

2025 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships: 25-28 September 2025 Canfranc, Spain

Selection Policy – Published September 2024

OVERVIEW

This policy describes the process for the selection of team members to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland (GB & NI) at the 2025 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships (WMTRC) in Canfranc Spain.

AIM

UK Athletics (UKA) intends to select GB & NI men's and women's senior and junior teams for this competition (up to 6 athletes per trail running team and up to 4 athletes per mountain running team) based on the following aims:

- Achieve medals and top 10 individual placings
- Achieve top 5 team placings

For 2025, all selected athletes will be required to make a financial contribution towards the costs of attending the WMTRC, see appendix 2 for more details.

EVENTS

- Long Trail Race circa 80km 4000m (TBC)
- Short Trail Race circa 40 km, 3000m (TBC)
- Uphill Only Race 6.4 km 938m (TBC)
- Classic Up-and-Down Race circa 15 km, 800m (TBC)
- U20 Classic Up-and-Down Race circa 7 km, 400m (TBC)

QUALIFICATION

Trials will be held for all events as given below. The Trial races will be the primary means of selection. Athletes are strongly encouraged to compete in the Long Trail Trial and are expected to compete in the Short Trail Trial and Mountain Race Trials unless they have extenuating circumstances.

Long Trail Races:

The Long Trail Trial Race will be held on 21st June 2025 in conjunction with the 14 Peaks Ultra, 52km, 3900m ascent/descent.

https://apexrunning.co/events/skyruneryri

Please note that the trial for the Long Trail is considerably under distance. This is to provide an equitable elevation experience to that in Canfranc. Runners targeting the Long Trail Trial should be aware that, should they be selected, the Championship event will be considerably longer in time and distance, and will involve running in the dark.



Short Trail Races:

The Short Trail Trial Race will be held on 31st May 2025 in conjunction with the Scafell Sky Race, 40km, 2800m ascent/descent.

https://www.lakedistrictskytrails.com/scafell-sky-race-40km-2800m

Athletes wishing to compete in either Trail Trial should contact **Angela Mudge** (angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk) to discuss entries.

Uphill Mountain Races:

The Uphill Mountain Race Trials will be held on 15th August, from Dodd Wood near Keswick.

Classic Mountain Races (Senior and U20):

The Up and Down Classic Mountain Race Trials will be held on 17th August, venue TBC.

Further details of the Mountain Trials can be found here:

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/W35rKN6vDW. If you have issues competing the form please email Off-Track Endurance Manager, Tom Craggs (tcraggs@uka.org.uk). The deadline for expressions of interest for the races are 11:59 pm on the following dates:

Short Trail and Long Trail early selection – 2nd October 2024

Short Trail – 29th May 2025

Long Trail – 20th June 2025

Uphill Mountain Races - 14th August 2025

Classic Up and Down Mountain Races – 16th August 2025

SELECTION

- 1. The team will be selected in four phases:
 - a. The first round of selections will be in week commencing 7th October 2024 for the Long Trail Race and the Short Trail Race
 - b. The second round of selections will be in week commencing 2nd June 2025 for the Short Trail Race
 - c. The third round of selections will be in week commencing 23rd June 2025 for the Long Trail Race and the remainder of the Short Trail Race
 - d. The fourth round of selections will be in week commencing 18th August 2025 for the Senior Uphill Races, the Senior Classic Up and Down Races and the Junior Classic Up and Down Races
- 2. Selection will be subject to the maximum entries as permitted as detailed below. Three athletes form a scoring team for all events.
 - i. Six (6) Senior Men and Six (6) Senior Women, Long Trail Race
 - ii. Six (6) Senior Men and Six (6) Senior Women, Short Trail Race
 - iii. Four (4) Senior Men and Four (4) Senior Women, Uphill Only



- iv. Four (4) Senior Men and Four (4) Senior Women, Classic Up and Down Race
- v. Four (4) U20 Men and Four (4) U20 Women, Classic Up and Down Race
- 3. The final team will be announced in the week commencing 25th August 2025.

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 - Long and Short Trail Races

- a. The Selection Panel may select athletes who have demonstrated potential individual medal winning performances during the period 1st August to 1st October 2024 either:
 - a. over events of a similar distance, elevation profile and altitude
 - b. or over events of a shorter distance/less technical terrain and have previous recent form of events of a similar distance, elevation profile and altitude

and have given the Panel confidence in their ability to prepare effectively for a Championship Long Trail or Short Trail race.

- b. Any athletes selected at this stage must show current form in advance of the respective Trial race, to be agreed with the Team Leader
- c. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selectors may decide not to select any athletes at this stage

Athletes wishing to be considered in Round 1 must submit an expression of interest form at this link - https://forms.office.com/e/W35rKN6vDW. If you have issues competing the form please email Off-Track Endurance Manager, Tom Craggs (tcraggs@uka.org.uk).

The deadline for expressions of interest for Round 1 is 2nd October 2024.

