



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

RACE WALKING SELECTION POLICY – published October 2025

Updated December 2025 – Round 2 added
Updated February 2026 - Amendment to paragraph 8, Appendix 1

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 Race-Walking events. Athletes wishing to be selected for Track & Field events, or Marathon 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 place in the Top 3 in the Medal Table

TRIALS

1. There will be no Trial event for athletes wishing to be considered for the Race-Walking Events.

SELECTION MEETINGS

2. The selection meetings will take place on the following dates:
 - Marathon Race Walking – **27 April 2026**
 - Half Marathon Race Walking – **15 June 2026**
3. 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.
4. Selections will be published on 29 April 2026 and 17 June 2026.

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

5. Selections will be subject to the maximum number of entries permitted by EA as published on the EA website:
 - A maximum of three (3) athletes can compete in each Race Walk event

SECTION ONE: ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

6. 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 Athletes”.

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QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

7. To be considered for selection, athletes must meet a qualification requirement for the race-walking event by one of the
 - a. Achieve the **European Athletics Entry Standard**, as set out in the table below, within the respective qualification period set out below. The European Athletics Entry Standards must be achieved in competitions that comply with the Performance Conditions outlined in Appendix 2.

Qualification Periods:

- **Half Marathon Race Walk:** 25 January 2025 to 14 June 2026
- **Marathon Race Walk:** 25 January 2025 to 26 April 2026

Men	Event	Women
1:26:15 1:21:00 (20km)	Half Marathon Race Walk	1:36:20 1:31:00 (20km)
3:11:00 2:33:00 (35km)	Marathon Race Walk	3:40:00 2:57:00 (35km)

- 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 relevant selection meeting. 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 two (2) rounds in each of the selection meetings using the process outlined below.

8. Round 1 – Eligible Athletes with a European Athletics Entry Standard

- a. The Panel may consider Eligible Athletes who have a European Athletics Entry Standard. Athletes being considered for selection must meet the Performance Objectives for the Championships based on the Panel's assessment of the criteria below.
 - Performance and performance consistency during the qualification window
 - Head-to-heads with other relevant Eligible Athletes in the 2025 and 2026 outdoor season
 - Recent athlete performance history in major international championships since 2023
 - Future individual medal potential at major international championships
 - Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
 - 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. Current form will be assessed during the period **1 February 2026 to the relevant selection meeting**.

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- b. 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 panel deems appropriate.
- c. 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.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor fill all event places.

9. Round 2 – 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 respective selection meeting appear on the 'Road to Birmingham', either '**In World Rankings Quota**' or as '**Next best by World Rankings**' positions. Inclusion on this list does not guarantee selection. The Selection Panel will consider whether the athletes have demonstrated a likelihood of achieving the Performance Objectives of the Championships, namely winning and medal, or as a minimum finishing Top 8. The Selection Panel reserves the right to not select athletes if in the Selection Panel's expert opinion, they are unlikely to achieve the objectives. To make this assessment, the Selection Panel will consider the following criteria.
 - The gap to the EA qualification standard of performances and the consistency of performances close to the EA qualification standard during the qualification window, with particular focus on the 2026 outdoor season.
 - Season's best and position in World Athletics season top lists (3 per nation)
 - Position in Road to Birmingham rankings at the time of the relevant selection meeting
 - Performance and performance consistency during the qualification window
 - Head-to-heads with other relevant Eligible Athletes in the 2025 and 2026 outdoor season
 - Recent athlete performance history in major international championships since 2023
 - Future individual medal potential at major international championships
 - Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
 - 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. Current form will be assessed during the period **1 February 2026 to the relevant selection meeting**.
- b. 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 panel deems appropriate.
- c. If there are more Athletes who have the ability to fulfil the performance objectives of the Championships than there are places available, athletes will be considered for selection based on the Panel's comparative assessment of athletes.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selection Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor to fill all event places.
- e. 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.

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RESERVES

10. The Panel may in its discretion nominate one additional Eligible Athlete as travelling or non-travelling (as determined by the Panel) reserve for each of the Race Walk 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.
11. 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

12. 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:
 - vii. Any other person invited by the Chairperson
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. The Panel may make any selection subject to the athlete completing a performance requirement or test set by the Panel.

SECTION FOUR: DE-SELECTION

16. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Panel or UK Athletics in the event of:
 - a. 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;
 - b. The athlete not complying with any selection conditions set by UK Athletics
 - c. Failure to sign the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement;

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- d. Failure to comply with any conditions 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 or failure to complete any required anti-doping action, including training or courses;
- 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

17. 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](https://www.uka.org.uk/governance/uk-athletics-athletes-commission/), 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 (WCP athletes only) or the UK Athletics Athletes’ Commission at www.uka.org.uk/governance/uk-athletics-athletes-commission/.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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
22. The Relevant Timelines, as defined in the UK Athletics Selection Fast Appeals Procedure, are set out in the tables below:

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27 April Selection:

Action	Date & Time
Publication of selection list/selected athletes are notified	By 18:00 Wednesday 29 April
Athlete request notes from selection meeting	By 09:00 Monday 4 May
UK Athletics to supply notes	By 18:00 Tuesday 5 May
Athlete to submit Notice of Appeal	By 18:00 Thursday 7 May
Evidence of administration fee payment	By 18:00 Thursday 7 May
Third parties to submit additional documents. (if requested by the Appeal Panel)	By 09:00 Monday 11 May
UK Athletics to submit Chairperson's Statement	By 18:00 Monday 11 May
Appeal Panel Hearing	12 – 13 May
Appeal Outcome	By 18:00 Wednesday 13 May
Final entries deadline	13:00 Friday 31 July

15 June Selection:

Action	Date & Time
Publication of selection list/selected athletes are notified	By 18:00 Wednesday 17 June
Athlete request notes from selection meeting	By 09:00 Tuesday 23 June
UK Athletics to supply notes	By 18:00 Wednesday 24 June
Athlete to submit Notice of Appeal	By 18:00 Friday 26 June
Evidence of administration fee payment	By 18:00 Friday 26 June
Third parties to submit additional documents. (if requested by the Appeal Panel)	By 12:00 Monday 29 June
UK Athletics to submit Chairperson's Statement	By 18:00 Tuesday 30 June
Appeal Panel Hearing	1 - 2 July
Appeal Outcome	By 18:00 Thursday 2 July
Final entries deadline	13:00 Friday 31 July

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](#) to determine whether grounds for appeal can be applied.

Amendment

23. 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

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

Jurisdiction

25. 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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Key Contacts

Contact details are as follows:

- Performance Director: Paula Dunn (pdunn@britishathletics.org.uk)
- WCP Endurance Performance Lead: Tom Craggs (tcraggs@uka.org.uk)
- Policy queries: Tina Ryan (tryan@uka.org.uk)
- Championships logistics: Maddy Ibbett (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. Completed all anti-doping requirements.
7. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct.
8. 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.
9. Be 20 years or older as of 31 December 2026 (i.e. born in 2006 or earlier).
10. 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 achieved in competitions conducted with the penalty zone rule will be accepted.
3. 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.
4. A minimum of 3 International or Area Race Walking Judges must be on duty.
5. Track performances (20,000m) will be accepted.

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

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