



**2024 European Cross Country Championships: 8 December 2024
Antalya, Turkey**

Selection Policy – Published August 2024

OVERVIEW

This Selection Policy (“the Policy”) sets out the selection process for the team to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland at the 2024 European Cross Country Championships in Antalya, Turkey.

AIMS

- Medal success at the 2024 European Cross Country Championships
- Opportunities for developing athletes with the potential for future success at senior outdoor major championships (including future World Cross-Country championships)

TRIALS

The Official Trial (“the Trials”), takes place at the UK Athletics Cross Country Challenge in Liverpool on **Saturday 23 November 2024**. It is not mandatory to compete at the Trials for athletes seeking selection for any European Cross-Country teams, however priority is given to competing athletes. Athletes who do not compete may risk non-selection.

For the Senior Mixed Relay event:

- Athletes seeking selection in Liverpool should compete in the short-course race (one male and one female).
- Athletes must submit an expression of interest (EOI) to be considered for entry into the race by Sunday 10 November 2024. The expression of interest form can be found [here](#).
- If no EOI is received by this date, the individual will not be able to compete in the trial.

Selection for the Male Junior (U20) Team

- U17 male athletes wishing to qualify for selection for the junior team via the Trials should register to compete in the U20 race in Liverpool.
- U17 female athletes already compete in the U20 race at the Trials so will automatically be considered for the U20 team.

Athletes not competing in Trials

Athletes seeking selection but not competing at the Trials should submit an expression of interest by **Friday 22 November 2024**. An individual expression of interest form can be found [here](#).

SELECTION

1. The maximum entries permitted by European Athletics (EA) are as follows:

- i. Six (6) Senior Men
 - ii. Six (6) Senior Women
 - iii. Six (6) U23 Men
 - iv. Six (6) U23 Women
 - v. Six (6) U20 Men
 - vi. Six (6) U20 Women
 - vii. Four (4) Mixed Relay; Two (2) Male and Two (2) Female
2. Full GB & NI men's and women's senior, U23 and junior teams may be selected for this competition (6 athletes per team) as well as a senior mixed relay team (2 senior men and 2 senior women).
 3. An athlete may only be selected for one event at the European Cross Country Championships therefore athletes will not be able to double up and compete in both an individual and relay race).
 4. To be considered for selection for the Senior Mixed Relay, U23 or U20 teams, athletes must be born in the years referenced in the Appendix 1, points b, c and d.
 5. The selection meeting will take place on Monday 25 November 2024.
 6. The final team will be announced on Tuesday 26 November 2024.

SECTION ONE: ELIGIBILITY FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SELECTION

7. To be eligible for consideration for selection, athletes must satisfy the Eligibility Criteria set out in Appendix 1 – Eligibility Criteria.

SECTION TWO: SELECTION PROCESS

The Selection Panel will only consider athletes who meet the Eligibility Criteria as set out in Section One. Selection will be made in four (4) rounds by event, using the process outlined below.

8. Round 1 – Senior Individuals

- a. The first four placed eligible senior athletes from each senior race at the Trials (not including any U23 athletes competing in the joint senior/U23 Trial race) will be automatically selected for the individual senior race. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first four (4) placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (due to injury or any other reason) the place will NOT be automatically offered to the next athlete at the Trials. Any places not taken up will be re-considered for selection based on selection criteria point b below.
- b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining places based on an assessment of athlete's capabilities to meet the aims of the policy. This will involve consideration of a combination of the following criteria, listed in no particular priority order. Certain criteria may take precedence or be weighted more significantly over others in the process.
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1 September – 24 November 2024.
 - ii. athletes' previous cross-country competition history.
 - iii. performance at the Trials.
 - iv. head to heads during the autumn 2024 cross country season.
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deems relevant to this competition.

9. Round 2 – U23

- a. The first four (4) placed eligible U23 athletes at the Trials (in the combined senior/U23 trial race) will be automatically selected for the U23 race. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first four placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (due to injury or any other reason) their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete at the Trials. Any places not taken up will be re-allocated based on point b below.
- b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining places based on an assessment of athlete's capabilities to meet the aims of the policy. This will involve consideration of a combination of the following criteria, listed in no particular priority order. Certain criteria may take precedence or be weighted more significantly over others in the process.
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1st September – 24 November 2024.
 - ii. athletes' previous cross-country competition history.
 - iii. performance at the Trials.
 - iv. head to heads during the autumn 2024 cross country season.
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deems relevant to this competition.

10. Round 3 – Juniors (U20)

- a. The first five (5) placed eligible junior athletes (including U17's) at the Trials will be automatically selected for the junior race. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the first five placed athletes at the Trials decline selection (due to injury or any other reason) their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete at the Trials. Any place not taken up will be re-allocated based on point b below.
- b. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining places based on an assessment of athlete's capabilities to meet the aims of the policy. This will involve consideration of a combination of the following criteria, listed in no particular priority order. Certain criteria may take precedence or be weighted more significantly over others in the process.
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1 September – 24 November 2024.
 - ii. athletes' previous cross-country competition history.
 - iii. performance at the Trials.
 - iv. head to heads during the autumn 2024 cross country season.
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deems relevant to this competition.

11. Round 4 - Senior Mixed Relay

- a. The Panel will select a mixed relay team consisting of four (4) senior/U23 athletes - 2 male and 2 female, who will each run 1 lap of the course (approx. 1500m per lap).
- b. The first placed eligible athlete from each short-course race at the Trials will be automatically selected for the relay. For the avoidance of doubt, if the first placed individual at the Trials declines selection (due to injury or any other reason) their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete in the short-course Trial. Any place not taken up will be re-allocated based on point c below:
- c. The Panel will select athletes to fill the remaining places based on consideration of a combination of the following criteria, listed in no particular priority order. Certain criteria may take precedence/weighted more significantly over others in the process.
 - i. athletes' current form and fitness from 1 September – 24 November 2024.
 - ii. athletes' previous cross-country competition history.
 - iii. performance at the Trials.
 - iv. Head to heads during the autumn 2024 cross country season.
 - v. any other factors the selection panel deems relevant to this competition.

