

2016 WORLD MOUNTAIN RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION POLICY; 11 September, Sapareva Banya, Bulgaria

1. NOMINATION/SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

- 1.1 This Selection Policy sets out the basis on which the Athletics New Zealand (“Athletics NZ”) Selectors (refer to clause 5.1) will consider athletes for selection for the 2016 World Mountain Running Championships (the “2016 WMRCs”).
- 1.2 The *Selectors* will nominate athletes for selection and nominations will be subject to ratification by the Board of Athletics NZ (the “*Board*”).
- 1.3 The 2016 WMRCs is an Athletics NZ “Silver” Singlet competition (i.e., a competition other than an Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games or IAAF World Track & Field Championship).
- 1.4 For **Team Events**, nominations will be considered by reference to the overall requirement that in order to be nominated, a team must be considered capable of achieving a **Top 8** placing at the Championships.
- 1.5 For **Individual Events**, nominations will be considered by reference to the overall requirement that in order to be nominated, an individual must be considered capable of achieving a **Top 32** placing at the Championships.
- 1.6 In any category where the *Selectors* decide that a **Top 8 Team Event** placing is not realistic, then they may nominate up to:
 - a) Three (3) athletes to compete in the *Individual Event* in the Senior Men’s category
 - b) Two (2) athletes to compete in the *Individual Event* in the Senior Women’s category
 - c) Two (2) athletes to compete in the *Individual Event* in the Junior Men’s category, and
 - d) One (1) athlete to compete in the *Individual Event* in the Junior Women’s category.

Note: Any athlete selected as part of the *Team Event* is eligible for *Individual Event* honours as well as *Team Event* honours (i.e. the *Individual Event* and the *Team Event* are contested concurrently for each category).
- 1.7 The 2016 WMRCs is an athlete-funded competition and athletes seeking selection in accordance with this Selection Policy will have to fund their participation in full (i.e. they will participate at no-cost to Athletics NZ).

2. ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 In order to be eligible for selection for the 2016 WMRCs an athlete must:
 - a) Submit an online [Application for Selection Form](#) and pay a \$200.00 Bond (refer clause 12.6) by 5pm Friday 20 May 2016; AND
 - b) Be a registered member of Athletics NZ at the time of achieving their *Qualifying Performance* (refer clause 4); AND
 - c) Have achieved a *Qualifying Performance* (see clause 4) within the following *Qualification Period*; AND

Categories/Events	Qualification Period
All athletes	1-Oct-2015 to 29-May-2016

Note: Achieving a *Qualifying Performance* does not give any athlete a right to, or a guarantee of, nomination or selection.

- d) Have competed at the Compulsory Selection Trial which is the *2016 Athletics NZ Mountain Running Championships*, Ben Lomond, Queenstown on 14 May 2016 or have sought dispensation from this competition (Refer to Clause 6); AND
- e) Satisfy all World Mountain Running Association (“WMRA”) eligibility, nationality, participation and the Local Organising Committee (“LOC”) entry requirements; AND
- f) Be and remain in “good standing” with Athletics NZ and at all times comply with any established code of conduct and the terms and conditions of the athlete agreement of Athletics NZ and otherwise conduct themselves in a way that does not bring their sport or the team into disrepute; AND
- g) Abide by Athletics NZ’s anti-doping requirements.

3. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Athletics NZ entries must comply with WMRA Technical Regulations and LOC Entry Requirements.

Categories & Distances

3.2 Teams can be entered in the following categories:

- a) Junior Women: Up to 3 athletes with 2 to score
- b) Junior Men: Up to 4 athletes with 3 to score
- c) Senior Women: Up to 4 athletes with 3 to score
- d) Senior Men: Up to 6 athletes with 4 to score

3.3 Races at the Championships will be contested over the following approximate distances:

	Mainly Uphill		Up & Down	
	Distance	Ascent	Distance	Ascent/Descent
Junior Women	4Km	400m	4Km	250m
Junior Men	8Km	800m	8Km	500m
Senior Women	8Km	800m	8Km	500m
Senior Men	12Km	1200m	12Km	750m

Age Requirements for each Category

- 3.4 Any athlete aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2016 Championships born in 1997 or 1998) may compete in the senior category or the junior category.
- 3.5 Any athlete aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2016 Championships born in 1999 or 2000) may only compete in the junior category.
- 3.6 No athlete younger than 16 years on 31 December in the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2016 Championships, born in 2001 or later) may be entered.

