you have not been contacted by Tuesday 2 July, you have not been selected. For clarification this applies to athletes who were eligible for selection via the UKA-set standard/World Rankings route but who were not selected.
- The BOA is responsible for ratifying sports' athlete nominations, so athletes will receive a confirmation once their place is formally accepted.

## Appeals Process

- Athletes should carefully read the selection policy and the UKA Fast Appeals process [here](#) to be familiar with the timeline and grounds for appeal.
- Athletes can access support from the British Elite Athlete Association and the UKA Athletes' Commission for guidance.
- 'Sports Resolutions' will convene an independent panel of legal experts to assess appeals.
- Key steps to note if you intend to appeal:
  - An appeal must be submitted by midday GMT Wednesday 3 July.
  - You may request your individual notes from the selection meeting. The deadline for your written request is Tuesday 2 July at 4pm and UKA will supply your notes by Wednesday 3 July at 10am.
  - The Appeals panel will convene on Thursday 4 July and will inform the athlete directly of the outcome of the appeal by 10am on Friday 5 July.
- A fast appeals process is in place firstly to be as fair to all athletes as possible. The selection timeline for the Olympics is particularly tight as it needs to fit with the BOA team announcement and BOA's own timelines; Athletics has a later qualification standard and selection window, meaning that it is among the final sports to complete selection.

The link to the Olympic Games Selection Policy can be found [here](#) .



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<b>USEFUL CONTACTS</b>	
Paula Dunn, Head Coach <a href="mailto:pdunn@uka.org.uk">pdunn@uka.org.uk</a>	Trials related requests (please also submit in writing) and general selection queries.
James Brown, UKA Lead Doctor <a href="mailto:jbrown@uka.org.uk">jbrown@uka.org.uk</a>	Medical issues relating to participation in Trials.
Event Lead Contacts Sprints/Relays: <a href="mailto:dcampbell@uka.org.uk">dcampbell@uka.org.uk</a> Endurance: <a href="mailto:svernon@uka.org.uk">svernon@uka.org.uk</a> Field & Combined Events: <a href="mailto:tyule@uka.org.uk">tyule@uka.org.uk</a>	Event-specific selection queries 10,000m Trial Event queries
Tina Ryan, Head of Performance Operations <a href="mailto:tryan@uka.org.uk">tryan@uka.org.uk</a>	General selection and policy related queries (including appeals) and timelines.
British Elite Athletes Commission (WCP athletes only) <a href="mailto:support@britisheliteathletes.org">support@britisheliteathletes.org</a> UKA Athletes Commission <a href="mailto:athletescommission@britishathletics.org.uk">athletescommission@britishathletics.org.uk</a>	Advice and support for appeals
Appeals Contact Address <a href="mailto:appeals@uka.org.uk">appeals@uka.org.uk</a>	All appeals related correspondence
Maddy Ibbett, Logistics Planning Manager <a href="mailto:mibbett@uka.org.uk">mibbett@uka.org.uk</a>	Olympic Games planning related queries



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