

**2018-19 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 support 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 support?

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 support 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 financial support), 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 2018 European Championships. For Podium potential athletes, the performances we will consider are a little broader.
3. The WCP is not about rewarding past success (though this helps us to predict the future), so for every level, you also have to satisfy us that you will possess all the necessary characteristics to win global individual medals in the future. Athletes who satisfy the basic

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criteria for consideration will be sent a questionnaire in advance of selection to help gain more information about them before the selection meeting takes place.

4. Finally, you will need to be prepared to sign the UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreement for each period when you’ll be a member of the WCP – 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. Be prepared to sign the required UK Athletics WCP Athlete Agreements.
3. Crucially, you will also need to have met all your individual performance targets and conditions for 2017/18 as well convincing us of your ongoing global medal potential. 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, via your performances and progression in 2018 fail to sufficiently demonstrate ongoing global medal potential, then you may be removed from the WCP. If you failed to deliver your best performances in 2018 due to injury/illness, 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 have changed primary event, or for relay athletes returning as individually supported 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 membership for sprint events (i.e. 100m/200m/400m) no longer exists below Podium B level. So if you are a sprinter and you don’t satisfy the individual requirements for membership of the WCP at level B or above, you will only be eligible for consideration for WCP membership as a relay runner.

Athletes who are offered WCP membership 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.

The 2019 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.

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What is a What it Takes to Win (WITTW) model?

This is simply a description of what the best in the world looks like. UKA have developed an interactive dashboard that displays all of this information for each event and this will be used as the framework for assessing athlete medal winning capacity (and therefore their place on the WCP).

It features a huge amount of data that describes the levels of performance expected of athletes as they develop towards the podium (similar to the old funnels) as well as projections regarding the future direction of the event (i.e. is it getting harder or easier). It also outlines the key physical/technical characteristics of medal winning athletes, alongside descriptions of the more subjective areas of global medal winners (such as behaviours, coaching quality, environment etc.).

This system is undoubtedly a competitive advantage over other nations and as such we do not intend to publish this document, or indeed send copies of the dashboard to individual athletes and their coaches. Instead, the model will be used as part of the athlete review process, with athletes and their coaches taken through each of the key areas in person.

Any relevant information from the WITTW model will be provided to any appealing athlete should it be required.

A screenshot of the WITTW model is provided below.



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.

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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 offered WCP membership for 2018/19?

The WCP Selection Panel meets on the 29th and 30th October 2018 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.

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.