

2027 FISU WINTER WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES SELECTION POLICY

17-19 JANUARY 2027, CHANGCHUN, CHINA

Note: The wellbeing and safety of Athletics New Zealand members and staff is of key importance. The final decision whether to send a team to the 2027 FISU World University Games incorporating Cross Country will be at the discretion of the Board of Athletics New Zealand following consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and any other personnel that the Board deems appropriate and after consideration of all relevant factors as determined by the Board, including current overseas travel advice of the New Zealand Government.

1. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

- 1.1 This Selection Policy is issued by the Athletics New Zealand Inc. ("Athletics NZ") and sets out the basis on which the Athletics NZ Selectors (refer to clause 2.1) will consider athletes for selection to compete at the 2027 FISU Winter World University Games incorporating Cross Country ("2027 FISU Cross Country").
- 1.2 The 2027 FISU Cross Country is an Out of Stadia opportunity for New Zealand athletes to represent New Zealand for the below purposes:
 - a) Under 20: To provide an international competition opportunity for U20 athletes attending university to represent New Zealand in 2027; and
 - b) Senior representation (Up to 28 years): To provide an on-going opportunity for athletes attending university to represent New Zealand as a senior athlete (i.e., development opportunity for emerging athletes.).
- 1.3 The 2027 FISU Cross Country 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 10).

2. SELECTION PANEL

- 2.1 The board of Athletics NZ ("Athletics NZ Board") has endorsed the following Selection Panel ("Selectors") to consider and select athletes for the 2027 FISU Cross Country:
 - a) John Bowden (Convenor);
 - b) Shireen Crumpton; and
 - c) Kate McIlroy
- 2.2 The Athletics NZ Board reserves the right to replace any member of the Panel at any time for any reason.

3. CONDITIONS OF SELECTION

- 3.1 As a condition of selection for the 2027 FISU Cross Country, an athlete must:

- a) Have achieved at least one Performance Standard (refer to clause 4) that is listed on the official Athletics NZ rankings website or on a verified international results page and that is achieved within the following Qualification Period; and

Categories/Events	Qualification Period
All athletes	5 July 2025 – 13 September 2026

- b) Be a registered member of Athletics NZ at the time of achieving the Performance Standard, when selected, and when representing NZ; and
- c) Have submitted an online [Application for Selection Form](#) by 5pm Sunday 13 September; and
- d) Students who are currently officially enrolled as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at the university or similar institute, the status of which is recognised by the appropriate national academic authority of their country; or former students of the institutions mentioned before, who have obtained their academic degree or diploma in the calendar year preceding the event;
- e) be at least 18 and no older than 28 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event; for 2027, athletes must be born between the 01/01/1999 and the 31/12/2009.
- f) Have satisfied all World Athletics (“WA”) and Local Organising Committee (“LOC”) eligibility, nationality, participation and entry requirements; and
- g) Enter into an athlete agreement with Athletics NZ (“Athlete Agreement”)
Note: This agreement will be distributed upon selection; and
- h) Be and remain in “good standing” with Athletics NZ and at all times comply with all Athletics NZ codes of conduct/regulations, WA codes of conduct/regulations, the terms and conditions of the Athlete Agreement and otherwise conducts themselves in a way that does not bring the sport or the team into disrepute; and
- i) Have not:
- Used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected, would have constituted doping; or
 - 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 2027 FISU Cross Country LOC entry requirement.

4. SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 For an athlete to be considered for selection in an individual event for the 2027 FISU Cross Country based on results during the Qualification Period, they should have achieved the following relevant Performance Standard/s:

Categories/Events	Performance Standard
Women (3km)	10:00
Men (3km)	8.30
Women (5km)	18.00
Men (5km)	14.30
Women (10km)	36:00
Men (10km)	31:00

4.2 Track performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised in conformity with rules set by WA, its Area Associations, or its Member Federations.

4.3 Road performances must be achieved at WA and/or Association of International Marathon and Road Races ("AIMS") Certified competitions.

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

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Age Requirements

5.1 Athletes must be at least 18 and no older than 28 years of age on 31 December of the year of the event; for 2027, athletes must be born between 01/01/1999 and 31/12/2009.

Individual Events

5.2 The program comprises 4 categories held over the following approximate distances:

- a) Women Individual Short Race: 3.7km
- b) Men Individual Short Race: 3.7km
- c) Women Individual Long Race: 6.9km
- d) Men Individual Long Race: 6.9km

Note: Each of the 4 categories will include an Individual Event and a Team Event held concurrently.

5.3 Member Federations may enter a maximum of eight (8) women athletes and eight (8) men athletes.

5.4 No more than six athletes will be allowed to start in each category.

5.5 Teams Events results shall be decided by the aggregate of places recorded by scoring the first 3 athletes of each team.

Mixed Relay

5.6 The mixed relay event is composed of two men and two women per team running in the order of M, W, M, W. Each athlete will run one lap – approximately 1.6km each

5.7 Member Federations may enter a maximum of eight (8) women athletes and eight (8) men athletes. Only 4 (2 men and 2 women) can compete.

