



**2027 WORLD MOUNTAIN AND TRAIL RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS:  
6 - 10 OCTOBER 2027  
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**SELECTION POLICY – published September 2026**

This Selection Policy (“the Policy”) set outs the selection process for the Novuna Great Britain & Northern Ireland team at the 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships in Cape Town, South Africa (the “Championships”).

**PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES**

British Athletics (UKA) intends to select GB & NI men’s and women’s senior and U20 teams for this competition (up to 6 athletes per Trail running team and up to 4 athletes per Mountain running team) based on the following aims:

- Achieve medals and top 10 individual placings
- Achieve top 5 team placings

British Athletics provides the opportunity an age group opportunity (via the U20 Classic Up-and-Down race) 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.

Athletes should note that they must comply with all General Eligibility Requirements in Appendix 1 to compete for Great Britain & Northern Ireland at these Championships.

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ATHLETES**

1. To ensure all runners are best prepared for the WMTRC 2027, as a condition of selection, athletes accepting selection in all Senior and U20 events must agree not to compete in any of the Ultra Trail du Mount Blanc races in August 2027. For the avoidance of doubt this includes: UTMB, CCC, OCC, TDS, PTL & YCC.
2. All selected athletes will be required to make a financial contribution towards the costs of attending the Championships, see Appendix 2 for more details.

**CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS**

- Long Trail Race: Distance: 84.5km, Elevation: 4355m
- Short Trail Race: Distance: 40.5km, Elevation: 2089m
- Uphill Race: Distance: 6.6km, Elevation: 962m
- Classic Up-and-Down Race: Distance: 14.3km, Elevation: 737m
- U20 Classic Up-and-Down Race: Distance: 7.1km, Elevation: 372m.

**TRIALS**

3. There will be individual trials (the “Trials”) for all events on the dates listed below. The Trial races will be the primary means of selection and athletes are strongly encouraged to compete in the Long Trail Trial and are expected to compete in the Short Trail Trial and Mountain Race Trials unless there are extenuating circumstances. Extenuating circumstances must be pre-agreed in writing in advance of the Trials with Angela Mudge ([angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk](mailto:angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk)). Approval of extenuating circumstances does not guarantee selection, and all athletes must satisfy the relevant selection criteria.

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- a. **Long Trail Race** - [Scafell Sky Ultra, 63km](#), 4400m ascent/descent on Saturday 5 June 2027. Athletes wishing to compete in this Trial should contact Kim Collison ([kim@kimcollison.co.uk](mailto:kim@kimcollison.co.uk)) to discuss entry.  
**Please note:** The trial for the Long Trail is 21km under distance. The trial provides an equitable elevation experience to that in Cape Town. Runners targeting the Long Trail should be aware that, should they be selected, the Championship event will be considerably longer in time and distance and may involve running in the dark.
- b. **Short Trail Race** [Scafell Sky Race, 38km](#), 2800m ascent/descent on Saturday 5 June 2027. Athletes wishing to compete in this Trial should contact Kim Collison ([kim@kimcollison.co.uk](mailto:kim@kimcollison.co.uk)).
- c. **Uphill Mountain Race** – Ben Lomond, Scotland on Friday 13 August 2027. Further details can be found [here](#).
- d. **Classic Up & Down Races (Senior and U20)** - venue TBC in Scotland on Sunday 15 August 2027. Further details can be found [here](#).

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

4. All athletes, including those that compete in the Trials, wishing to be considered for selection must submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form for by the following event deadlines. The EOI form can be found [here](#).
  - **Long Trail** – 18 October 2026 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 1) and 5 June 2027 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 2)
  - **Short Trail** – 18 October 2026 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 1) and 5 June 2027 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 2)
  - **Uphill Mountain** – 18 October 2026 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 1) and 13 August 2027 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 3)
  - **Classic Up & Down** – 18 October 2026 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 1) and 15 August 2027 (for athletes wishing to be considered in Round 3)
5. Following submission of an EOI, athletes should notify Angela Mudge ([angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk](mailto:angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk)) if their availability changes.

