

2026 WORLD ATHLETICS UNDER 20 CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION POLICY

5-9 AUGUST | EUGENE, OREGON

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 will consider athletes for selection to compete at the 2026 World Athletics ("WA") U20 Championships ("WU20s").
- 1.2 The 2026 WU20s is an Athletics NZ High Performance Development competition and the pinnacle event for U20 athletes.
- 1.3 The specific selection philosophy for the 2026 WU20s is to select athletes who demonstrate the performance attitudes, ambition, and attributes to achieve a Top 16 placing in Individual Events or Top 8 placing in Relay Events at the 2026 WU20s. This means individual athletes who achieve at least one Performance Standard (as set out in Schedule 1).

2. SELECTION PANEL

- 2.1 The Selection Panel ("Selectors") to consider and select athletes for the 2026 WU20s is:
 - a) Stephen Brown ("Convenor"); and
 - b) Jonathan Black; and
 - c) Tori Moorby.
- 2.2 The Athletics NZ Board reserves the right to replace any member of the Selection Panel at any time and for any reason.

3. CONDITIONS OF SELECTION

- 3.1 As a condition of selection for the 2026 WU20s in an Individual or Relays Event an athlete must:
 - a) Have achieved the relevant Performance Standard/s (as set out in Schedule 1) within the following Athletics NZ Qualification Period ("Qualification Period"), and that is listed on the athlete's World Athletics profile; and,

Events	Qualification Period
All Individual Events & Relays	1 October 2025 – 14 June 2026
 - b) Be a registered member of Athletics NZ at the time of achieving a 2026 WU20s Performance Standard; and,
 - c) Have submitted a [Selection Application](#) and pay a \$500 bond (refer to clause 11.6) by 5pm Friday 13 March 2026; and,
 - d) Have satisfied all WA eligibility, nationality and participation requirements, including those set out in clause 5; and,
 - e) Enter into and adhere to a team agreement (refer to clauses 4.7-4.9) with Athletics NZ;
Note: This agreement will be distributed upon selection; and,
 - f) Be and remain in "good standing" with Athletics NZ and at all times comply with all Athletics NZ and WA codes of conduct, regulations, terms and conditions of the TAPS athlete agreement (if applicable), and otherwise conduct themselves in a way that does not bring the sport or the team into disrepute; and,
 - g) Have competed at the relevant Compulsory Selection Competition in the event they are seeking selection, or otherwise received dispensation (refer to clauses 6.4 - 6.5); and
 - h) Have not:
 - i. Used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected, would have constituted doping; or,

- ii. Used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offence as defined in [Athletics NZ Integrity Regulations](#) or [WA Anti-Doping Regulations or WA Integrity Regulations](#).

3.2 The Selectors may impose any other conditions upon selected athletes, that in their sole discretion they may determine.

4. SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

Individual Events

4.1 On the occasion where more than two athletes have submitted a Selection Application for the same individual event, the Selectors must apply the following criteria in order of priority:

- a) Individual athletes in field events and track events up to and including 1,500m in distance that have achieved at least two Performance Standards in the event they are seeking selection for; and, Individual athletes in Combined Events and track events 3,000m and above in distance that have achieved at least one Performance Standard in the event they are seeking selection for; then
- b) Individual athletes in field events and track events up to and including 1,500m in distance that have achieved at least one Performance Standard in the event they are seeking selection for.
- c) The final selection will be made at the discretion of the Selectors.

Relay Teams

4.2 As a condition of selection for the 2026 WU20s in a Relay event, a team of eligible U20 athletes must have achieved at least one relevant relay Performance Standard (as set out in Schedule 1) within the Qualification Period, and that is listed on the athlete's World Athletics profile.

Note: Being a member of the team that achieves a relay performance standard does not give any athlete a right to, or guarantee of selection.

4.3 Where an eligible relay team achieves a relay Performance Standard (as set out in Schedule 1), the Selectors may determine whether or not to select the relay team athletes and/or reserves within the Final Selection Announcement. Such a decision will be made at the discretion of the Selectors who may take into account feedback or advice from the Athletics NZ HPD and/or other relevant personnel.

4.4 Alternatively, a relay team may be entered at the discretion of the Team Leader, in consultation with the Athletics NZ High Performance Director ("Athletics NZ HPD") at the time of the 2026 WU20s, but only if:

- a) Athletes are already selected in the team; and
- b) The relay event does not interfere with an athlete's priority event for which the athlete gained selection.

Seeking Permission to Start in an Additional Event

4.5 Athletes that have been selected or anticipate being selected in either an Individual Event or Relay can seek permission to start in an additional event by placing a request for consideration with the Team Leader no later than 5pm Friday 29 May 2026.

4.6 Requests for permission to start in additional events will be considered on the basis of whether or not:

- a) The athlete can be entered into the additional event in accordance with the 2026 WU20s Qualification System; and,
- b) Competing in the additional event would have a detrimental effect on the priority event for which the athlete gained selection; and,
- c) Competing in the additional event would have a detrimental effect on the selection of another athlete being considered for selection in that same event.

