



2026 WORLD ATHLETICS RACE WALKING TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS
12 APRIL 2026
BRASILIA, BRAZIL

SELECTION POLICY – published February 2026

This Selection Policy (“the Policy”) sets out the selection process for the team to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland at the 2026 World Race Walking Team Championships (“the Championships”).

Athletes should note that they must comply with all General Eligibility Requirements given in Appendix 1 to compete for Great Britain & Northern Ireland at these Championships. **New World Athletics Female Athlete Category Testing (‘FACT’) is now an Eligibility Requirement. Female athletes should note that they must have an SRY Gene Test in order to be Eligible to compete - see Appendix 1, paragraph 2.**

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

- To support athletes who have the potential to finish in the top 12 at these Championships
- To support developing athletes who may perform well at future Race-Walking Team Championships and have the potential to be selected for future major championships

SELECTIONS

1. The selection meeting will take place on **19 March 2026**.
2. Selections will be based on the Performance Objectives of the championships as stated above.
3. Selections will be published by **23 March 2026**.
4. Selections will be subject to the maximum number of entries as follows:
 - a. **For the Junior 10k Event:**
A maximum of two (2) athletes can compete in each of the male and female events.
 - b. **For the Half Marathon and Marathon Event:**
A maximum of three (3) athletes can compete in each of the male and female events.

TRIALS

5. There will be **no Trial event** for athletes wishing to be considered for selection in the 2026 World Race Walking Team Championships.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

6. Athletes wishing to be considered for selection should submit an expression of interest form by **17 March 2026**. The expression of interest form can be found [here](#).
7. Following submission of an expression of interest, athletes should notify the UKA WCP Endurance Lead Tom Craggs tcraggs@uka.org.uk if their availability changes.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

8. In addition to meeting the General Eligibility Requirements in Appendix 1, to be eligible for selection, athletes must comply with the Qualification Requirement.

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9. For the avoidance of doubt, complying with the Qualification Requirement means an athlete can be considered in the Selection Process; it does not guarantee selection.
10. Athletes who meet both the General Eligibility Requirement and the Qualification Requirement are Eligible Athletes.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

11. To be considered for selection, athletes must achieve a UKA Selection Standard set out in the tables below within the qualification period **1 April 2025 to 16 March 2026**.

Men	Event	Women
44:50 (10,000m/10km)	Junior 10km	50:30 (10,000m/10km)
1:29:00 (1:22:40 20km)	Half Marathon	1:41:00 (1:32:30 20km)
3:15:00 (2:35:50 35km)	Marathon	3:45:00 (2:58:00 35km)

12. Selection standards must be achieved in competitions that comply with the Performance Conditions in Appendix 2.

SELECTION PROCESS

13. The Selection Panel will only select from Eligible Athletes who meet the General Eligibility Criteria and the Qualification Requirement.
14. Selections will be made in one (1) round successively by event in the following order.
 - Men's Senior Marathon Race Walk
 - Women's Senior Marathon Race Walk
 - Women's Senior Half Marathon Race Walk
 - Men's Senior Half Marathon Race Walk
 - Men's Junior 10km Race Walk
 - Women's Junior 10km Race Walk
15. Athletes should note that selection in all rounds is subject to the Selection Panel's expert assessment of the athlete's injury and health status.
16. In its assessment of an athlete, the Selection Panel may decide not to select an athlete if based on UK Athletics' medical advice, if it considers that participation would constitute a risk to the athlete or others.
17. The Selection Panel may in its sole discretion, set conditions of selection, which may include but are not limited to fitness conditions, health-related conditions, and may include any other form of assessment. If the athlete fails to comply with the conditions placed upon their selection, the provisions for de-selection as set out below may apply.
18. **Round 1 – Eligible Athletes with a UKA Selection Standard**
 - a. The Selection Panel will consider all Eligible Athletes who have achieved a UKA Selection Standard. Athletes being considered for selection in this round must, in the sole discretion of the Selection Panel, be likely to achieve the Performance Objectives of the Championships based on its assessment of the criteria below:
 - The number of times UKA Selection Standards were achieved in the 2025 outdoor season and the 2026 outdoor season until the end of the selection window.

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- Performances and the consistency of performances during the qualification window
 - 2025 Season and 2026 Season best performances
 - 2026 World Ranking at time of the selection meeting
 - Assessment of an athlete's current form to determine their current performance potential and readiness to compete at a level that can meet the Performance Objectives of these Championships and their ability to meet the selection standards outlined in this policy. Current form will consider factors such as consistency, competition performance, progression and performances in alternative relevant distances). Current form will be assessed during the period of **1 September 2025 to 16 March 2026**.
 - Head-to-heads with other relevant athletes in the qualification period
 - Previous major competition history since 2024
 - Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
 - Individual potential to progress to medal at future senior European Championships, World Championships and Olympic Games
 - Other factors the Selection Panel deems relevant
- b. The criteria above are not listed in order of priority and may be weighted as necessary to best meet the Performance Objectives, as the Selection Panel deems appropriate. The Selection Panel may also disregard certain criteria.
- c. If there are more athletes with a UKA Selection Standard than there are places available, athletes will be considered for selection based on the Selection Panel's comparative assessment of athletes. The Selection Panel will ultimately selection athletes with the greatest potential to fulfil the performance objectives of the Championships.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selection Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor to fill all event places.