6. COMPULSORY SELECTION COMPETITION

6.1 There will be no Compulsory Selection Competition for the 2027 FISU Cross Country.

7. ADDITIONAL SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 Notwithstanding the provisions outlined in this Selection Policy, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to select any eligible athlete for the 2027 FISU Cross Country if they, in consultation with the Athletics NZ Participation Coordinator believe it is in the best interests of Athletics NZ to do so.
- 7.2 In considering athletes for selection, the Selectors may consider any factor or combination of factors that they deem relevant to their decision whether to select an athlete for the 2027 FISU Cross Country, including but not limited to the athletes:
- a) Performance at the 2025 and/or 2026 Athletics NZ Cross Country Championships, with the placing of the athlete being of major significance.
 - b) Performance at the 2026 New Zealand 10,000m Championships.
 - c) Performance at the 2026 New Zealand Track and Field Championships.
 - d) Performances at the 2025 and 2026 North Island Cross Country Championships.
 - e) Performances at the 2025 and 2026 South Island Cross Country Championships. (Kennett Cup)
 - f) Performances in Cross Country, Track and Road competitions in the country where studying within the qualification period.
 - g) Performances at the 2025 and 2026 New Zealand Road Championships.
 - h) Potential to be highly competitive at the 2027 FISU Cross Country
 - i) Competitive record against other athletes under consideration for selection in the same event.
 - j) Quality and consistency of performances in other races during the Qualification Period.
 - k) Commitment and focus on competing at the 2027 FISU Cross Country.
 - l) History of performances at previous selected international individual or team events; and/or
 - m) Any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 7.3 In any decision regarding the selection of athletes for the 2027 FISU Cross Country, 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/or
 - e) Any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 7.4 Athletes unable to compete at competitions relevant to meeting the requirements outlined 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 athletes in accordance with the criteria set out in this Selection Policy and as allowed by the 2027 FISU Cross Country 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 2027 FISU Cross Country Technical Regulations or the LOC.
- 8.3 Non-travelling reserves for Individual Short/Long Race and Mixed Relays will be named (if the athletes have qualified) in ranking order to replace the selected athletes who possibly could withdraw due to illness, and injury.

Ratification Review

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

Selection Announcements

- 8.5 The Selection Announcement of the athletes selected for the 2027 FISU Cross Country will be published on the Athletics NZ website by 5pm on Friday 2 October 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 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) Have submitted an [Application for Selection 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 Cam Mitchell (cam@athletics.org.nz) within 48 hours of the decision of the Athletics NZ Board being published on the Athletics NZ website (i.e. the Selection Announcement).
- 9.4 Any appeals 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 By-Laws of Athletics NZ will not apply.

10. VILLAGE PRE-ENTRY PROOF OF FITNESS

- 10.1 All selections for the 2027 FISU Cross Country remain conditional until each athlete has met their Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness.
- 10.2 All Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness will be confirmed by the Convenor and/or 2027 FISU Cross Country Team Leader in consultation with the athlete and their coach

- 10.3 The time frame for all athletes to achieve specific Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness will be at the discretion of the Convenor and/or the 2027 FISU Cross Country Team Leader. However, generally it will be prior to them leaving for the 2027 FISU Cross Country from New Zealand or their place of residence.
- 10.4 Generally, failure by a selected athlete to meet the Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness may result in that athlete who has been selected to the team being withdrawn from the 2027 FISU Cross Country. The decision is at the discretion of the Convenor in consultation with the 2027 FISU Cross Country Team Leader and the Selectors.
- 10.5 Athletics NZ reserves the right to select a replacement athlete if any athlete is withdrawn or otherwise fails to meet the requirements set out in this Selection Policy.

11. **GENERAL INFORMATION**

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

Funding

- 11.2 The 2027 FISU Cross Country 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 2027 FISU Cross Country should plan their funding and budgets early. The trip cost is expected to be around NZ \$5,000 per athlete.
- 11.4 A management levy is likely to be charged across all athletes (i.e. above the cost of their own travel and accommodation but included within the trip cost in 10.3) to assist with the cost of the 2027 FISU Cross Country Team Leader and/or support staff (if applicable).
- 11.5 For athlete-funded competitions, 2 weeks prior to the departure of the team from New Zealand all athlete-funding components must be paid in full to Athletics NZ.
Note: Non-payment of the athlete-funded component in full by this date will result in removal of the athlete from the team and the withdrawal of that athlete's entry in the 2027 FISU Cross Country. Unpaid amounts will remain outstanding and will be subject to collection in accordance with [Athletics NZ Debtors policy](#).

Team Leader /Coach/Staff Appointment

- 11.6 In some instances, when there is a need for an Athletics NZ staff member to fill a team management position, at the discretion of the Athletics NZ Head of OOS International Teams Lead and approval of the Athletics NZ Board, team management appointments will not be advertised.
- 11.7 If required, expressions of interest for the position of 2027 FISU Cross Country Team Leader, will be advertised by Monday 5 October 2026.
- 11.8 For further information regarding staff appointments contact [Tessa Hunt](#).

12. **ADDITIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION**

- 12.1 For further information regarding the 2027 FISU Cross Country refer to the FISU website or contact [Tessa Hunt](#).