12. In relation to selections for places where athletes are compared (see paragraphs 5.b, 6.b, 7.b and 8.c), and athletes are considered have suffered from illness/injury, the Selection Panel may take their injury/illness into account as a reason not to select the athlete. There is no obligation on the Selection Panel take into account illness/injury as an exemption

from the requirement to perform in the case of an athlete whose performances may have suffered due to illness/injury.

13. Eligible junior athletes will only be selected to compete in the senior event at the discretion of the selection panel and only if the Panel deem it to be in the long-term interests of the individual athlete (and provided they have demonstrated the ability to perform at senior level).

Reserves

14. UK Athletics will select two non-travelling reserves for each team including the mixed relay. These athletes will be added to the final entry and will be called upon if logistically possible should any athlete withdraw. Non-travelling reserve places will be selected based on the criteria listed above in points 5.b, 6.b, 7.b, and 8.c.

SECTION THREE: SELECTION PANEL

15. The Selection Panel will be chosen based on their expertise and knowledge in the field of Cross Country.

16. The Selection Panel shall comprise as follows:

- a. Voting Members:

- i. UKA Endurance Strategy Manager or, if unavailable for an exceptional reason, an appropriate substitute as nominated by the UK Athletics Head Coach
- ii. Team Leader, as nominated by the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager
- iii. Team coaches, as nominated by the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager

- b. Non-Voting members:

- i. Chairperson;
- ii. Independent Observer;
- iii. British Elite Athletes Association Member (if available);
- iv. UK Athletics Medical representative (as required);
- v. Media representative (if available)
- vi. Note-taker(s); and
- vii. Any other person invited by the Chairperson

17. In the event of an actual, potential, or possible conflict relating to any voting member, the actual, potential or possible conflict shall be reported to the Chairperson of the selection meeting who shall determine whether the voting member in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). The Chairperson may appoint an alternative selector if necessary.

18. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The UKA Endurance Strategy Manager shall have a casting vote, if required. If the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager is unable to vote due to a conflict, the Team Leader shall have a casting vote, if required.

19. The Selection Panel may make any selection subject to the athlete completing a performance requirement or test set out by the Selection Panel

SECTION FOUR: DE-SELECTION

20. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Selection Panel or UK Athletics in the event of:

- a. the athlete ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection Policy, or other document communicated by UK Athletics;
- b. application of the Medical De-Selection Protocol set out in the Team Member Agreement;
- c. any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension;
- d. any serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct;
- e. failure to sign the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement;
- f. a breach of any UK Athletics policy
- g. UK Athletics reasonably considering that the athlete will be unable to perform at the level required or expected due to any reason including loss of form or failure to recover fully or as expected from injury or illness; or
- h. failure to opt-in to team training or events.

In the event of de-selection, the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager and Team Leader will agree on a replacement athlete. The decision of the UKA Endurance Strategy Manager will be final, in the event of disagreement.

SECTION FIVE: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Appeals

21. There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the GB&NI Team made by the Selection Panel. The provisions of the UK Athletics Selection and Nomination "Fast" Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB&NI team selections for the 2024 European Cross Country Championships.

Amendment

22. UK Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at any time in its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.britishathletics.org.uk.

Governing law

23. This Selection Policy shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

Jurisdiction

24. Any dispute or claim arising out of or in connection with this Selection Policy shall be submitted for determination exclusively to arbitration under the auspices of Sports Resolutions (UK) Limited and subject to the procedural control of the English Courts

Team Logistics

25. Athletes must agree to the travel provisions made for the team. For the avoidance of doubt, UK Athletics will cover the costs of international travel to the competition from the United Kingdom and athletes shall be responsible for domestic assembly costs. For any questions relating to the selection policy, logistic arrangements and trial races please contact Cerys Miller at cmiller@britishathletics.org.uk.

APPENDIX 1 – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- a. Be eligible to compete for GB & NI and be the holder of a full and current British passport;
- b. For U23 athletes, be born in 2002, 2003 or 2004.
- c. For junior (U20) athletes, be born in 2005, 2006, 2007 or 2008.
- d. For the senior mixed relay athletes must be born in 2004 or earlier (i.e., they must be senior or U23 athlete)
- e. Have completed the European Athletics ‘I Run Clean’ anti-doping education programme via <https://www.irunclean.org/> and have a valid certificate number prior to the 2024 European Cross Country Championships selection meeting on 25th November.
- f. Not currently serving a period of ineligibility or a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation or for any other reason of misconduct;
- g. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct;
- h. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club;
- i. Sign the UK Athletics Team Members’ Agreement (“TMA”) and Acceptance Letter and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of competition will result in their selection being withdrawn. The current version of the TMA can be found online at <https://www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/>.

Note: Athletes will be selected to compete in the age-group race for which they are eligible at the championships (i.e., U23 athletes will be selected for the U23 race, U20 athletes will be selected for the junior race). For the avoidance of doubt, should an U23 athlete finish ahead of a senior athlete in the joint race at the Trials, the U23 athlete will be selected for the U23 race, and will NOT be considered as one of the first senior athletes past the post. Exceptions to this rule (i.e., selecting U20 athletes to compete in the U23 race, or U23’s in the in the senior race) may only be made at the discretion of the selection panel and only if they believe that doing so would be in the best interests of the team and the best long-term interests of the individual athlete. Agreement of the individual athlete is also required.