## SELECTIONS

6. The selection meetings will take place on the following dates:
  - Round 1 – 21 October 2026
  - Round 2 – 9 June 2027
  - Round 3 – 18 August 2027
7. Selections will be based on the Performance Objectives of the championships as stated above.
8. Selections will be published on 22 August 2027.
9. Selections will be subject to the maximum number of entries as follows:
  - a. **Long Trail**  
A maximum of six (6) athletes can compete per individual event
  - b. **Short Trail**  
A maximum of six (6) athletes can compete per individual event

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c. **Uphill Mountain**

A maximum of four (4) athletes can compete per individual event

d. **Classic Up & Down (Senior & U20)**

A maximum of four (4) athletes can compete per individual event

## SELECTION PROCESS

10. The Selection Panel will only select from athletes who meet the General Eligibility Criteria in Appendix 1. These athletes will be considered as 'Eligible Athletes'

11. Selection will be made in three (3) rounds conducted as outlined below:

- Round 1 – early selection window for all Senior events for athletes who have demonstrated the potential to be in the medal zone and will challenge for individual medals
- Round 2 –Remaining Athletes for consideration in the Long and Short Trail
- Round 3 – Remaining athletes for consideration in the Uphill and Classic Up & Down Mountain Races.

12. Selection in all rounds is subject to the Selection Panel's expert assessment of the athlete's injury and health status.

13. The Selection Panel may in its sole discretion, set conditions of selection, which may include but are not limited to fitness, health-related or any other form of assessment. If the athlete fails to comply with the conditions, the provisions for de-selection as set out below may apply.

14. Selected athletes will be required to demonstrate ongoing form and fitness to the Selection Panel leading up to the Championships. This includes agreeing to provide relevant data from training and competition performances as evidence of their fitness and readiness to compete. Athletes must also keep British Athletics informed of any injury or illness that may affect their performance. In circumstances where the Selection Panel, in their expert opinion, do not consider the athlete to be at the required form or fitness level, the athlete may be de-selected in line with the De-Selection provisions below.

15. Final selection in all rounds is subject to the agreement of the athlete's racing program between the date of selection and the Championships.

16. **Round 1 – Pre-Trials Selection**

**Senior Races (Long Trail, Short Trail, Uphill Mountain and Classic Up & Down)**

a. The purpose of this round is to select athletes who, based on previous performances have demonstrated that they are in the medal zone and will challenge for an individual medal. Athletes must have a proven track record demonstrating a level of consistency in elite competition and peaking for championships. To make this assessment performances in Trail and Mountain Races will be considered from 1 January 2026 to 15 October 2026. This window is for senior athletes only.

b. **Conditions of Selection**

Where athletes are selection in this pre-trial's selection, they must:

- i. show current form before the relevant Trials. This includes agreeing to provide relevant data from training and competition performances as evidence of their fitness

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and readiness to compete If no current form is shown, the athlete must compete in the Trial of the race they have been selected for.

- ii. agree with their Team Coach their racing programme in the lead up to the Championship.

Athletes should note that non-attendance at the relevant Trial may result in being de-selected in this Round. De-selection, however, does not preclude the athlete from them being considered in future rounds based on the assessments set out below.

- c. In this round, a maximum of two male and two female athletes may be selected for the Short Trail and Long Trail events, and a maximum of one male and one female may be selected for the Uphill and the Classic Up & Down Mountain races.
- d. There is no obligation on the Selection Panel to nominate any athletes for selection in this round.

## 17. Round 2 – Trail Races

- a. The first three (3) placed Eligible Athletes at the Trials will be selected for their respective event subject, in the expert opinion of the Selection Panel to being considered of a standard to fulfil the Policy aims of top 10 individual and top 5 team performances. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first three placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their place will NOT be offered by default to the next best athlete. Any places not taken will be re-considered for selection based on the Selection Panel's comparative assessment of the criteria listed in paragraph 16c below.
- b. Where athletes finish in the top three in the Long Trail Trial but have not yet demonstrated form over longer (75km – 85km) races, they will need to agree with their Team Coach confirmation of an appropriate training plan to demonstrate such ability. Athletes competing in the Trials must complete an EOI (which can be completed on the day of the Trial).
- c. The Selection Panel will then consider athletes for the remaining places. The Selection Panel will consider the extent to which athletes have demonstrated a likelihood of achieving the Performance Objectives of the Championships and they reserve the right to not select athletes if in their expert opinion, they are unlikely to achieve the Performance Objectives. To make this assessment, the Selection Panel will consider the following criteria:
  - i. Performance and position at the Trials.
  - ii. Athletes' current form and fitness from 1 June 2026 to 5 June 2027
  - iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
  - iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
  - v. Performance in head to heads with other eligible athletes during the 2026/27 Mountain and Trail running seasons
  - vi. Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
  - vii. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.
- d. Athletes should note that the Performance and position at the Trials will carry weighting in the Selection Panel's assessment of the above criteria. The remaining criteria are not listed in order of priority and can be weighted as necessary to best meet the Performance Objectives or may not be considered as the Selection Panel deems appropriate.
- e. 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 Selection Panel's comparative assessment of athletes.

