



**2026 World Athletics U20 Championships: 5-9 August 2026
Eugene, Oregon**

**SELECTION POLICY – published December 2025
Updated February 2026 – Amendment to Paragraph 13 & Trials & Selection**

Overview

UK Athletics provides the opportunity through age group championships for athletes and coaches to experience and learn the key skills, abilities and behaviours needed to progress through the pathway and on to the senior international stage.

The Selection Panel (“the Panel”) therefore aim to select a competitive team and athletes who they believe have the potential to reach top 8 in their event at the World Athletics U20 Championships.

In line with the UK Athletics Futures Academy Relay Programme, the U20 relays are seen as vital experience for ensuring future success on the senior stage. All U20 relay programme athletes will therefore be expected to make themselves available for the 4x100m or 4x400m relay squads throughout the year, culminating at the World Athletics U20 Championships.

The World Athletics U20 Championships Trials (“the Trials”) for all events except combined events, will take place at the England Athletics U20/U23 Championships on **3-5 July 2026**.

The World Athletics U20 Championships is fully funded by UKA.

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GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Be eligible to compete for GB&NI and be the holder of a full and current British passport;
2. Be born in 2007, 2008. In *exceptional circumstances only*, athletes born in 2009 or 2010 may be considered for discretionary selection by the Head of Performance Pathways.
 - a. To be eligible, an athlete must have shown consistent level of performance and have previous experience at a major GB & NI age-group international championship. They must also meet at least one of the following criteria:
 1. Have achieved the UKA or World Athletics World U20 performance standard,
 2. Be highly ranked at World U20 level
 3. Be able to contribute to relay teams.
3. Compete in the **Trials in the event** in which they wish to be selected. The following exceptions shall apply:
 - Athletes who wish to be considered for selection in the 5,000m Race-Walk and Combined Events.
 - Athletes born in 2009 or 2010 (U18) will be exempt from the U20 Trials. Instead, they are expected to compete at the European U18 Trials.
 - Athletes who may want to compete in more than one individual event ('double up') at the World Athletics U20 Championships do not have to compete in their second event at the Trials. Athletes must inform the Selection Panel ("the Panel") prior to the selection meeting of their desire to double up and in which events, stating their 'main event'. The Panel will consider any athlete's second event as discretionary selection in Round 2.
4. Have achieved, at minimum, the World U20 entry standard. except in cases where athletes are selected solely for relay purposes.
5. Meet all World Athletics Eligibility and Qualification event requirements, including but not limited to Female Athlete Category Testing (FACT) (<https://worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/book-of-rules>).
6. Comply with all World Athletics and competition rules including but not limited to any rules relevant to the category and/or event they wish to compete in.
7. Not currently be serving a period of ineligibility or a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation or for any other reason of misconduct.
8. Not have committed a criminal, disciplinary or safeguarding offence that in the reasonable opinion of the Board of UK Athletics renders the athlete unsuitable for selection.
9. 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.
10. Completed all anti-doping requirements;

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11. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought UK Athletics into disrepute.
12. 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/>
13. Athletes competing at the 2026 Commonwealth Games will not be eligible for the 2026 World U20 Championships.

TRIALS

The World Athletics U20 Championships Trials ("the Trials") for all events except the 5,000m Race Walk and Combined Events will take place on **3-5 July at the England Athletics U20/Senior Championships in Bedford**.

The GB and NI team will travel to the Championships as a team. All questions related to the selection policy or trial races should be directed to agegroupchampsinfo@britishathletics.org.uk.

RELAY EVENTS

Athletes seeking selection in the relay events must compete at the Trials in the usual relevant individual event.

SRY GENE TESTING - IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL FEMALE ATHLETES

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 -. Information on how to access a gene test is [provided here](#).

U18 Athletes born in 2009, 2010 who are selected for the European Athletics U18 Championships.

These athletes should prioritise that event and will not be considered for selection except for the provisions made in paragraph 2, a above.

Illness/Injury

Where an athlete suffers illness or injury the day before or the day of the Trials, they must contact the Team Leader as soon as possible prior to the commencement of the relevant Trial event.

Detailed information and evidence must be provided by a medical note from a GP, emergency doctor or consultation with the U20 Team Doctor, for the Team Leader and U20 Team Doctor to assess whether absence from Trials was warranted and whether an exemption is granted.

All athletes must be aware that failure to attend the trials, regardless of validity will naturally and unavoidably place them at a disadvantage when being assessed for selection.

Illness that occurs earlier than the day before the first day of the Trials must be evidenced by a medical note from a GP, emergency doctor or consultation with the U20 Team Doctor for that athlete to remain eligible for selection.

