

Athletics NZ statement regarding the Development of this policy

The Selectors would like to highlight certain significant changes to the selection / eligibility requirements that limit National Athletics bodies' – such as Athletics NZ – ability to enter athletes for the 2015 IAAF World Track and Field championships.

The key changes are highlighted in the statement below from the IAAF. To summarise:

- The IAAF have introduced new minimum standards for automatic selection – these differ from Athletics NZ's prior selection philosophy. As you will see in the attached Policy, Athletics NZ's selectors have, with a few exceptions, adopted the new IAAF standards as the new 'A' standard for this Policy.
- Unfortunately the IAAF has not provided an explanation of how these IAAF Standards have been determined other than that they are intended "to control field sizes".
- Although 'B' standards have been included in a manner similar to past World Championships Policies and in accordance with Athletics NZ's and High Performance Sport NZ's requirements and policies, they are no longer the determinative criteria for selection and entry into the World Championships – as noted, any selection based on a 'B' standard is subject to receiving an invitation from the IAAF for that athlete to complete. This is not an Athletics NZ requirement but one established by the IAAF.
- The Selectors have determined the 'B' standards based on the average of the 16th to 18th ranked athletes in the 2012 to 2014 IAAF Rankings for each event, but only including 3 athletes per country, and then "easing" each of those averages by a margin to cater for athletes that might improve between the qualification period and the Championships or PB at the Championships. Please note that the Selectors determination on this matter is not up for debate and, ultimately, is subject to the IAAF issuing an invitation to complete to those athletes selected under this criteria.

The Selectors would also like to note that their intention is that athletes can secure selection by achieving an ANZ-A during the selection period as required by the IAAF and that these selections will be augmented by athletes gaining IAAF invitations to compete based on achieving the 'B' standards. The Selectors would also like to thank all those parties who have been involved in the consultation process that has been undertaken in formulating this Policy.

IAAF New Qualification System for the 2015 Beijing World Championships

The key element of the new System is that the IAAF shall establish the ideal number of athletes (and relay teams) to start in each event of the Championships and shall ensure that such ideal numbers are met through a Qualification System which, essentially, combines Entry Standards and Invitations based on rankings.

Individual Athletes can qualify in one of four ways:

1. Automatically by achieving the Entry Standard within the qualification period in accordance with criteria decided by IAAF.

2. Based on the finishing position at designated competitions as follows (in these cases the athletes shall also be considered as having achieved the Entry Standard):
 - The Area Champions in all the individual events (except for the Marathons).
 - The Member Federation of the Area Champion will have the ultimate authority to enter the athlete or not, based on its own selection criteria.
 - For the 10,000m, the top 15 athletes finishing in the senior Men's and Women's races at the IAAF World Cross Country Championships Guiyang 2015.
 - For the Combined Events, the top three in the 2014 Men's and Women's IAAF Combined Events Challenge.
 - For the 20km Race Walk, the top three in the 2014 Men's and Women's IAAF World Race Walking Challenge.
 - For the 50km Race Walk, the top three in the 2014 IAAF World Race Walking Cup.
 - For the Marathons, the top 10 finishers at the IAAF Gold Label Marathons held in the qualification period.
3. The IAAF will accept the participation of the current Reigning World Outdoor Champion and that of the Winner of the previous year's IAAF Diamond League (in the corresponding World Championships events) and Hammer Throw Challenge as Wild Cards, in each individual event, on the condition that the athlete in question is entered by his Federation. If both are from the same country, only one of the two can be entered with this Wild Card. If a Member Federation has four athletes in one event as a result of this regulation, all four will be permitted to compete.
4. As a result of being one of the best ranked athletes at the end of the qualification period to fill the remaining quota places by event. This does not apply to the 5000m, 10,000m, Marathons and Race Walks where entries will continue to be administered by Entry Standards only.

Relay Teams can qualify in one of two ways:

1. Automatically as being one of the first eight placed teams at the 2014 IAAF World Relays in The Bahamas
2. As a result of being one of the best ranked teams at the end of the qualification period to fill the remaining quota places. For the purpose of being ranked, the results of relay races shall be valid only on condition that they are part of a competition staged in compliance with IAAF Rules and that at least two different international teams, representing at least two countries, compete in the race.

Invitation by Ranking Process

Individual Athletes: Following the end of the qualification period, the IAAF shall assess the number of athletes having qualified plus the unqualified athletes. The IAAF shall then invite the athletes with the next best performances in the respective qualification periods in order to reach the established ideal number of athletes by event, respecting the maximum quota by Member Federation by event. Upon refusals or cancellations, invitations shall be extended to the next eligible athlete at the sole and exclusive discretion of the IAAF.

Relays: Following the end of the qualification period, and knowing the Relay Teams that have qualified from the IAAF World Relays 2014, the IAAF shall then invite the teams with the next best performances in the qualification period in order to reach the established ideal number of Relay Teams by event. Upon refusals or cancellations, invitations shall be extended to the next eligible relay team at the sole and exclusive discretion of the IAAF.