

2026 WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS SELECTION POLICY: 2-3 May, Gaborone, Botswana

1. **SELECTION PHILOSOPHY**

- 1.1 This Selection Policy is issued by Athletics New Zealand Inc. ("Athletics NZ") and sets out the basis on which the Athletics NZ Selectors consider athletes for selection to compete at the 2026 World Athletics ("WA") Relays ("2026 WARs").
- 1.2 Athletics New Zealand may select any relay team that is eligible to be entered in the Men's, Women's, and Mixed 4x100m and/or 4x400m events as per the WA Qualification System. A maximum of 24 teams may be entered in each relay event, based on the World Athletics Top List rankings achieved during the qualification period (1 January 2025 – 5 April 2026).
- 1.3 The 2026 WARs are an opportunity for senior, U20 and/or U18 athletes to represent New Zealand.
- 1.4 The 2026 WARs is an athlete-funded competition and athletes seeking selection in accordance with this selection policy will have to participate at no-cost to Athletics NZ (refer to clause 11).

2. **SELECTION PANEL**

- 2.1 The Selection Panel ("the Selectors") to consider and select athletes for the 2026 WARs are: (convenor TBC)
 - a) Pat Hellier,
 - b) Holly Robinson; and
 - c) Alec McNab
- 2.2 The Athletics NZ Board reserves the right to replace any member of the Selection Panel at any time for any reason.

3. **CONDITIONS OF SELECTION**

- 3.1 As a condition of selection for the 2026 WARs, an athlete must:
 - a) Have achieved at least one (1) Performance Standard (refer to clause 4) that is listed on the official Athletics NZ rankings website and that is achieved within the following Qualification Period; and

Events	Qualification Period
All relay events	1 January 2025 – 5 April 2026; and

- b) Be a registered member of Athletics NZ at the time of achieving their Performance Standard; and
- c) For female athletes, have completed the World Athletics mandated SRY genetic counselling and testing process and has been confirmed as meeting all World Athletics eligibility requirements for participation in the Female Category at World Athletics Series and World Rankings events; and
- d) For non-TAPS athletes, have submitted an Expression of Interest Form by 5pm 4 February 2026, unless prevented by exceptional circumstances; and

- e) Have satisfied all 2026 WARs eligibility, nationality, participation requirements; and
- f) Enter into and adhere to a team agreement (refer clauses 4.1 - 4.4) with Athletics NZ; and,
- g) Be and remain in “good standing” with Athletics NZ and at all times comply with all Athletics NZ and WA codes of conduct and regulations and the terms and conditions of the TAPS agreement (if applicable), and otherwise conduct themselves in a way that does not bring the sport or the team into disrepute; and,
- h) Have not:
 - a. Used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected, would have constituted doping; OR
 - b. Used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offence as defined in the Athletics NZ Integrity Regulations or WA Anti-Doping Regulations or WA Integrity Regulations.

Note: Athletes should be aware that failure to comply with any of the requirements set out in clause 3.1 may render an athlete ineligible for selection.

Note: Nothing in this Selection Policy obliges Athletics NZ to select a full contingent of athletes in any event, regardless of the World Athletics Technical Regulations or the 2026 WARs Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”) entry requirements.

4. **SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2026 WARs in a team event, based on results achieved during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved the following relevant individual Performance Standard/s:

Men	Event	Women
10.75	4x100m	12.00
48.00	4x400m	55.00

Note: Achieving a Performance Standard gives no right or guarantee of selection.

Athletics NZ Team Agreement

- 4.2 The Athletics NZ team agreement will be distributed upon selection.
- 4.3 The selectors are not obliged to consider an athlete for selection who has breached a previous team or TAPS athlete agreement with Athletics NZ.
- 4.4 Athletes who have breached a previous team or TAPS athlete agreement with Athletics NZ may be considered for the 2026 WARs on the basis that their team agreement for the 2026 WARs will be tailored to best align to a performance enhancing environment, taking into account the nature of their breach.

5. **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

Age Requirements

- 5.1 Athletes younger than 16 years of age of 31 December 2026 (i.e. born in 2011 or later) are not eligible for selection and may not be entered.

Relay Events

- 5.2 Athletics NZ may enter one (1) relay team into each relay event and a maximum of six (6) may be entered for each Relay Event, however only four (4) athletes can compete per relay event at any one time.

6. COMPULSORY SELECTION COMPETITION

- 6.1 There will be no Compulsory Selection Competition for the 2026 WARs for any event.

7. ADDITIONAL SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Notwithstanding the provisions outlined in this Selection Policy, the Selectors, have an overriding discretion to:
- a) Select any eligible athlete for the 2026 WARs if they, in consultation with the Athletics NZ Relays Advisory Panel, believe it is in the best interests of Athletics NZ to do so.
 - b) Select an athlete that does not meet the requirements set out in clause 3.1a to attend the 2026 WARs if they, in consultation with the Athletics NZ Relays Advisory Panel, believe it is in the best interests of the eligible athletes/team and Athletics NZ to do so, provided this does not take away the opportunity for an eligible athlete to be selected for the 2026 WARs.
- 7.2 In considering athletes for selection, the Selectors may consider any factors that they deem relevant to their decision whether to select an athlete for the 2026 WARs, including but not limited to the athlete's:
- a) Performance at the 2026 NZ Track and Field Championships;
 - b) Performance at the 2026 Maurie Plant Meet;
 - c) Potential to be highly competitive at the 2026 WARs;
 - d) Competitive record against other athletes under consideration for selection in the same event;
 - e) Quality and consistency of performances in other Championships during the Qualification Period;
 - f) Commitment and focus on competing at the 2026 WARs;
 - g) History of performances at previous selected individual or team competitions;
 - h) Availability to attend training camps as organised by Athletics NZ and/or NZ Relay Team Lead
- 7.3 In any decision regarding the selection of athletes for the 2026 WARs, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, also consider any extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to:
- a. Injury or illness;
 - b. Travel delays;
 - c. Equipment failure;
 - d. Bereavement or personal misfortune; and
 - e. Any other factors considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 7.4 Athletes unable to compete at competitions relevant to meeting the requirements outlines in this Selection Policy, must advise the [Convenor](#) of the extenuating circumstances and reasons (accompanied by a medical certificate if applicable) or other