The Team Leader and the U20 Team Doctor will at their discretion determine whether, on the basis of the evidence available to them and information provided by the athlete, to accept their non-attendance at the Trials.

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Failure to satisfy the above will result in the athlete not being considered for selection. All athletes must be aware that failure to attend the trials, regardless of validity, will naturally and unavoidably place them at a disadvantage when being assessed for selection.

For clarification, this does not automatically grant exceptional circumstance but may be taken into consideration by the Panel.

QUALIFICATION

- Save for the provisions set out in Round 3-4, to be considered as part of the selection process qualification performances must be achieved from 1 January 2026 and 23:59 (BST) on 19 July 2026.
- The UK Athletics Qualification Standards are based on the potential to achieve a Top 8 finish:

Men	Event	Women
10.35	100m	11.50
20.85	200m	23.50
46.50	400m	53.30
1:48.0	800m	2:04.00
3:43.0	1500m	4:15.0
8:02.0	3000m	9:15.0
13:55.0	5000m	16:00.0
08:55.0	3000m S/C	10:15.0
42:00.0	5000m Walk	47:00.0
13.60	110m/100m H	13.45
51.30	400m H	58.00
2.15	High Jump	1.84
5.20	Pole Vault	4.15
7.70	Long Jump	6.30
15.70	Triple Jump	13.10
18.50	Shot	15.00
58.00	Discus	50.00
70.00	Hammer	60.50
69.50	Javelin	51.50
7400	Decathlon/Heptathlon	5400

SELECTION

- Selections based on Trials performances will take place on 6 July 2026 (Round 1-2).
- Final selections will take place on 20 July 2026 (Rounds 3-4).
- A maximum of two athletes may be selected in each individual event. Up to 6 athletes may be selected for each relay event. The composition of those relay athletes must include the athletes who are selected in the relevant individual event. Any other athlete who is selected in any other event may then be able to participate in the relay event.
- UK Athletics will select qualifying athletes up to a maximum team size of 40.
- The team will be announced on Thursday 23 July 2026.

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Round 1 – Trials Selections

- a. The 1st place of the World u20 Trial will be automatically selected for the same event at the World Athletics U20 Championships, provided the 1st placed athlete has the relevant UKA Qualification at the time of the Trials;
- b. Should the 1st placed athlete at the trials not be eligible for (or decline) selection or have not achieved the relevant qualification standard, their automatic place will NOT be offered to the next best placed eligible athlete(s)
- c. Combined event athletes who have achieved the UKA Qualification Standard, and who are ranked number 1 U20 athlete in GB according to Power of 10.
- d. All athletes selected for individual events 100m, 200m, 400m, 400h in this round are required to make themselves available at the World U20 Championships for all rounds of the 4x100m, 4x400m, and mixed or gender-specific relay events,.

Round 2 – all remaining Eligible individual athletes with UKA Standard

- a. In this round the Panel will consider athletes who have:
 - i. Achieved the UKA Qualification Standard;
 - ii. Demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Panel current form and fitness which suggests they can perform at a level equal to (or exceeding) their qualification best or season's best (whichever is higher), in line with the aims of the policy.
- b. Athletes will be selected based on the Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria (which are not listed in priority order), as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant:
 - i. Current form;
 - ii. Position at the Trials;
 - iii. Future individual medal potential at outdoor global events;
 - iv. Top 8 potential at the 2026 World Athletics U20 Championships;
 - v. Head-to-heads;
 - vi. Previous major age-group competition history;
 - vii. Injury/health status;
 - viii. Relay contribution (where relevant);
 - ix. Any other criteria the Panel deems relevant.
- e. All athletes selected for individual events 100m, 200m, 400m, 400h in this round are required to make themselves available for all rounds of the 4x100m, 4x400m, and mixed or gender-specific relay events.

Round 3 – Relays

- a. Based on the athletes selected for individual sprint/hurdles events (100m, 200m, 100/110mH, 400m, 400MH) in rounds 1 and 2, the Panel, may choose to select a team for each of the mixed, men's and women's 4x100m and 4x400m relays (which must include athletes selected for individual 100m, 200m and 400m events respectively) provided the following is true:

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- b. UKA retains discretion to decide whether to field a relay team, based on the availability of eligible athletes who demonstrate realistic potential medal at the World u20 championships.
- c. The number of athletes selected for each relay will be at the discretion of the Panel, in accordance with the World Athletics entry rules.

