



WORLD INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026, KUJAWY POMORZE, SELECTION POLICY

Frequently Asked Questions

The FAQs below are designed to support athletes and coaches in understanding the selection process for the World Indoor Championships. FAQs cannot replace the World Indoor Selection Policy, which takes precedence in the event of a conflict with this document. Athletes and coaches should consult the FAQs where needed, in parallel with reading the policy itself. The link to the Selection Policy can be found [here](#).

Why is the qualification window to get the Qualification Requirement shorter than the World Athletics Qualification Window?

Due to the World Athletics pre-submission and entry deadlines, the qualification window was shortened in order to reserve the right to an appeals process.

Athletes must take note that there are some competitions held **outside** of the UKA Qualification Window from Thursday 5th March and **after** the selection meeting on Thursday 5 March. This means that in Round 2 of the selection process, only athletes with the World Athletics Standard at the time of the selection meeting can be considered for selection in the round. Round 3 (on the same day) will then consider all remaining athletes in a Top List Position or Next Best by Top List at the time of the selection meeting (if selected, all athletes must be in a top list position by the last publication of the Top List on 11 March). Athletes should consider their competition schedule accordingly.

What are the key eligibility requirements?

To be eligible for selection, athletes must:

- Meet all **General Eligibility Requirements** that can be found in Appendix 1 of the Selection Policy). Note that all female athletes aiming for selection must have taken an SRY Gene Test following new WA Eligibility rules now in force.
- Comply with **Requirement One** – Compete at the UK Athletics Indoor Championships
- Comply with **Requirement Two** – Qualification Requirement.

Meeting eligibility requirements allows an athlete to be considered but does not guarantee selection.

How do I get the SRY Gene Test?

If you are a female athlete aiming for selection (including U18 athletes) you **MUST** take an SRY gene test in order to be eligible to compete under new WA rules. You must have taken your test before final entry on 12th March and will need to allow sufficient time to receive your results. UKA advises all female athletes who are of a standard to compete in international competition to get the test in advance of selection this year. It is a once-in-a-lifetime test: the same test certificate can be used to prove eligibility at every subsequent competition. If you already have an SRY Gene Test from your participation in the Tokyo World Championships in 2025 or World Cross Country Championships 2026 you will not need to get another test.

Information about how to take an SRY Gene Test can be found [here](#)

What are the ways I can satisfy the Qualification Requirement (-Eligibility Requirement Two)?

1. Be a World Indoor Tour Champion 2026
2. Achieve a World Athletics Entry Standard by the time of the selection meeting (event standards are listed in the Selection Policy)



3. Be in a World Athletics Top List position either 'In Top List' or 'Next best by Top List' at the time of the selection meeting (athletes selected must then be in a qualification position at the close and final publication on 11 March).
4. Combined Event athletes only: be one of the fourteen athletes who receive an invitation from World Athletics.

Note that athletes under consideration for the Relay events only are not required to have a Qualification Requirement.

Is participation mandatory at the UK Athletics Indoor Championships?

Yes. To be considered for selection, athletes must compete in their corresponding event at the UK Athletics Indoor Championships on 14 – 15 February 2026 at the Utilita Arena, Birmingham.

If you are unable to compete due to injury or illness, in order to continue to be Eligible for selection consideration, a medical exemption will need to be granted by UKA following an assessment of the case. The conditions and further details can be found in paragraph 8 of the Selection Policy.

Can I compete in a different event at the UK Athletics Indoor Championships?

No, you must compete in the event you wish to be selected for.

I'm aiming to compete in two individual events at the World Indoors, what do I need to do?

If you're aiming to compete in two individual events in Poland, you only need to compete in your primary event at Trials. In these circumstances, you must notify the panel of your request to be considered for both events by emailing the Performance Director (pdunn@uka.org.uk). Requests must be made in advance of the UK Athletics Indoor Championships in order to be considered at the selection meeting. You will also need to have a Qualification Requirement (standard) in both events in order to be considered for selection.

How many places are available by event?

World Athletics offers two places by event by nation. In cases where a Member Federation has a Wild Card selection for an event, a third place is available for that Member Federation.

If I win Trials or finish Top 2 am I 'automatically' selected?

There is no prioritisation in the selection rounds for the finishing position at Trials. Trials performance will be considered as part of the body of assessment criteria used in either Round 2 or 3 (depending on your qualification route) which can be found in the policy.

Does achieving a qualifying standard or qualifying by Top List position guarantee selection?

No. Achieving a qualifying standard or Top Performance list (or 'Next Best') position does not guarantee selection. Selections will be made based on the panel's expert assessment of ability to fulfil the overarching performance objectives, which are to maximise medals and top 8 finishes. Therefore, all available places may not be used.

How are Combined Event athletes selected?

Combined Events are invitation-only from World Athletics. Athletes must:

- Have emailed the Performance Director or Maddy Ibbett by 19 December 2025 to express their interest, and;
- Receive a World Athletics invitation or discretionary Combined Events invitation.

Are Relay teams automatically selected?

No. Relay teams will only be selected if, in the Selection Panel's expert opinion, they have genuine medal potential. The Selection Panel is not obliged to select a relay team for any or all relay events.



I want to be considered for the Relay – what event do I need to compete in at the UK Athletics Indoor Championships?

You can compete in the 200m, 400m or 800m.

If I wish to be considered for a Relay event only, do I need a Qualification Requirement?

You do not need a Qualification Requirement but will need to fulfil all other Eligibility requirements.

Why are the Performance aims focused on maximising medals and top 8 finishes?

The Performance objectives for the World Indoor Championships are part of the wider World Class Programme strategy to ultimately maximise medals at the Olympics and World Championships. This strategy (which aligns to UK Sport investment objectives) is reflected across major international championships by setting standards that are commensurate with medal winning success and to support athletes with a high performing environment towards future Olympic and World outdoor medals. All selection decisions are made with this objective in mind.

Can athletes appeal a non-selection?

Yes. Athletes may appeal a non-selection in accordance with the UK Athletics Selection Fast Appeals Procedure.

- Appeals may only be lodged after final selections are published
- A £250 administration fee applies (refundable if the appeal is upheld)
- Appeals must strictly follow the published timelines.

I have a question that was not addressed here. Who can I contact?

You can address any selection policy-related query to Tina Ryan, Director of Performance Operations on the email address below.

USEFUL CONTACTS	
Paula Dunn, Performance Director pdunn@uka.org.uk	UK Athletics Indoor Championships-related requests (please submit in writing), doubling-up requests. Other championship/selection-related queries.
George Polglass, UKA Head of Medicine gpoglass@britishathletics.org.uk or James Brown, UKA Lead Doctor jbrown@britishathletics.org.uk	Medical issues relating to participation at UK Athletics Indoor Championships or World Indoor Championships.
Medicaladmin@britishathletics.org.uk	Female Athlete Category Testing (Gene Test) issues.
Tina Ryan, Director of Performance Operations tryan@uka.org.uk	General selection and policy-related queries (including appeals) and timelines.
Maddy Ibbett mibbett@britishathletics.org.uk	Championships logistics-related queries.