



**2026 EUROPEAN ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS: 10 - 16 AUGUST 2026  
BIRMINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM**

**MARATHON SELECTION POLICY – published August 2025**

Updated December 2025 – Round 4 added

This Selection Policy (“the Policy”) set outs the selection process for the team to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland at the 2026 European Athletics Championships in Birmingham, United Kingdom (the “Championships”) in the Marathon. Athletes wishing to be selected for Track & Field events, or Race Walking should see the separate relevant Selection Policies.

Athletes should note that they must comply with all General Eligibility requirements to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland at these Championships. Please refer to Appendix 1.

**EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

- To maximise medal success and Top 8 placings at the Championships
- To maximise team medal success in the Marathon event
- To place in the Top 3 in the Medal Table

**TRIALS**

1. The Trial event for athletes wishing to be considered for selection in the Marathon, is the TCS London Marathon on 26 April 2026 (the “Trial”).
2. The Trial event for female athletes is the Elite race and therefore female athletes wishing to be considered for selection must be entered in the elite race field. Male athletes wishing to be considered for selection may enter the elite or general field.
3. It is not mandatory to compete at the Trials. However, at the second selection meeting, priority is given to participating athletes. Athletes should familiarise themselves with the selection process.

**SELECTION MEETINGS**

4. The selection meetings will take place on the following dates:
  - Round 1 - **16 February 2026**
  - Round 2 & 3 - **27 April 2026**
5. Selections will be based on the performance objectives of the Championships as stated above, Details of the selection process and the selection panel can be found in Section 2 and 3 respectively.
6. Selections will be published on 18 February 2026 and 29 April 2026.

**EUROPEAN ATHLETICS (“EA”) RULES – ATHLETE NUMBERS PER EVENT**

7. Selections will be subject to the maximum number of entries permitted by EA as published on the EA website, as follows:

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a. **Marathon Events**

A maximum of six (6) male and six (6) female athletes can compete.

**SECTION ONE: ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION**

- 8. To be eligible for consideration for selection, athletes must comply with the Qualification Requirement below and satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria set out in Appendix 1. For the avoidance of doubt, compliance does not guarantee selection. Athletes who meet the Qualification Requirement and satisfy the General Eligibility Criteria are eligible for consideration for selection (“Eligible Athletes”).

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

- 9. To be considered for selection, athletes must meet the qualification requirement for the marathon event by one of the two following routes:
  - a. Achieve a **European Athletics Entry Standard**, as set out in the table below, within the qualification period **25 January 2025 to 26 April 2026**. The European Athletics Entry Standards must be achieved in competitions that comply with the Performance Conditions outlined in Appendix 2.

Men	Event	Women
2:09:30	Marathon	2:27:00

- b. Be in a European Athletics ranked position either ‘**In World Rankings Quota**’ or ‘**Next best by World Rankings**’ on the ‘Road to Birmingham’ at the time of the selection meeting on 27 April 2026. Athletes then selected must be in a World Rankings qualifying position at the close and final publication of the EA rankings on 30 July, in accordance with EA rules.

**SECTION TWO: SELECTION PROCESS**

The Selection Panel (the “Panel”) will only select from Eligible Athletes.

Selection will be made in four (4) rounds using the stages and process outlined below.

**Stage 1 – 16 February 2026 Selection Meeting: Round 1**

- 10. **Round 1 - Eligible Athletes with a European Athletics Entry Standard prior to Selection Meeting**
  - a. The Panel can select up to a maximum of four (4) male and four (4) female athletes in this Round.
  - b. In this round, the Panel will consider Eligible Athletes who have achieved a European Athletics Entry Standard prior to the selection meeting on 16 February 2026.
  - c. Eligible athletes must have provided a performance plan to the WCP Endurance Performance Lead (see contact details at the end of this policy) to demonstrate effective preparation for the Championships.
  - d. Eligible Athletes who have met the Qualification Requirements in the period from 25 January 2025 – 30 November 2025 must demonstrate form that gives the Panel confidence of their performance potential and ability to be ready to compete. Current form can be demonstrated in an alternative relevant discipline between 1 December 2025 and 15 February 2026. Alternative relevant disciplines include are 10k road and half marathon.