4. QUALIFICATION PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1 The Qualification Performance requirements for an athlete to be nominated for the *2016 WMRCs* based on results achieved in NZ during the Qualification Period are:
 - a) For a Team Event, an athlete should have finished in the “Top 5” in a NZ mountain running race; AND/OR
 - b) For an Individual Event in a category where the Selectors decide not to nominate a team, then an athlete should have finished in the “Top 3” in a NZ mountain running race.
- 4.2 The Qualification Performance requirements for an athlete to be nominated for the *2016 WMRCs* based on results achieved outside of NZ during the Qualification Period are:

- a) For a Team Event, an athlete should have finished in the “Top 20” in at least one mountain running race during the Qualification Period which was sanctioned by the WMRA, the International Sky Running Federation and/or the European Mountain Grand Prix circuit.
- b) For an Individual Event in a category where the Selectors decide not to nominate a team, then an athlete should have finished in the “Top 10” in a mountain running race during the Qualification Period which was sanctioned by the WMRA, the International Sky Running Federation and/or the European Mountain Grand Prix circuit.

Note: Achieving a Qualification Performance gives no right or guarantee of nomination or selection.

5. **SELECTION PANEL**

- 5.1 The Athletics NZ *Board* endorsed Selection Panel (the “*Selectors*”) and the *Convenor* appointed to nominate athletes for selection for the 2016 WMRCs are:
 - a) Barry Ellis (*Convenor*)
 - b) John Muskett
 - c) Warren Drought
- 5.2 The *Board* reserves the right to replace any member of the *Selectors* at any time for any reason.

6. **COMPULSORY SELECTION TRIAL**

- 6.1 The Compulsory Selection Trial for the 2016 WMRCs is the 2016 Athletics NZ Mountain Running Championships at Ben Lomond, Queenstown on 14 May 2016.
- 6.2 Athletes who do not compete at the Compulsory Selection Trial must make a request for dispensation for not competing, by email, to the 2016 WMRCs *Convenor*, Barry Ellis (road.marker@xtra.co.nz), before they submit an Application for Selection for the 2016 WMRCs.
- 6.3 Dispensations from competing at the Compulsory Selection Trial may be granted at the sole discretion of the *Selectors*.

7. **AUTOMATIC NOMINATIONS**

- 7.1 Subject to the entry and eligibility requirements stipulated in this *Selection Policy*, the winners of either the Junior Women, Junior Men, Senior Women or Senior Men categories at the Compulsory Selection Trial (i.e., The 2016 Athletics NZ Mountain Running Championships, Ben Lomond, Queenstown on 14 May 2016) will be automatic nominations for that category at the 2016 WMRCs, provided those athletes submit Applications for Selection as required by this *Selection Policy*.
- 7.2 Athletes that are automatic nominations must still satisfy the eligibility criteria and entry requirements set out in this Selection Policy, including complying with the form and “Village Pre-entry proof of Fitness” obligations set out in Clause 11.

8. **DISCRETIONARY NOMINATIONS**

- 8.1 Other than the athletes that achieve *automatic nomination* by winning their category at the *Compulsory Selection Trial*, all other athlete nominations for the 2016 WMRCs will be made by the *Selectors*.
- 8.2 Notwithstanding the provisions outlined in this *Selection Policy*, the 2016 WMRCs *Selectors* have an overriding discretion to nominate any eligible athlete for the 2016 WMRCs if they believe it is in the best interests of Athletics NZ to do so.
- 8.3 It is recognised that due to the nature of mountain running it is difficult to compare times across different distances and different courses. The *Selectors* will take a wide range of factors into consideration when nominating the team.

- 8.4 In exercising discretion the *Selectors* may consider any factor or combination of factors that are, in their opinion, relevant to their decision whether or not to nominate an athlete for the *2016 WMRCs*, including but not limited to the athlete's:
- Performance at the *2016 Athletics NZ Mountain Running Championships*, Ben Lomond, Queenstown on 14 May 2016.
 - Competitive record against other athletes under consideration for selection in the same event.
 - The quality and consistency of performances during the Qualification Period.
 - Commitment and focus on competing at the *2016 WMRCs*.
 - History of performances at previous selected individual or team events.
 - Performances in other mountain running races during the Qualification Period.
 - Recent injuries or illness.

9. **SELECTION PROCESS**

- 9.1 Athletics NZ will select *Individual(s)* and/or *Team(s)* based on nominations from the *Selectors* according to the criteria set out in this *Selection Policy* and as allowed by the WMRA Technical Regulations and the LOC entry requirements.
- 9.2 Nothing in this *Selection Policy* obliges Athletics NZ to select a full contingent of athletes in any particular event regardless of the WMRA Technical Regulations or the LOC entry requirements.