such details, in writing, as soon as the extenuating circumstances is known (or at least within 7 days). If the Convenor is not notified of any extenuating circumstances in accordance with this Selection Policy then the Selectors have no obligation to rely on such circumstances.

8. SELECTION PROCESS AND ANNOUNCEMENT DATES

- 8.1 Athletics NZ will select Individual/s or Relay Team/s in accordance with the criteria set out in the Selection Policy and as allowed by the 2026 WARs Technical Regulations and the LOC entry requirements.
- 8.2 Nothing in this Selection Policy obliges Athletics NZ to select a full contingent of athletes in any particular event regardless of the 2026 WARs Technical Regulations or the 2026 WARs LOC entry requirements.

Ratification Review

- 8.3 The Athletics NZ Board must ratify selections prior to the Selection Announcement.

Selection Announcements

- 8.4 The Selection Announcement of the athletes selected for the 2026 WARs will be published on the Athletics NZ website by 5pm Monday 13 April 2026.

9. NON-SELECTION QUERIES &/OR APPEALS PROCESS

- 9.1 Non-selected athletes can query their non-selection after the Selection Announcement by contacting the [Convenor](#), i.e. to seek clarification regarding their non-selection).

Non-selection appeals process

- 9.2 The time of the publishing of the Selection Announcement on Athletics NZ website will be deemed to be the commencement of the 48-hour period to lodge non-selection appeals in accordance with this Selection Policy.
- 9.3 Any athlete whose selection is not ratified by the Athletics NZ Board in accordance with this Selection Policy may appeal their non- selection to the New Zealand Sports Tribunal providing they:
 - a) For non-TAPS athletes, have submitted an Expression of Interest Form in accordance with timelines contained in this Selection Policy; AND
 - b) Submit a notice of their intention to appeal their non- selection in writing to the [CEO of Athletics NZ](#) within 48-hours of the decision of the Athletics NZ Board being published on the Athletics NZ website (i.e. the Selection Announcement).

Any appeal will be considered by the Sports Tribunal under its Rules and the grounds for an appeal will be as set out in those Rules. This provision will apply in relation to non-selection appeals. General provisions relating to appeals in the Constitution and Regulations of Athletics NZ will not apply.

10. VILLAGE PRE-ENTRY PROOF OF FITNESS

- 10.1 Pre-Entry Poof of Fitness will be confirmed by the 2026 WARs Team Leader in consultation with the athlete and their coach.

- 10.2 The time frame for all athletes to complete all specific Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness will be at the discretion of the 2026 WARs Team Leader. This may require satisfaction prior to the athlete leaving for the 2026 WARs from New Zealand or their place of residence.
- 10.3 Failure by a selected athlete to meet the Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness requirements may result in that athlete's selection for the team being withdrawn. Such a decision is the responsibility of the 2026 WARs Team Leader and may include feedback and advice from the coach and relevant medical personnel.

11. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 11.1 This Selection Policy may be amended at any time prior to the Selection Announcement by the Athletics NZ Board. Any amendment will be published on the Athletics NZ website.

Funding

- 11.2 The 2026 WARs is an athlete-funded competition and athletes seeking selection in accordance with this Selection Policy will have to participate at no-cost to Athletics NZ.
- 11.3 Athletes considering competing at the 2026 WARs should plan their funding and budgets early. The trip cost (including pre-camp) is estimated to be around NZD \$6,000 per athlete. The estimated travel dates for this tour are 15 April to 5 May.
- 11.4 A management levy is likely to be charged across all athletes (i.e. above the cost of their own travel and accommodation) to assist with the cost of the 2026 WARs Team Leader and /or team support personnel (if applicable).
- 11.5 For athlete-funded competitions, two (2) weeks prior to the competition must be paid in full to Athletics NZ or approved designated account.

Note: Non-payment of the athlete-funded components in full by this date two (2) weeks prior to competition will result in the removal of the athlete from the team and the withdrawal of that athlete's entry from the 2026 WARs. Unpaid amounts will remain outstanding and will be subject to collection in accordance with [Athletics NZ Debtors policy](#).

Team Support Personnel Appointment

- 11.6 If required, additional support staff and/or coaches required for the team will be determined by the 2026 WARs Team Leader and the Athletics NZ Participation Coordinator.
- 11.7 For further information regarding support personnel appointments, please contact [Tessa Hunt](#).

12. **ADDITIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION**

- 12.1 For further information regarding the 2026 WARs refer to the [website](#) or contact [Tessa Hunt](#).