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- e. Athletes being considered for selection in this round must also have demonstrated realistic potential to finish top 8 at the Championships. In order to make the assessment, the Panel will consider Eligible Athletes using their expert analysis of the performance criteria below.
  - Performance and performance consistency during the qualification window
  - Head-to-heads with other relevant athletes
  - Marathon races and race performances
  - Recent athlete performance history in major international championships
  - Future individual medal potential at major international championships
  - Analysis of performance plan to effectively prepare for the Championships
  - Injury and health status
  - Any other criteria the Panel considers relevant
- f. The criteria above may be weighted as necessary to best meet the Performance Objectives. The criteria are not listed in order of priority.
- g. If there are more Eligible Athletes with a European Athletics Entry Standard than there are places available, athletes will be considered for selection based on the Panel's comparative assessment of athletes. The Panel will ultimately select athletes it considers have the greatest potential to fulfil the overarching performance objectives of the Championships.
- h. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor to fill all event places.

**Stage 2 – 27 April 2026 Selection Meeting: Rounds 2, 3 & 4**

**11. Round 2 - Top Two (2) at Trials**

- a. The first two (2) male and first two (2) female British Athletes at the Trial event will be selected (see paragraph 2) provided they are an Eligible Athlete with a **European Athletics Entry Standard**.
- b. Should either or both of the first two finishers have been selected in Round 1, or as an Eligible Athlete, decline their selection, their place will be automatically offered to the next best placed Eligible Athlete(s) provided they finished in the Top 6 at the Trial event.
- c. Should either of the first two finishers at the Trial event not be eligible for selection, their place will **not** be offered by default to the next best Eligible Athlete.

**12. Round 3 – Remaining Eligible Athletes with a European Athletics Entry Standard**

- a. Athletes should note there is no guarantee of places being available in this round. If the maximum number of athletes are selected in Rounds 1 and 2, the total number of entries available for the Marathon event as defined by European Athletics will have been met.
- b. Eligible athletes must have provided a performance plan to the WCP Endurance Performance Lead (see contact details at the end of this policy) to demonstrate effective preparation for the Championships.
- c. Eligible Athletes who have met the Qualification Requirements in the period from 25 January 2025 – 30 November 2025 should demonstrate form that gives the Panel confidence of their performance potential and ability to be ready to compete at the championships. Current form can be demonstrated in an alternative relevant discipline which includes but is not limited to: 10k road and half marathon.

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- d. Athletes being considered for selection in this round must also have demonstrated realistic potential to finish top 8 at the Championships. In order to make the assessment, the Panel will consider Eligible Athletes using their expert analysis of the performance criteria below.
- Performance and performance consistency during the qualification window
  - Head-to-heads with other relevant athletes
  - Marathon races and race performances
  - Recent athlete performance history in major international championships
  - Future individual medal potential at major international championships
  - Analysis of performance plan to effectively prepare for the Championships
  - Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
- e. The criteria above are not listed in order of priority and may be weighted as necessary to best meet the Performance Objectives or may not be considered as the Selection Panel deems appropriate.
- f. If there are more Eligible Athletes with a European Athletics Entry Standard than there are places available, athletes will be considered for selection based on the Panel's comparative assessment of athletes. The Panel will ultimately select athletes with the greatest potential to fulfil the overarching performance objectives of the Championships.
- g. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor to fill all event places.

**13. Round 4 – Remaining Athletes in a European Athletics Ranking position**

- a. If there are places remaining, the Selection Panel will then consider athletes who at the time of the selection meeting appear on the 'Road to Birmingham', either '**In World Rankings Quota**' or as '**Next best by World Rankings**' positions.
- b. The Selection Panel will only select athletes in this Round if in their expert opinion, there is strong evidence to suggest the athlete can contribute to a medal winning team performance. The Selection Panel reserves the right to not select athletes if in the Selection Panel's expert opinion, they are unlikely to achieve this objective. To make such assessment, the Selection Panel will consider the following criteria.
- Performance and performance consistency during the qualification window
  - Position in World Athletics season top lists (3 per nation) and position on 'Road to Birmingham' rankings list at time of the selection meeting
  - Number of athletes selected in previous rounds
  - Head-to-heads with other relevant athletes
  - Marathon races and race performances
  - Recent athlete performance history in major international championships since 2023
  - Future individual medal potential at major international championships
  - Analysis of performance plan to effectively prepare for the Championships
  - Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
- c. The criteria above are not listed in order of priority and may be weighted as necessary to best meet the Performance Objectives or may not be considered as the Selection Panel deems appropriate.
- d. If there are more Eligible Athletes who satisfy 14b than there are places available, athletes will be considered for selection based on the Panel's comparative assessment of athletes. The Panel will ultimately select athletes with the greatest potential to be part of a medal winning team.

