

## **Athletics NZ Position Statement**

### **Performance Standards for Major Championship Teams**

- 1) The Board of Athletics NZ has a “Top 16 Philosophy” for selection of athletes for all teams to participate in IAAF World Track & Field Championships (i.e. Youth, Junior and Open-Age) and the Olympic Games. This policy is focused on selecting a team that is capable of achieving a high percentage of Top 16 placings at these championships and has been in place since 2008. This policy was developed and is applied in consultation with our major partners, including High Performance Sport New Zealand and the NZ Olympic Committee.
- 2) A result of the Top 16 Philosophy is that World Championships are not seen as development events. These Championships are seen as relevant to the top level of athletes, as judged by their ability to place in the Top 16 at that level. This is also reflected in the IAAF establishing minimum entry standards for the 2016 IAAF World Junior Championships (“2016 WJCs”). These standards have been set by the IAAF with the intention of controlling (i.e. limiting) the number of competitors in each event. Athletics NZ is bound by these standards.
- 3) Based on this Top 16 Philosophy, Athletics NZ has set performance standards that require athletes seeking selection to achieve performance(s) during a Qualification Period that indicate that they are capable of, and likely to achieve, a Top 16 placing at the Championships in their respective event(s).
- 4) Research indicates that the athletes who are most likely to achieve a Top 16 placing at a World Championship are those who have achieved a Top 20 ranking in the world (calculated based on a maximum of 2 athletes per country), with typically a few outliers ranked between 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> also placing in the Top 16 at a World Championships.
- 5) Athletics NZ has therefore set Standards for each event for the 2016 WJCs at a level it believes indicates athletes will have a strong possibility of a Top 16 placing. These standards have been calculated based on:
  - For track and jumping events: the average of world junior rankings over the last three years (calculated based on a maximum of 2 athletes per country), with an easing of approximately 2% to allow for improvement between April and July; and
  - For throwing events: the mid-point between the average of the world junior rankings as above and the minimum entry standard as set by the IAAF. The intention of this approach is to allow for improvement between April and July and also to acknowledge the fact there is less depth in throwing event ranking lists at the top level such that athletes that record performances outside the 2% adjustment as above (i.e. for track and jumping events) are likely to challenge for a top 16 placing at the World Champs.

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