Athletics NZ Team Agreement

4.7 The Athletics NZ team agreement will be distributed upon selection.

4.8 The Selectors are not obliged to consider an athlete for selection who has breached a previous team or TAPS athlete agreement with Athletics NZ.

4.9 Athletes who have breached a previous team or TAPS athlete agreement with Athletics NZ may be considered for selection for the 2026 WU20s on the basis that their team agreement for the 2026 WU20s 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 Only athletes aged 16, 17, 18, or 19 years on 31 December 2026 (i.e. born in 2010, 2009, 2008, or 2007) may compete.

Note: An U18 athlete will only be allowed to compete in a maximum of three track events (including relays) of which only two can be over 200m (whether an individual event or relay leg).

5.2 Athletes younger than 16 years on 31 December 2026 (i.e. born in 2011 or later) are not eligible for selection and cannot be entered in any event.

Individual Events

5.3 Member Federations may enter a maximum of three athletes per Individual Event, however only two athletes can be listed to compete at the “confirmation of entry” stage of the entry process (i.e. a maximum of two athletes will be allowed to compete per nation per Individual Event).

Relays

5.4 Member Federations may enter one Relay Team of up to six athletes in each Relay Event.

6. **COMPULSORY SELECTION COMPETITIONS**

6.1 There will be no Compulsory Selection Competition for the 3,000m and Race Walks Events.

6.2 All athletes seeking selection for the 2026 WU20s in Individual Events other than the 3,000m and Race Walks must have either:

- a) Competed in the relevant Compulsory Selection Competition in the event most relevant to which they are seeking selection; or,
- b) Received dispensation (refer to clauses 6.4-6.5) from the relevant Compulsory Selection Competition.

6.3 The following are the Compulsory Selection Competitions for the 2026 WU20s:

- a) 2026 Athletics NZ Track & Field Championships, Auckland, 5 - 8 March
- b) 2026 New Zealand U18 and U20 Combined Events Championships, Auckland, 21-22 March

Dispensations Not to Compete at Compulsory Selection Competitions

6.4 Athletes seeking dispensation from competing at the relevant Compulsory Selection Competitions (other than a medical exemption covered by clause 6.5) must email a request for dispensation to the [Convenor](#) no later than seven days prior to the relevant Compulsory Selection Competition. Such dispensations will generally only be granted to athletes under exceptional circumstances and may be granted with or without conditions.

Medical Exemption from Compulsory Selection Competitions

6.5 Athletes that are unable to effectively compete at their relevant Compulsory Selection Competition as a result of injury or illness that occurred during the competition, or during the seven days prior to the competition, must make a request for a Medical Exemption by e-mail to the [Convenor](#) as soon as they are aware of their situation, but no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of the relevant Compulsory Selection Competition. Such requests must be accompanied by a copy of a Registered Medical Practitioner certificate or Registered Physiotherapist report to verify the situation.

7. **OTHER SELECTION FACTORS**

7.1 The Selectors may consider any combination of factors that they deem relevant in their decision whether or not to select an athlete, including but not limited to an athlete's:

- a) Performance at the relevant Compulsory Selection Competition (if applicable)
- b) Performance at the Australian Track & Field Championships
- c) Potential to be highly competitive at the 2026 WU20s
- d) Competitive record against other athletes under consideration for selection in the same event
- e) Quality and consistency of performances during the Qualification Period
- f) Commitment and focus on competing at the 2026 WU20s

- g) Recent injuries or illness
 - h) History of behaviours and breaches of agreements from previous international competitions
- 7.2** Notwithstanding the provisions outlined in this Selection Policy, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to consider for selection any athlete eligible for entry for the 2026 WU20s if they, in consultation with the Athletics NZ HPD, believe it is in the best interests of all parties to do so.

8. SELECTION PROCESS

- 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 WU20s 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 WU20s Technical Regulations or the 2026 WU20s LOC entry requirements.
- 8.3** The Athletics NZ Board must ratify selections prior to the Selection Announcement/s.

Selection Announcements

- 8.4** On the occasion where more than two athletes have submitted a Selection Application for the same individual event, up to one athlete may be named as selected in the below Initial Selection Announcement and/or any Additional Selection Announcements (including those already announced). This decision may be based solely on a performance measure (i.e. the athlete who has achieved the better performances within the Qualification Period may be named as selected).
- 8.5** Any athlete who has achieved the relevant Performance Standard/s during the Qualification Period but is an event where more than two athletes have submitted a Selection Application for the same individual event will be communicated with in relation to how this may affect Selection and/or Selection Announcements. Due to the global nature of athletics, qualification opportunities cannot be closed off for athletes to demonstrate their capability while the Qualification Period remains open.

Initial Selection Announcement

- 8.6** The Selectors will consider for selection up to two athletes per individual event that have met the eligibility criteria as outlined within this selection policy by the end of Sunday 8 March 2026 to be included in the Initial Selection Announcement published on the Athletics NZ website by 5pm Monday 30 March 2026.