19. Reserves

- a. The Selection Panel may in its discretion nominate one (1) additional Eligible athlete as a non-travelling reserve for each of the events. If more athletes satisfy criteria than there are places available, athletes will be assessed using the criteria outlined in the paragraph 18a above to nominate reserves. There is no obligation on the Selection Panel to nominate reserves.
- b. 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.

SELECTION PANEL

20. The Selection Panel shall comprise the following Members stated below. A substitute may be nominated at any time by the WCP Endurance Lead if a member (including the WCP Endurance Lead) is unavailable:

- a. Voting Members:
- i. WCP Endurance Lead
 - ii. UKA Endurance Strategy Manager
 - iii. An event group representative as nominated by the WCP Endurance Lead
- b. Non-Voting Members:
- i. Chairperson;
 - ii. Independent Observer (if available);
 - iii. British Elite Athletes Association Member or UKA Athlete Commission Member (as required by the Chairperson and if available);

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- iv. Note-taker(s);
 - v. Any other person invited by the Chairperson
21. In the event of an actual, potential or possible conflict relating to any voting member of the Selection 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 selector if necessary.
 22. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The WCP Endurance Lead shall have the casting vote, if required. If the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager is unable to vote due to a conflict, the Chairperson shall nominate the Selection Panel member with the casting vote if required.
 23. The Selection Panel may make any selection subject to the athlete completing a performance requirement, test set or health/injury assessment.

DE-SELECTION

24. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Selection Panel or UK Athletics in the event of:
 - a. The athlete ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection policy, World Athletics rules, or other UK Athletics strategy document or policy communicated by UK Athletics.
 - b. Failure to sign the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement
 - c. Failure to comply with any conditions set by the Selection Panel
 - d. Application of the UK Athletics Team Medical Policy as set out in the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement
 - e. Any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension or failure to complete any required anti-doping action, including training or courses
 - f. Any serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct
 - g. A breach of any UK Athletics policy
 - h. 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 health related issue.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

25. Appeals

There will be no right of appeal to the selection of the GB & NI Team made by the Selection Panel. The provisions of the UK Athletics Fast Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB & NI team selections for the 2026 World Race Walking Team Championships.

26. Amendment

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.

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27. Governing Law

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

28. Jurisdiction

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.

29. Key Contacts

For any questions relating to the Selection Policy please contact Tom Craggs tcraggs@uka.org.uk or Paula Gowing pgowing@uka.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. If competing in a Female athlete category event, possess a SRY Gene Test Certificate before 23 March 2026. This is in line with World Athletics eligibility rules (Technical Rule 3, Eligibility Rule 3.5).
3. Comply with all World Athletics and competition rules relevant to the category and/or event they wish to compete in.
4. 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.
5. Not under investigation, or been charged by UK Athletics, a Home Country Athletics Federation, or any other relevant organisation (including the police and CPS) for misconduct or any disciplinary, safeguarding or criminal offence.
6. Completed all anti-doping requirements.
7. 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.
8. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought UK Athletics into disrepute.
9. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct.
10. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club. Exemption may be granted in exceptional circumstances only, where an athlete must be registered to a club in a foreign country due to local laws and regulations governing residency and training. In such cases, the athlete should seek written approval from the Performance Director in advance.
11. Be aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December of the year of the competition to compete in the senior category (half marathon or marathon) or the U20 race.
12. Be aged 16, 17, 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010) to compete in the U20 Race.
13. If aged 20 years or older on 31 December 2026, athletes will only be eligible to compete in either the half marathon or marathon event.
14. Sign the UK Athletics Team Members' Agreement ("TMA") or World Class Programme Agreement as applicable 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 UKA Selection 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

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Athletics Rules and as of 1 January 2023 must be published on the Global Calendar pages of the World Athletics website (<https://worldathletics.org/competition/calendar-results>).

2. UK domestic track and field performances will only be certified by UK Athletics if they are achieved in a UK Athletics Level 2 Permit competition or higher, or in an Area or County Championship (see <https://www.uka.org.uk/competitions/track-field-licensing/> for details on the UK Athletics competition permits).
3. Performances achieved in mixed events between male and female participants shall not be accepted.

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