

Athletics NZ Statement

2017 International Competition Options for Youth (Under 18) Athletes

There will be three opportunities for Youth (under 18) Athletes (i.e. athletes born in 2000 or 2001) to represent New Zealand in Athletics in 2017. They are:

- 1) The Oceania Area Championships, Suva, Fiji, 29 June - 1 July
- 2) The IAAF World Under 18 Championship, Nairobi, Kenya, 12-16 July
- 3) The Commonwealth Youth Games, Nassau, Bahamas, 18-23 July

Generally, athletes of this age will only be selected for one international competition per year.

Oceania Area Championships (2017 OAC)

- The 2017 OAC is an Athletics NZ “White Singlet” Competition. (i.e. a competition other than an Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games or World Championships).
- The 2017 OAC will also accept entries for athletes born in 2002 to compete in the youth category provided they have reached a minimum age of 15, by 31 December 2017.
- Performance Standards for Youth athletes will not be set for the 2017 OAC. Rather, a team of up to eight (8) Youth Men and eight (8) Youth Women will be selected to compete in individual events. Considerations will be given to history and depth of performance from the domestic season.

Note: This number may be increased to 10 athletes each for Youth Men and Youth Women to accommodate Relay selections if the eight (8) selected athletes warrant the inclusion of relay teams.

- The 2017 OAC Selection Policy will be available on the Athletics NZ [website](#) in November.
- The estimated cost for athletes selected for the 2017 OAC is \$3,500.00 and the likely travel dates are 27 June to 2 July 2017.

IAAF World Under 18 Championships (2017 WU18)

- The 2017 WU18 Championship is an Athletics NZ “Black Singlet” competition (i.e. an IAAF World Track & Field Championship, Olympic Games or Commonwealth Games) and has a top 16 philosophy. This means that athletes will be selected if they are considered to have a reasonable chance of placing in the Top 16 at the Championships. The selection standards will be established with this in mind.
- For individual events, the Selectors will nominate athletes deemed capable of a Top 16 placing at the Championships who have achieved a Performance Standard during the Qualification Period.
- The 2017 WU18 Selection Policy will be available on the Athletics NZ [website](#) in November.
- The estimated cost for athletes selected for the 2017 WU18 is \$8,000.00 and the likely travel dates are 25 June to 18 July 2017.

Athletics NZ has adopted the position that the 2017 WU18 is not an appropriate event for athletes who will not be competitive with the prevailing standard. Heavy defeats for young athletes do not help in their long term athlete development.

The IAAF have set “minimum entry standards” for the 2017 WU18, but these are not based on a consistent approach across all events such as Athletics NZs “Top 16 Philosophy”. For example, sprints and distance events

often have weaker minimum entry standards as the IAAF are happy to have large fields in these events, whereas vertical jumps have tougher standards as the IAAF do not want big fields in those events.

In other words, the IAAF use standards to control likely field size rather than to identify an athlete's competitive capacity.

Note: Athletics NZ reserves the right to withdraw the team from this competition if safety concerns reach a level deemed unacceptable by the Athletics NZ Board. Given where this competition is, the city and country's security status is being monitored closely.

Commonwealth Youth Games (2017 CYGs)

- The 2017 CYG is an Athletics NZ "White" Singlet competition (i.e. a competition other than an Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games or World Championships).
- The New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) as the member of the Commonwealth Games Federation, will manage the New Zealand team to the 2017 CYG in the Bahamas.
- The NZOC has been given an overall team quota for this Competition and Athletics NZ has been allocated 13 of these quota places.
- The NZOC has set an overall philosophy for these Games as athletes gaining a Top 3 placing and that they are also capable of performing with distinction. Nomination for the 2017 CYG has been set as Top 3 placing at the compulsory Selection Trial.
- The 2017 CYGs Nomination Criteria is available on our [website](#) now.
- The estimated cost for athletes selected for the 2017 CYG is \$6,200.00 and the likely travel dates are 15 July to 26 July 2017.

Further Info

- The 2017 OAC and the 2017 WU18 Championships are likely to have the same Qualification Period of 1 October 2016 to 9 April 2017.
- Athletics NZ may select athletes to compete in only one of these three teams in 2017.
- All athletes will be required to pay a Bond as per the relevant team selection policy or nomination criteria if they are interested in being considered for these competitions.
- All three competitions will have the Athletics NZ National Track and Field Championships (Hamilton, 17 – 19 March 2017) as the Compulsory Selection Trial.
- Athletics NZ staff are happy to liaise with eligible athletes (once we receive an Application for Selection Form or an Application for the NZOC Long List) and their support networks to discuss options based on what is best for the athlete at their stage of development, financial considerations, safety and other considerations.

If you have any questions, please contact Team@athletics.org.nz

Note: Content of this statement is subject to change.

21 October 2016