

**2017-18 Olympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’
Frequently Asked Questions**



**BRITISH
ATHLETICS**

What is the World Class Programme?

British Athletics receives National Lottery money from UK Sport and we use to support the World Class Programme (WCP). We offer places on the Olympic WCP to athletes with the potential to win medals at the Olympic Games. This stipulation is key to our ability to fund any athlete via the WCP – if we do not believe that an athlete has genuine medal potential, they cannot become a member of the WCP, regardless of their world ranking, British ranking or competition performances.

How many athletes will you fund?

The numbers of athletes we can support via the WCP is limited by our funding agreement with UK Sport. These numbers were set at the beginning of the Tokyo cycle, and are reflective of the number of athletes that UK Sport believes we need to fund to meet our medal targets for Tokyo.

We have a maximum number of athlete places for both the Podium and Podium Potential programmes, and for financial reasons, we cannot exceed these numbers. We want to support as many athletes as possible, but where we do not believe sufficient athletes have ongoing medal potential, we may leave spots unfilled. If there are more athletes eligible for selection than there are places available, it will be up to the Selection Panel to decide which of these athletes is best equipped to win medals at future Olympic Games.

Why is it so complicated?

We have to be realistic - athletics is a complicated sport with many varied disciplines, so one size can't fit all. We want you to know what is expected of you to get on and then stay on the WCP, and what will happen if you get injured or have a temporary drop in form. We also want to be clear how former WCP athletes can get back on the programme. All of this makes for a complex programme, but we have tried to make the policy as straight forward as possible, whilst still abiding by the legal requirements that such policies demand.

The next three questions relate to individual athletes, rather than relay squad members.

How do I get on the WCP for the first time?

There are four main steps:

1. You have to be eligible to compete for GB&NI / TeamGB at both the IAAF World Championships and the Olympic Games. You also have to meet a range of other eligibility requirements, such as not currently serving a suspension for a doping violation, not being a student at an NCAA university in the United States (and not having special dispensation to receive funding), and not having brought British Athletics into disrepute.
2. You then need to produce performances that mean you match the requirements set out in the "Selection Criteria". For Podium athletes, this primarily relates to performances at the 2016 Olympic Games and 2017 IAAF World Championships.
3. The WCP is not about rewarding past success (though this helps us to predict the future), so you then have to satisfy us that you will be in the right physical condition to repeat, and hopefully exceed, your performances in 2017/18 and future years.

2017-18 Olympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’ Frequently Asked Questions

4. Finally, you will need to be prepared to sign the UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreement for each period when you’ll be receiving funding – this sets out what we’ll do for you, and what we expect in return.

I’m already on the WCP, what do I need to do to stay on?

In line with new athletes described above, you will have to:

1. Commit to competing for GB&NI / TeamGB at both the IAAF World Championships and the Olympic Games.
2. Satisfy us of your future fitness.
3. Be prepared to sign the required UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreements.
4. Crucially, you will also need to have met all your individual performance targets and conditions for 2016/17 as well as satisfying the requirements outlined in the “Selection Criteria” (Section 2 of the Selection Policy) and “Retention Criteria” (Section 3 of the Selection Policy). If you did, and you meet the other conditions above, you’ll be kept on the WCP. If you didn’t meet all your individual performance targets and conditions, or fail to satisfy the “Selection Criteria” for reasons such as injury, illness or pregnancy, then we don’t guarantee you will keep your place on the WCP. However, we promise to look carefully at your situation, your previous performances and your ongoing potential before deciding whether to offer you a place. This process is described in Section 4 of the Selection Policy.

I’ve been on the WCP before, how do I get back on?

You will need to satisfy all the same requirements outlined for individuals looking to gain membership of the programme for the first time. Additionally though, as the standards in athletics are increasing year on year, you will need to demonstrate that you have progressed since you were removed from the WCP previously. Specifically, this means that you cannot be added at a level below which you were exited from previously. Exceptions to this may be made for athletes who were previously members at Podium A, but who can be added to the WCP in 2017-18 at Podium B, or for relay athletes returning as individually funded members (and vice versa).

What about the relays?

To be a relay member of the WCP, athletes must meet all the same eligibility requirements as individuals (i.e. eligibility to represent GB&NI etc.) and must also satisfy us of their future fitness.

The “Selection Criteria” (Section 2 of the Selection Policy), outlines what is required for athletes to gain membership at each level. Relay members are afforded the same WCP benefits as individual members.

Crucially though, individual funding for sprint events (i.e. 100m/200m/400m) no longer exists below Podium B level. So if you didn’t at least make the final at the 2016 Olympic Games or 2017 IAAF World Championships (or had a performance limiting factor stopping you doing so), then you can only be supported via the WCP in 2017/18 as a relay runner.

Athletes who are offered funding as a relay runner will then need to sign up to the British Athletics relay plan – their personal coach will also need to sign up too. The plan outlines the requirements of relay runners over the coming year, both in terms of activity (practices/competitions etc.) but also behaviours. Signing up to the plan is optional, but sprinters who are not eligible as individuals and who choose not to sign up to the relay plan will have their offer of WCP membership withdrawn and will not receive any funding.

The 2018 relay plan will be sent to all eligible athletes and their personal coaches as soon as possible.

What data will you use to make these decisions?

We will draw data from a number of sources. These include the IAAF World Rankings, the Powerof10 UK performance database and the Finnish athletics data site Tilastopaja.

There is always a statistician present at each selection meeting, and we will also use a range of data generated internally at British Athletics, such as Performance Funnels and event trends.

2017-18 Olympic WCP Selection Policy – Athletes’ Frequently Asked Questions

What are the different levels on the plan?

We place all athletes into one of 5 levels on the WCP – from A down to E (A to D for relays). You will be allocated to a level by the WCP Selection Panel who will be guided by the “Selection Criteria” (Section 2 of the Selection Policy). In general, the higher the level you are on the WCP the more services become available to you and the higher priority you have to access the services.

What is an APA and what do the WCP levels mean financially?

The vast majority of spend on WCP athletes is indirect through:

1. Employed coaches.
2. Provision of world class training facilities.
3. Medical services including doctors, physiotherapy and soft tissue therapy services.
4. Comprehensive medical insurance.
5. Sports science support services.
6. Championships teams including holding camps.

Athletes also receive direct payments, known as an Athlete Performance Award (or APA). These payments are made so that athletes can spend less time working, and more time focussing on training. Athletes must complete a UK Sport Application form to access their APA. Their APA is paid directly to them by UK Sport and will be means tested.

Further information and advice on APA’s means testing, benefit payments and mortgage/rental references can be found at: <http://www.uk sport.gov.uk/our-work/investing-in-sport/how-uk-sport-funding-works>. Alternatively, you can contact a member of the UK Sport Investment Team.

When will I hear if I am funded for 2017/18?

The WCP Selection Panel meets on the 30th and 31st October 2017 and we aim to publish a list of selected athletes on the British Athletics web site (www.britishathletics.org.uk) within one working week. Successful athletes will be contacted via email and post prior to the announcement on the website. Those athletes exited from the WCP will also be contacted in person prior to the announcement.

Prior to these meetings, British Athletics will also hold a number of “Event Specialist Committee” meetings. These meetings will consist of a larger number of specialist coaches who can help to provide information on athletes eligible for selection to the WCP in each event group. This information will then be passed to the WCP Selection Panel itself in October who will ratify the selections.

Can I appeal against WCP selection decisions?

There is an appeals process, primarily for athletes already on the WCP – see Section 7 of the Selection Policy for details.