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- d. Athletes will be selected based on the Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria (which are not listed in priority order), as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant:
 - i. Current form;
 - ii. Head-to-heads;
 - iii. Previous major competition history (in individual and relay events);
 - iv. Relay skills;
 - v. Injury/illness status;
 - vi. Engagement with the UKA relay programme(s); and
 - vii. Any other criteria the Panel deems relevant.
- e. Athletes selected for the relay do not need to have achieved a UKA qualification standard but do need to have competed in the Trials to be eligible for consideration for selection.

All athletes selected for the 4x100m and 4x400m relay squads, whether or not they are also competing in individual events, are an important part of the ongoing development of relay success in the UK. All selected relay athletes are therefore expected to be available for all rounds of their respective relays, unless prevented by injury. Commitment to full participation is a key part of being a relay team member. Athletes who are unable to meet these expectations may not be considered for future support through the UK Athletics Futures or World Class Programmes, until consistent commitment is demonstrated.

Round 4 – Other Eligible Athletes with World Athletics Standard.

- a. The Selection Panel may select additional individual athletes who meet the General Eligibility criteria, who have a realistic chance of reaching Top 8 at the World U20 Championships, but who have not achieved the relevant UKA qualification standard within the qualification period.
- b. Athletes will be selected based on the Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria (which are not listed in priority order) as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant:
 - i. Current form and consistency of performances;
 - ii. Position at the trials;
 - iii. Future individual medal potential at indoor or outdoor major events;
 - iv. Head-to-heads in 2026;
 - v. Previous major age-group competition history;
 - vi. Injury/health status;
 - vii. Any other criteria the Panel deems relevant.
- c. The total number of athletes selected in rounds 2, 3 and 4 may be limited by regulations set by World Athletics, the Championship organisers, or by UKA for logistical or budgetary reasons.

SELECTION PANEL

- 1. The Selection Panel shall comprise the Members stated below. A substitute may be nominated at any time by the Head of Performance Pathway and Programmes if a member is unavailable:
 - a. Voting Members:
 - i. Team Leader
 - ii. Specialist Team coaches from all event groups, as nominated by the Head of Performance Pathways and Programmes.

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- b. Non-Voting Members:
 - i. Chairperson
 - ii. Event specialist(s), as nominated by the Head of Performance Pathways and Programmes if considered necessary.
 - iii. British Elite Athletes Associate or UKA Athletes Commission observer (as required)
 - iv. UK Athletics Medical representative (as required)
 - v. Note taker(s), and;
 - vi. Any other person invited by the Chairperson

2. 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). In any event including but not limited to conflict of interest or absence, the Chairperson may appoint an alternative voting member if necessary.

3. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The Team Leader shall have the casting vote, if required. If the Team Leader is unable to vote due to a conflict the Chairperson shall nominate the panel member with the casting vote if required. For discretionary selections, if the Team Leader has a conflict, the Chairperson will decide on which voting member shall have casting vote.

4. The Selection Panel may make any selection subject to the athlete completing a performance requirement or test set by the Panel.

DE-SELECTION

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, EA rules and regulations, UK Athletics 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 or partial failure to comply with any conditions or part of conditions of selection set by the Panel.
- e. Application of the UK Athletics Team Medical Policy as 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.

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PERFORMANCE CONDITIONS

- Qualifying standards can only be achieved at WA permitted meets.
- Competitions in GB that receive WA permits will only be the level 2 licensed meets.
- Performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by the WA, its Area Associations or its National Member Federations. Domestic competitions will only be accepted if they are achieved in Permit Level 2 competition (or higher)
- For the avoidance of doubt, any Permit Level 1 competitions not listed above will NOT be valid for qualification purposes. Any athlete/coach who is unsure as to which competitions will be acceptable for qualification purposes are advised to contact agegroupchampsinfo@britishathletics.org.uk
- Providing the sprints are timed using photo finish and that sprints and jumps all use a wind gauge.
- Race walking performances achieved in road events must be achieved on WA certified courses.
- Wind-assisted performances (or performances achieved at events where wind measurement was not available) will not be accepted. The interpretation of a wind assisted Combined Events performance will be based on the most recent version of the WA rule book (at the time of selection), unless the relevant organising committee state otherwise.
- Performances achieved in mixed events held completely in a stadium will not be accepted.
- Hand-timed performances in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 100m/110m Hurdles, 400m Hurdles and 4 x100m relay will not be accepted.
- Indoor performances for all field events and for races of 400m or longer will be accepted.
- 100m, 200m, 400m, 110m/100m hurdles and 400m hurdles performances at altitudes of above 950m will not be accepted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

a) Appeals

There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the Novuna GB&NI Team made by the Selection Panel. for the World U20 Championships.

b) Amendment

UK Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at any time at its discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.britishathletics.org.uk

c) Governing Law

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

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d) 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.

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