

**2020 Olympic Games**  
**24 July - 9 August 2016**  
**Tokyo, Japan**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

This document is intended to help readers understand the British Athletics Selection Policy for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The new IAAF qualification criterion is complex, resulting in a number of potential different scenarios which we have to address up-front to ensure consistency and fairness.

Below are some frequently asked questions which will help you to understand the Selection Policy.

**Q – Do British Athletics or the British Olympic Association select the team?**

A – British Athletics select athletes for nomination to the British Olympic Association (BOA). The BOA will not generally seek to alter or challenge these selections (they are only likely to do so if there is an issue with eligibility – such as nationality etc.). And following nomination, the BOA will formally select athletes to Team GB.

**Q – How can I guarantee Selection?**

A – Finish in the top two at the British Championships (or other relevant trial for 10,000m and race-walks) or top one or two in the marathon (depending on number of places left available after confirmation of the athletes selected in the marathon pre-selection) AND have **achieved at least one qualifying standard** during the relevant qualification period. For the Combined Events, there is no trial event so no guaranteed selections will take place for the Decathlon or Heptathlon. Instead, all eligible athletes who have **achieved at least one qualifying standard** during the qualification period will be considered in the second round of selection.

**Q – What if I achieve a qualifying standard but don't guarantee my selection at the British Championships (or other Trials events)?**

A – You may still be selected, if you achieve a qualifying standard within the relevant qualifying period and demonstrate current form/fitness. If there are more athletes who satisfy this than there are places available (a total of 3 per event), then the selection Panel will decide which of them are selected, based on the list of criteria outlined in the Selection Policy.

**Q – What if I don't achieve a qualification standard – can I still be selected?**

A – This is possible but unlikely. For Tokyo 2020 the IAAF aims to fill target field sizes for every event by using a dual qualification process of entry standards and invitations through world ranking. It is up to the National Governing Body (i.e. British Athletics, in conjunction with the BOA) to decide whether to accept these invites. It is at the Performance Director's sole discretion as to whether to accept any such invitation and he/she will only do so for athletes who he/she believes are genuine medal contenders for Tokyo 2020 or future global championships.

**Q – I don't want to/can't compete in the British Championships – can I still be selected?**

A – You **MUST** compete in the British Championships (or other relevant trial event) to be considered for selection. Only the Performance Director can give dispensation not to compete for genuinely exceptional circumstances, and if you are ill/injured then only the Performance

Director and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) can give you approval not to compete. The only exceptions are for athletes who compete in the marathon and 10,000m, who do not need to compete in the relevant trials to be eligible for selection. For Combined Events, even though there is no trial event, to be eligible for selection at Decathlon / Heptathlon athletes must compete at the British Championships in at least one individual event.

**Q – What are the qualification standards?**

A – There is an IAAF Qualification Standard for every individual event. British Athletics have not altered any of these standards. The full list of standards is attached to the Selection Policy.

**Q – I finish outside the top 2 at the British Championships but I do have at least one qualification standard. None of the athletes who finish ahead of me have valid qualification standards, do I automatically get selected?**

A – No – only those who finish first or second can be automatically selected. You may still be selected, but only if you demonstrate current form/fitness and – if there are more athletes eligible for selection than places available – you compare favourably to those other athletes in the Panel's consideration of the criteria listed in the policy.

**Q – If I do not achieve a qualifying standard but receive an IAAF invitation from qualification through world ranking, does this guarantee my selection?**

A – No. Athletes who do not have a qualification standard but are in receipt of an IAAF invitation are not guaranteed selection. They will only be selected if they demonstrate medal potential for Tokyo 2020 or a future global championship. This decision is at the Performance Director's sole discretion.

**Q – How are relay teams selected?**

A – Athletes will be selected for each 4x100m and 4x400m team, provided that GB & NI have qualified for the relevant relay event, and the Selection Panel believe the team have genuine medal potential at Tokyo 2020. Squad members will then be selected based on a number of factors, including (but not limited to) their individual and relay performances to date, engagement with the British Athletics relay programme, head-to-heads and injury status. The full list of factors is outlined in the Selection Policy. The number of athletes selected for each relay team is at the discretion of the Panel (within IAAF entry rules).

**Q – I pick up an injury after selection – can I be de-selected?**

A – Possibly. British Athletics' CMO will assess the nature of the injury to decide if it will impact on your performance at the Games. If this is unclear, you may be asked to do a fitness test. If you fail this test (or refuse to undertake it) you may then be de-selected and replaced by another athlete. If the injury becomes apparent after Team GB has been entered then this process will take place in conjunction with the BOA CMO as well.

**Q – Can I appeal my non-selection?**

A – Yes. As usual, there is a fast appeals process – the full details of which are available on the British Athletics website.