6. Round 2 - Short Trail Race

- a. The first two placed eligible athletes at the Trials will be selected for the men's and women's Short Trail race teams subject to being considered of a standard able to contribute to achieving the Policy aims of top 10 individual and top 5 team performances. 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 reallocated based on point b below. Athletes competing at the trials are still asked to complete an expression of interest (which can be completed on the day of the trial) https://forms.office.com/e/W35rKN6vDW/
- b. The Panel may select additional athletes to fill 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 1st April 2025



- iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
- iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
- v. Head to heads during the 2024/2025 Mountain and Trail running seasons
- vi. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition

7. Round 3 - Long Trail Race

- a. The first two placed eligible athletes at the Trials will be selected for the men's and women's Long Trail race teams subject to being considered of a standard able to contribute to achieving the Policy aims of top 10 individual and top 5 team performances. 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 reallocated based on point b below.
- c. Where athletes finish in the top two in the Trial but have not yet demonstrated form over longer (70 km 80km) races, they will need to agree with the Team Lead confirmation of an appropriate training or racing plan to demonstrate such ability. Athletes competing at the trials are still asked to complete an expression of interest (which can be completed on the day of the trial) https://forms.office.com/e/W35rKN6vDW/

The Panel may select additional athletes to fill the remaining team places based on the aims of the Selection Policy and on the following criteria, not listed in any priority order:

- i. Performance at the Trials
- ii. Athletes' current form and fitness from 1st February 2025
- iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
- iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
- v. Head to heads during the 2024/2025 Mountain and Trail running seasons
- vi. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition

Round 3 - Short Trail Race

- d. The Panel may select additional athletes to fill any 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 1st April 2025
 - iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
 - iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
 - v. Head to heads during the 2024/2025 Mountain and Trail running season
 - vi. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition

8. Round 4 - Mountain Races

e. The first two placed eligible athletes at the Trials will be automatically selected for each of the respective mountain races subject to being considered of a standard able to contribute to achieving the Policy aims of top 10 individual and top 5 team performances. 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 reallocated based on point b below. Athletes competing at the trials are still asked to complete an expression of interest (which can be completed on the day of the trial) https://forms.office.com/e/W35rKN6vDW/

- a. 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 1st April 2025
 - iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
 - iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
 - v. Head to heads during the 2024/2025 Mountain and Trail running seasons
 - vi. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition
- 9. 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 6.b, 7.b, 7.c, and 8.b.
- 10. Aligned to the aims of the selection policy, the Selection Panel reserve the right to not select teams/full teams.

Reserves

11. 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 6.b, 7.b, 7.c, and 8.b.

SECTION 3: SELECTION PANEL

- 12. The Selection Panel will be chosen based on their expertise and knowledge in the field of Mountain & Trail Running.
- 13. 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
- 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. If the Chairperson is deemed to have a conflict, another member of the Selection Panel will be appointed as temporary Chairperson.



15. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The Chairperson 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. 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
 - f. Failure to follow conditions of selection

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

For avoidance of doubt no athletes will be permitted to do races of longer than 60km within the 30 days prior to the event. Events of longer than 40 km will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances to be agreed with the Team Leader at the time of selection and based on athletes' demonstrated prior racing history.

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

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 2025 World Mountain and Trail Running 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 relating to the selection policy (including those relating to athletes based overseas) please contact National Endurance Manager (Off Track) for England & UK Athletics (tcraggs@uka.org.uk)

APPENDIX 1 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Be eligible to compete for GB & NI (i.e., full British passport holder);
- b. Minimum age for the trail events is 20 years on 31 December 2025 (born in 2005 or earlier)
- c. Minimum age for the senior mountain events is 18 years on 31 December 2025 (born in 2007 or earlier)
- d. For junior (U20) athletes, be born in 2009, 2008, 2007 or 2006
- 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/

APPENDIX 2- ATHLETE CONTRIBUTIONS

- a. The 2025 World Mountain & Trail Championships is one of the off-track events that requires a joint funding approach in order to support the participation of GB teams. An Athlete Contribution will be required to support the costs associated with competing at the championships including, but not limited to transfers, accommodation, meals and kit and team staffing.
- b. Athletes will be responsible for arranging their own travel to the assembly location (TBC) in Spain.
- c. In the Expression of Interest for selection athletes must agree to the principle of selection and participation being conditional on making the agreed financial participation the 'Athlete Contribution'.
- d. In order to help athletes plan, UKA has undertaken budget forward-planning to estimate a maximum anticipated per athlete cost contribution. The Athlete Contribution for the 2025 World Mountain & Trail Championships will be no more than £1100 per athlete in addition to travel. The UKA Operations team commits to ensuring the cost reflects a balance between meeting high performance requirements and best value. The maximum indicated cost will be taken as a ceiling with the team



- endeavouring to get well within the stated figure. Furthermore, all agreed/known subsidies and subventions from the LOC or other parties will be deducted when calculating the Athlete Contribution in addition to any successful fundraising the sponsorship activities.
- e. UKA will provide athletes with the final figure for the athlete contribution and timeline for payment as soon as practically possible (once complete information has been received from World Athletics and the Local Organising Committee). Team membership will be conditional on agreeing the terms in the team members' agreement. Athletes will be required to pay a deposit in advance of the championships.
- f. Once athletes have signed the agreed selection letter, they will receive all championship kit prior to the agreed assembly point.