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- e. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor to fill all event places.
- f. Eligible athletes must have provided a performance plan to the WCP Endurance Performance Lead (see contact details at the end of this policy) to demonstrate effective preparation for the Championships.
- g. Athletes selected in this Round, will be a conditional selection subject to the athlete achieving a ranking positioning on publication of the final rankings list on 30 July 2026 as part of the Qualification Requirement. If the ranking position is not achieved, the athlete’s selection will not be confirmed.

**14. FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- a. All selected athletes will be required to complete the Marathon Pre-Competition Screening Pro Forma.
- b. Pursuant to paragraph 21h, prior to the championships, should UKA Performance Endurance Staff and the Performance Director not have confidence that the athlete possesses the required fitness or form, the Panel may deselect the athlete subject to the provisions in Section Four below.
- c. Any selection may be subject to any conditions the Panel considers are required or desirable.

**RESERVES**

- 15. The Panel may in its discretion nominate one additional Eligible Athlete as travelling or non-travelling (as determined by the Panel) reserves for each of the Marathon Events. If more athletes satisfy the criteria than there are places available, athletes will be assessed using the criteria outlined in the rounds. There is no obligation on the Panel to nominate reserves.
- 16. In situations where an athlete has been de-selected, UKA will exercise its sole discretion in determining whether or not to call upon a reserve.

**SECTION THREE: SELECTION PANEL**

- 17. The Panel shall comprise the following Voting and Non-Voting Members stated below. A substitute may be nominated at any time by the Performance Director if a member (including the Performance Director) is unavailable:
  - a. Voting Members:
    - i. Performance Director
    - ii. WCP Endurance Performance Lead
    - iii. UKA Endurance Strategy Manager
  - b. Non-Voting Members:
    - i. Chairperson
    - ii. Event specialist(s), as nominated by the Performance Director if considered necessary
    - iii. British Elite Athletes Association observer (if available)
    - iv. UK Athletics Medical representative (as required)
    - v. Media representative (as required)
    - vi. Note taker(s), and:

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- vii. Any other person invited by the Chairperson
- 18. In the event of an actual, potential, or possible conflict relating to any voting member of the Panel, it should be reported to the Chairperson of the selection meeting who shall determine whether the voting member in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). The Chairperson may appoint an alternative voting member if necessary.
- 19. Voting of the Panel shall be by simple majority. The Performance Director shall have the casting vote, if required. If the Performance Director is unable to vote due to a conflict, the WCP Endurance Performance Lead shall have a casting vote if required.
- 20. The Panel may make any selection subject to the athlete completing a performance requirement or test set by the Panel.

## SECTION FOUR: DE-SELECTION

- 21. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Panel or UK Athletics in the event of:
  - a. the athlete ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection Policy, or other strategy document or policy communicated by UK Athletics;
  - b. UK Athletics becoming aware that the athlete does not comply with the Eligibility Criteria set out in this selection policy, other strategy document, or policy communicated by UK Athletics;
  - c. failure to sign the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement;
  - d. failure to comply with any conditions of selection set by the Panel;
  - e. application of the Medical De-Selection Protocol set out in the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement;
  - f. any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension;
  - g. any serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct;
  - h. a breach of any UK Athletics policy;
  - i. 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;
  - j. failure to opt-in to team training or events.

## SECTION FIVE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 22. Athletes may appeal their non-selection, but only after the final selection publication on the UK Athletics website and in accordance with the procedure laid out in the “UK Athletics Selection Fast Appeals Procedure” which can be found on the [UK Athletics website](#), and which is subject to change. Athletes wishing to seek advice regarding the appeals process (including the validity of any procedure itself) may contact the British Elite Athletes Association via [support@britisheliteathletes.org](mailto:support@britisheliteathletes.org) (WCP athletes only) or the UK Athletics Athletes’ Commission at [www.uka.org.uk/governance/uk-athletics-athletes-commission/](http://www.uka.org.uk/governance/uk-athletics-athletes-commission/).

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23. All athletes wishing to be selected pursuant to this Selection Policy agree, as a condition of consideration for selection, that the UK Athletics Selection Fast Appeals Procedure is to be treated as an arbitration procedure under Part 1 of the Arbitration Act 1996 (the “Act”) and amounts to a binding arbitration agreement for the purposes of section 6 of the Act. The seat of the Arbitration shall be England, and the Procedure shall be governed by English law.
24. Athletes wishing to commence an appeal should be aware there is a £250 administration fee due upon notice of appeal. The fee is refundable if the appeal is upheld. The fee must be paid in conjunction with the Notice of Appeal, as per the timelines outlined below.
25. The Notice of Appeal will not be valid unless the athlete provides confirmation of payment of the administration fee at or before the time the Notice of Appeal is due.
26. Payment details for the administration fee are below. Transfers must be referenced PAD1094 – [YOUR INITIALS]  
  