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- f. For the avoidance of doubt, the Selection Panel is neither obliged to select athletes nor to fill all event places.

## 18. Round 3 – Uphill and Classic Up & Down Mountain Races

### Senior Races

- a. The first two (2) placed Eligible Athletes at the Trials will be selected for their respective event subject, in the expert opinion of the Selection Panel to being considered of a standard able to fulfil the Policy aims of top 10 individual and top 5 team performances. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first two placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their place will NOT be offered to the next best Eligible Athlete. Any places not taken will be re-considered for selection based on the Selection Panel's comparative assessment of the criteria listed in paragraph 16b below.
- b. The Selection Panel will then consider athletes for the remaining places. The Selection Panel will consider the extent to which athletes have demonstrated a likelihood of achieving the Performance Objectives of the Championships and they reserve the right to not select athletes if in their expert opinion, they are unlikely to achieve the Performance Objectives. To make this assessment, the Selection Panel will consider the following criteria:
  - i. Performance and position at the Trials.
  - ii. Athletes' current form and fitness from 1 April 2027 to 13 August 2027 (Uphill Only) and 15 August 2027 (Classic Up-and-Down Race)
  - iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
  - iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
  - v. Performance in head to heads with other eligible athletes during the 2026/27 Mountain and Trail running seasons
  - vi. Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
  - vii. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.

### U20 Races

- c. The first three (3) placed Eligible Athletes at the Trials will be selected for their respective event subject, in the expert opinion of the Selection Panel to being considered of a standard able to fulfil the Policy aims of top 10 individual and top 5 team performances. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first three placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason) their place will NOT be offered to the next best Eligible Athlete. Any places not taken will be re-considered for selection based on the Selection Panel's comparative assessment of the criteria listed in paragraph 16d below.
- d. The Selection Panel will then consider athletes for the remaining places. The Selection Panel will consider the extent to which athletes have demonstrated a likelihood of achieving the Performance Objectives of the Championships and they reserve the right to not select athletes if in their expert opinion, they are unlikely to achieve the Performance Objectives. To make this assessment, the Selection Panel will consider the following criteria:
  - i. Performance and position at the Trials
  - ii. Athletes' current form and fitness from 1 April 2027 to the 15 August 2027
  - iii. Consistency of performances in races of similar distance, profile and terrain
  - iv. Athletes' previous Mountain and Trail running competition history
  - v. Performance in head to heads during the 2027 Mountain and Trail running seasons
  - vi. Medical, injury and other health-related status considerations
  - vii. Any other factors the selection panel deem relevant to this competition.

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- e. Athletes should note that the Performance and position at the Trials will carry weighting in the Selection Panel's assessment of the criteria in paragraph 16 b and d above. The remaining criteria are not listed in order of priority and can be weighted as necessary to best meet the Performance Objectives or may not be considered as the Selection Panel deems appropriate.
- f. 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 Selection Panel's comparative assessment of athletes.
- g. 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 up to two non-travelling reserves for each team who have the ability to fulfil the Performance Objectives, as determined by the Selection Panel. To make such assessment, athletes will be assessed using the criteria outlined in the Rounds. There is no obligation on the Selection Panel to nominate reserves. These athletes will be added to the final entry and will only be called upon prior to the team travelling to South Africa.
- b. If a Senior team member withdraws once the team has arrived in South Africa, for logistical and performance reasons, British Athletics reserves the right to select a replacement from the pool of Senior runners available. The selection decision will be made by the Team Leader in consultation with the Team Coaches.
- c. In situations where an athlete has been deselected, British Athletics will exercise its sole discretion in determining whether or not to call upon a reserve.
- d. For the avoidance of doubt, any reserve athletes who are subsequently selected will be required to pay the athlete contribution as set out in Appendix 2.

