



2026 European Athletics U18 Championships
Rieti, Italy
16-19 July 2026

SELECTION POLICY – published January 2026. Version 2

Overview

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

By competing in their specific age group, athletes gain the right experience at the right time in their development. The long term goal is to support each athlete's journey towards future senior international success and ultimately competing at the Olympic Games.

The Selection Panel ("the Panel") therefore aim to select a competitive team with athletes who they believe have the potential to reach top 8 at the European Athletics U18 Championships.

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

The European Athletics U18 Championships is a fully funded event.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- To be considered for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:
 - a. be eligible to compete for Great Britain & Northern Ireland (i.e. full British passport holder);
 - b. be born in 2009 or 2010;
 - c. must 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. compete in the Trials in the event in which they wish to be selected with the following exceptions shall apply:
 - i. Athletes in the combined events.
 - ii. Athletes who may want to double up at the European U18 Athletics 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. The Panel will consider any athlete’s second event as discretionary selection in round 2.
 - f. have demonstrated a consistent level of performance in line with the aims of the policy.
 - g. 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/>
 - h. have received and hold a valid certification for having completed European Athletics Anti-Doping Education Programme – I Run Clean.

TRIALS

The European Athletics U18 Championships (“the Trials”) for all events except combined events will take place on **27-28 June 2026** at the **Welsh Senior and U18 Championships, Cardiff**.

There will be no trial for the combined event groups. Athletes will instead be expected to show form/fitness at the Trials in a relevant event.

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 Team Doctor, for the Team Leader and 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 Team Doctor for that athlete to remain eligible for selection.

The Team Leader and the 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.

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

- Qualification performances must be achieved between 00:00 (GMT) 1st January 2026 and 23:59 (BST) 28 June 2026.
 - Hurdle Heights Men - 110m H 91cm; 400m H 84cm / Women - 100m H 76cm; 400m H 76cm
 - Women's/Men's – 3kg/5kg Shot, 1kg/1.5kg Discus, 3kg/5kg Hammer, 500g/700g Javelin
 - Steeplechase Barrier Height- Men 0.838/Women 0.762m
- The UK Athletics qualification standards are based on an athlete's potential to reach the final and their likelihood of achieving a **Top 8 Placing**. **Qualification standards will be used to prioritise selections via the rounds process described below.**

Boys	Event	Girls
10.60	100m	11.75
21.45	200m	24.15
48.00	400m	54.50
1:51.00	800m	2:06.00
3:52.00	1500m	4:22.00
8:25.00	3,000m	9:35.00
5:52.00	2,000m SC	6:45.00
13.70	110m/100m H	13.50
52.90	400m H	60
22:40.00	5km RW	24:00.00
2.05	High Jump	1.78
4.85	Pole Vault	3.85
7.20	Long Jump	6.10
14.80	Triple Jump	12.65
18.00	Shot Put	15.60
54.50	Discus Throw	44.30
68.00	Hammer Throw	61.00
65.00	Javelin Throw	49.00
6900	Decathlon/Heptathlon	5300

- Medley Relay Event Athletes will not be required to meet a qualification standard.

Selection Process

- The team will be selected in one selection meeting on **Monday 29 June 2026**.
- The voting panel members will be made up of representatives of each event group as nominated by the Head of Performance Pathway, based on their knowledge and expertise. The panel will also include a non-voting independent observer and a member of the Athlete's Commission.
- Voting will be by majority and in the event of a tie, the Team Leader shall have the casting vote.
- The team will be announced on **Wednesday 1 July 2026**.

- UK Athletics will select qualifying athletes up to a **maximum team size of 40** No more than 2 athletes for each individual event will be selected. The Selection Panel (“the Panel”) will select the team in 3 rounds, outlined in paragraphs 8 to 10 below.