Additional Selection Announcements

- 8.7** At any stage after Sunday 8 March and before the Qualification Period ends, the Selectors will consider for selection, up to two athletes per individual event (including those already announced) that have achieved the relevant Performance Standard/s, to be included in an Additional Selection Announcement.

Final Selection Announcement

- 8.8** The Selectors will consider for selection up to two athletes per Individual Event (including those already announced) that have met the relevant Performance Standard/s and up to six athletes per Relay Event that have achieved the relevant Performance Standard/s and/or met the eligibility criteria as outlined within this selection policy, to be included in the Final Selection Announcement by Mon 22 June 2026:

9. NON-SELECTION QUERIES &/ OR APPEALS PROCESS

- 9.1** Non-selected athletes can query their non selection after any applicable 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 the 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 this to the New Zealand Sports Tribunal providing they submit a notice of their

intention to appeal their non-selection in writing to the [CEO of Athletics NZ](#) within 48-hours of the applicable Selection Announcement being published on the Athletics NZ website.

- 9.4 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. General provisions relating to appeals in the Athletics NZ Constitution and Regulations of Athletics NZ will not apply.

10. **PRE-ENTRY PROOF OF FITNESS REQUIREMENTS**

- 10.1 Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness requirements will be confirmed by the 2026 WU20s Team Leader in consultation with the athlete and their coach.
- 10.2 The time frame for all athletes to complete all Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness requirements will be at the discretion of the 2026 WU20s Team Leader. This may require satisfaction prior to the athlete leaving for the 2026 WU20s 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 WU20s 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 by the Athletics NZ Board. Any amendment will be published on the Athletics NZ website.

Funding

- 11.2 The 2026 WU20s is predominantly an athlete-funded competition and athletes seeking selection in accordance with this Selection Policy will have to participate at limited cost to Athletics NZ.
- 11.3 Athletes considering competing at the 2026 WU20s should plan their funding and budgets early. The trip cost (including pre-camp) is estimated to be around NZD \$9,000 per athlete. The estimated travel dates for this tour are 20 July to 12 August 2026.
- 11.4 A team support levy (included in the above estimate) will be charged across all athletes (i.e. above the cost of travel and accommodation) to assist with the cost of the 2026 WU20s Team Leader and/or other team support personnel.
- 11.5 All athlete-funded components must be paid in full to Athletics NZ no later than two weeks prior to the athlete's departure to the 2026 WU20s. Non-payment of the athlete-funded components in full by this date will result in the removal of the athlete from the team and the withdrawal of that athlete's entry from the 2026 WU20s. Unpaid amounts will remain outstanding and will be subject to collection in accordance with [Athletics NZ Debtors policy](#).

Bond

- 11.6 Athletes seeking selection for the 2026 WU20s will be required to pay a Bond of \$500.00 along with their [Selection Application](#) by 5pm Friday 13 March 2026.

Team Support Personnel

- 11.7 The 2026 WU20s Team Leader is Tim Driesen.
- 11.8 The 2026 WU20s Team Leader will identify a shortlist of possible team coaches and/or additional team support personnel and liaise with them regarding their availability for the 2026 WU20s.
- 11.9 For further information regarding team support personnel appointments contact [Brianna Maynard](#).

SCHEDULE 1

**World Athletics U20 Championships
Performance Standards**

Athletes who achieve at least one of the following 2026 WU20s Performance Standards during the Qualification Period may be considered for selection. Achieving a 2026 WU20s Performance Standard gives no right or guarantee of selection.

Men	Event	Women
10.50	100m	11.78
21.25	200m	24.35
47.40	400m	55.20
1:50.00	800m	2:09.00
3:47.50	1500m	4:27.00
8:04.00	3000m	9:27.00
14:08.00	5000m	16:25.00
9:00.00	3000m SC	10:36.00
14.05 (0.991m)	110m H/100m H	14.10 (0.838m)
53.00	400m H	1:00.75
20:50.00 (43:30.00)*	5000m RW	24:00.00 (49:20.00)*
2.12	High Jump	1.81
5.12	Pole Vault	4.05
7.58	Long Jump	6.22
15.45	Triple Jump	13.00
18.30 (6kg)	Shot Put	14.50 (4kg)
56.00 (1.75kg)	Discus Throw	49.00 (1kg)
68.00 (6kg)	Hammer Throw	57.50 (4kg)
68.50 (800g)	Javelin Throw	49.50 (600g)
-	Heptathlon	5280
7100	Decathlon	-
40.40	4x100m	45.85
3:10:25	4x400m	3:44:05
No standard, refer to clause 4.2	4x100m Mixed	No standard, refer to clause 4.2
No standard, refer to clause 4.2	4x400m Mixed	No standard, refer to clause 4.2

* For the 5000m Race Walk, 10km and 10000m times will be accepted as will all road performances for both distances.