 Bank Details  
 Sort Code: 30-64-10  
 Account No: 31040560  
 Account Name: UK Athletics Ltd
27. The Relevant Timelines, as defined in the UK Athletics Selection Fast Appeals Procedure, are set out in the tables below:

**16 February Selection – for Round 1 appeals:**

Action	Date & GMT
Publication of selection list/selected athletes are notified	By 18:00 Wednesday 18 February
Athlete request notes from selection meeting	By 12:00 Monday 23 February
UK Athletics to supply notes	By 18:00 Tuesday 24 February
Athlete to submit Notice of Appeal	By 12:00 Thursday 26 February
Evidence of administration fee payment	By 12:00 Thursday 26 February
Third parties to submit additional documents. (if requested by the Appeal Panel)	By 12:00 Friday 27 February
UK Athletics to submit Chairperson’s Statement	By 18:00 Friday 27 February
Appeal Panel Hearing	2 - 4 March
Appeal Outcome	By Wednesday 4 March
Final entries deadline	13:00 Friday 31 July

**27 April Selection – for Rounds 2, 3 & 4 appeals:**

Action	Date & BST
Publication of selection list/selected athletes are notified	By 18:00 Wednesday 29 April
Athlete request notes from selection meeting	By 09:00 Tuesday 5 May
UK Athletics to supply notes	By 18:00 Wednesday 6 May
Athlete to submit Notice of Appeal	By 12:00 Friday 8 May
Evidence of administration fee payment	By 12:00 Friday 8 May
Third parties to submit additional documents. (if requested by the Appeal Panel)	By 12:00 Monday 11 May
UK Athletics to submit Chairperson’s Statement	By 18:00 Monday 11 May
Appeal Panel Hearing	12 – 14 May
Appeal Outcome	By Thursday 14 May
Final entries deadline	13:00 Friday 31 July

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There is no obligation on UK Athletics to notify of your non-selection. If you have not been notified of your selection by the time stated above, you have not been selected. The deadlines set out above should be carefully noted in the event an appeal is being considered. Grounds for Appeal must be stated in the Notice of Appeal. Please refer to the Fast Appeals Procedure [UK Athletics website](#) and to determine whether grounds for appeal can be applied.

**Amendment**

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

**Governing law**

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

**Jurisdiction**

30. Any dispute or claim (other than appeals) 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.

**Key Contacts**

- Performance Director: Paula Dunn ([pdunn@britishathletics.org.uk](mailto:pdunn@britishathletics.org.uk))
- WCP Endurance Performance Lead: Tom Craggs ([tcraggs@uka.org.uk](mailto:tcraggs@uka.org.uk))
- Policy queries: Tina Ryan ([tryan@uka.org.uk](mailto:tryan@uka.org.uk))
- Championships logistics: Maddy Ibbett ([mibbett@britishathletics.org.uk](mailto:mibbett@britishathletics.org.uk))

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**APPENDIX 1 – GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

1. Be eligible to compete for GB&NI and be the holder of a full and current British passport;
2. Is not serving a period of ineligibility from the sport (as determined by UK Athletics or a Home Country Athletics Federation) or from any other sport. For example, due to misconduct and/or disciplinary reasons.
3. Not under investigation or been charged by UK Athletics, a Home Country Athletics Federation, or any other relevant organisation (including the police and CPS) with misconduct or any disciplinary, safeguarding or criminal offence.
4. Not committed a criminal, disciplinary or safeguarding offence that in the reasonable opinion of the Board of UK Athletics renders the athlete unsuitable for selection.
5. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought UK Athletics into disrepute.
6. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct;
7. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club;
8. Be 20 years or older as of 31 December 2025 (i.e. born in 2005 or earlier).
9. 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 - PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS**

The European Athletics Entry Standards must be achieved in accordance with the Performance Conditions as set out below.

1. Performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by World Athletics, its Area Associations or its National Member Federations. conducted in conformity with World Athletics Rules and for which an application has been submitted to WA (World Ranking Competition Framework). No results will be considered for competitions not submitted to WA and not included into WA Global Calendar pages of the World Athletics website (<https://worldathletics.org/competition/calendar-results>).
2. Performances may only be achieved on a course measured by a World Athletics/AIMS Grade “A” or “B” international Road Race Course Measurer with the measurement certificate established no more than five years before the date of the race.
3. The overall decrease in elevation between the start and the finish will not exceed 1:1000, i.e. 1m per km.

Further details for the conditions of validity of performances are listed on the World Athletics [website](#).

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