**Note – the GB and NI team size is subject to budgetary constraints and as such UK Athletics reserves the right to increase or decrease the maximum team size as necessary.*

Round 1 – Top 2 at Trials/1st Ranked CE with UKA Standard/- automatic selections

- a. The 1st and 2nd place of the individual Trials events will be automatically selected for the same event at the Euro u18, provided the athlete is eligible (satisfied the requirements outlined in paragraph 3) to compete and has the relevant UKA qualification standard achieved during the relevant qualification period;
- b. Should the 1st and/or 2nd of 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) from the relevant Trial;
- c. All athletes selected for individual events 100h/110h,100m, 200m, 400m, 400h in this round are required to make themselves available for all rounds of the medley relay at the European U18 Championships, except in cases of an injury that is confirmed by the Team Doctor .
- d. Combined event athletes who have achieved all of the following: General eligibility criteria, the UKA qualification standard; competed at the trials and ranked number 1 U18 athlete on European Athletics u18 Rankings. Should the 1st ranked Combined event athlete not be eligible for (or decline) selection their automatic place will NOT be offered to the next best placed eligible athlete.

Round 2 – all remaining eligible individual athletes with UKA Standard

- a. In this round the Panel will consider athletes that have:
 - i. Achieved the UKA qualification standard by the end of the qualification period;
 - ii. Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Panel current form and fitness which suggests they are capable of performing 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 or 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. Top 8 potential at the 2026 Euro u18 Championships;
 - iv. Head-to-heads;
 - v. Injury/illness status;
 - vi. Medley Relay contribution (where relevant)

Round 3 – medley relay

- a. A maximum of 6 (six) athletes may be selected for the medley relay, which can include those selected as individuals in the previous round. For the avoidance of doubt, the Panel may choose not to select any additional medley relay only athletes in this round.
- b. Athletes may be selected to the medley relay (as medley relay only athletes, or from previously selected individual athletes) based on the Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria, as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant. The criteria below are not listed in any priority order:
 - i. Current form;
 - ii. Head-to-heads;
 - iii. Previous major competition history;
 - iv. Relay skills and experience
 - v. Competition timetable considerations: and
 - vi. Injury and health status.
 - vii. Any other criteria that the Panel deems relevant
- c. Athletes selected for the medley relay do not need to have achieved a UK Athletics qualification standard.

Round 4 – European Athletics Standard

- d. The 'Panel' may select additional individual athletes to the team who have a realistic chance of being a finalist at the Championships but who have not achieved a UK Athletics qualification standard within the relevant qualification period (provided they have achieved the European Athletics qualification standard in accordance with paragraphs 11 to 13 below).
- e. Athletes may only be selected in this round if places remain unfilled in the relevant individual event, and athletes may not be selected at the expense of individuals already selected in rounds 1 or 2.
- f. 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. Place at Trials
 - iii. European Athletics U18 Rankings
 - iv. Finalist potential at the 2026 European Athletics U18 Championships based on event depth and what it takes to final.
 - v. Head-to-heads in 2026.
 - vi. Previous major age-group competition history.
 - vii. Injury and health status.

- The total number of athletes may be limited by regulations set by European Athletics, the Championship organisers, or by UK Athletics 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.
 - 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.

DESELECTION

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
- b. Failure to sign the Team Member Agreement or World Class Programme (WCP) Athlete Agreement.
- c. Failure or partial failure to comply with any conditions or part of conditions of selection set by the Selection Panel.
- d. Application of the UK Athletics Team Medical Policy as set out in the Team Member (or WCP Member) Agreement.
- e. Any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension.
- 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:
 - i. Failure to opt-in to team training or team activity.

CONDITIONS

- Qualifying standards can only be achieved at World Athletics permitted events.
- Results of Competitions in GB&NI that have a level 1 License and those competitions that only have a level 2 domestic license WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED by European Athletics.
- Wind-assisted performances (or OUTDOOR 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 and 400m Hurdles will not be accepted;
- Indoor performances for all field events and for races of 400m or longer will 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 European u18 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.

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.

TEAM MANAGEMENT

Alan Richardson – European Athletics u18 Team Leader
Paula Gowing – European Athletics u18 Team Manager