## SELECTION PANEL

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

- a. Voting members
  - i. Team Leader
  - ii. Team Coaches, who will each vote on all athlete selections.
- b. Non-Voting members
  - i. Chairperson
  - ii. British Athletics Endurance Strategy Manager
  - iii. Independent Observer (if available)
  - iv. British Athletics Athlete Commission observer or another observer (as required and if available)
  - v. Note-taker(s)
  - vi. 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

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whether the voting member in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). In any event but not limited to conflict of interest or absence, the Chairperson may appoint an alternative voting member if necessary.

22. 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 Selection Panel member with the casting vote.

## DE-SELECTION

23. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Selection Panel or British 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 strategy document communicated by British Athletics.
  - b. Failure to sign the Team Member 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 British Athletics Team Medical Policy as set out in the Team Member Agreement.
  - e. Any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension
  - f. Any serious misconduct or suspension (including whilst under investigation).
  - g. British 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.
  - h. Failure to follow the agreed racing plan.
24. For the avoidance of doubt, any athlete contribution paid will be reimbursed if an athlete is de-selected prior to travel to the Championships.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

### Amendment

25. British 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](http://www.britishathletics.org.uk).

### Appeals

26. There will be no right of appeal to selection of the GB & NI Team made by the Panel. The provisions of the British Athletics Fast Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB & NI Team selections for the 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships.

### Governing Law

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

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### **Jurisdiction**

28. 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 Sport Resolutions (UK) Limited and subject to procedural control of the English Courts.

### **Key Contacts**

For any queries regarding this Selection Policy, please contact Angela Mudge ([angela.mudge@scottishathletics.org.uk](mailto:angela.mudge@scottishathletics.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. Be 20 years or older as of 31 December 2027 (i.e. born in 2007 or earlier) to compete in the Short and Long trail events.
3. Be 18 years or older as of 31 December 2027 (i.e. born in 2009 or earlier) to compete in the Senior Uphill and Classic Up & Down events.
4. For U20 athletes, be born in 2008, 2009, 2010 or 2011.
5. Is not serving a period of ineligibility from the sport (as determined by British Athletics or a Home Country Athletics Federation) or from any other sport. For example, due to misconduct and/or disciplinary reasons.
6. Not under investigation or been charged by British 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.
7. Completed all anti-doping requirements.
8. Not committed a criminal, disciplinary or safeguarding offence that in the reasonable opinion of the Board of British Athletics renders the athlete unsuitable for selection.
9. Has not, whether by act or omission, brought British Athletics into disrepute.
10. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by British Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct
11. Be a registered member of 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.
12. Sign the British Athletics Team Members's 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://uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/>

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## APPENDIX 2 – ATHLETE CONTRIBUTIONS

The 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships is one of the off-track events that requires a joint funding approach in order to support the participation of GB&NI teams. An Athlete Contribution will be required to support the costs associated with competing at the championships.

In the Expression of Interest for selection, athletes must agree to the principle of selection and participation being conditional on making the agreed financial participation – the 'Athlete Contribution'.

In order to help athletes plan, British Athletics have undertaken budget forward-planning to estimate a maximum anticipated per athlete cost contribution. The Athlete Contribution for 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships will be no more than £1250 per athlete.

British Athletics commits to ensuring the cost reflects a balance between meeting high-performance requirements and best value. The maximum indicated cost will be taken as a ceiling with the team endeavouring to get well within the stated figure. Furthermore, all agreed/known subsidies and subventions from the LOC or other parties will be deducted when calculating the Athlete Contribution.

At the time of selection, British Athletics will provide athletes with the final figure for the athlete contribution and timeline for payment. Team membership will be conditional on agreeing the terms in the Team Member's Agreement. Athletes will be required to pay a deposit on acceptance of their place on the team.

If an athlete is concerned that the athlete contribution will prohibit them from applying for the 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships, please contact Chris Jones ([cjones@uka.org.uk](mailto:cjones@uka.org.uk)) for information around available grants and support.

Senior athletes will be responsible for arranging their own travel arrangements to the International Assembly Point (TBC in South Africa).

Athletes will be required to meet at the international assembly point three days before the 2027 World Mountain and Trail Running Championships. The assembly date will be 3 October 2027. Athletes will be sent further details on assembly point and team accommodation following their selection.

For more information on travel for Athlete Contribution teams please read the British Athletics Athlete Contribution Policy [here](#).

Once athletes have signed the agreed selection letter, they will receive all Championship kit (if they haven't already) prior to the agreed assembly date.

Once the team has been selected, British Athletics team management and support staff will work with athletes and coaches to help maximise preparation for the above Championships.

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