Ratification Review

- 9.3 The *Board* must ratify nominations prior to the *Selection Announcement*.

Selection Announcements

- 9.4 The *Selection Announcement* of the athletes selected for the *2016 WMRCs* will be published on the Athletics NZ website by 5pm on Tuesday 7 June 2016.

10. **NON-SELECTION QUERIES &/OR APPEALS PROCESS**

- 10.1 Non-selected athletes can query their non-selection after the *Selection Announcement* by contacting the *Convenor*, [Barry Ellis](#) (i.e. to seek clarification regarding their non-selection).

Non-selection appeals process

- 10.2 The publishing of the *Selection Announcement* on Athletics NZ website by 5pm on Tuesday 7 June 2016 will be deemed to be the commencement of the 72 hour period to lodge non-selection appeals in accordance with this *Selection Policy*.
- 10.3 Any athlete whose selection is not ratified by the *Board* in accordance with this *Selection Policy* may appeal their non-selection to the New Zealand Sports Tribunal providing they:
- Have submitted an [Application for Selection Form](#) in accordance with timelines contained in this *Selection Policy*; AND
 - Submit a notice of their intention to appeal their non-selection in writing to the CEO of Athletics NZ ([Linda Hamersley](#)) within 72 hours of the decision of the *Board* being published on the Athletics NZ website (i.e. the *Selection Announcement*).
- 10.4 Any appeal will be considered by the Sports Tribunal under its Rules and the grounds for an appeal will be as set out in those Rules. This provision will apply in relation to non-selection appeals. General provisions relating to appeals in the Constitution and Regulations of Athletics NZ will not apply.

11. VILLAGE PRE-ENTRY PROOF OF FITNESS

- 11.1 All selections for the 2016 WMRCs remain conditional until each athlete has met their *Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness Requirements*.
- 11.2 All selected athletes will be advised in writing of their specific *Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness Requirements* by the *Convenor* and/or the 2016 WMRCs Team Leader.
- 11.3 The time frame for all athletes to achieve specific *Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness Requirements* will be at the discretion of the *Convenor* and/or the 2016 WMRCs Team Leader. However, generally it will be prior to them leaving for the 2016 WMRCs from New Zealand or their place of residence.
- 11.4 Failure by a selected athlete to meet the *Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness Requirements* may result in that athlete who has been selected to the team being withdrawn from the 2016 WMRCs. Such a decision is at the discretion of the *Convenor* in consultation with the 2016 WMRCs Team Leader and the *Selectors*.

12. GENERAL INFORMATION

- 12.1 This *Selection Policy* may be amended at any time by the *Board*. Any amendment to this *Selection Policy* will be published on the Athletics NZ website.

Funding

- 12.2 The 2016 WMRCs is an athlete-funded competition and athletes seeking selection in accordance with this *Selection Policy* will have to participate at no-cost to Athletics NZ.
- 12.3 Athletes considering competing at the 2016 WMRCs should plan their funding and budgets early. The trip cost is expected to be around \$6,500NZD per athlete.
- 12.4 A management levy is likely to be charged across all athletes (i.e., above the cost of their own travel and accommodation) to assist with the cost of the 2016 WMRCs Team Leader and/or support staff (if applicable).
- 12.5 For athlete-funded competitions, two weeks prior to the departure of “the team” from New Zealand all athlete-funding components must be paid in full to Athletics NZ.

NOTE: Non-payment of the athlete-funding components in full by this date will result in removal of the athlete from the team and the withdrawal of that athlete’s entry in the 2016 WMRCs. Unpaid amounts will remain outstanding and will be subject to collection in accordance with [Athletics NZ Debtors policy](#).

Bond

- 12.6 Athletes seeking selection for the 2016 WMRCs will be required to pay a Bond of \$200.00 along with their [Application for Selection Form](#) by 5pm Friday 20 May 2016. The conditions associated with Bond are:
 - a) The Bond should either be paid by:
 - i. depositing cleared funds into 12-3192-0002433-00 noting “2016 WMRCs” in the Particulars field and athlete’s name (e.g., “J A Bloggs”) in the Reference field in internet banking. The Payee is Athletics NZ; or
 - ii. sending a cheque made payable to Athletics NZ, P O Box 305 504 Triton Plaza, Auckland 0757 to be received no later than 5pm Friday 20 May 2016. The cheque must be accompanied with a note recording the athlete’s name and that the payment is made as a bond for the 2016 WMRCs team.
 - iii. By credit card when completing the [Application for Selection Form](#). **Please Note:** paying via credit card within the Application for Selection Form incurs a non-refundable 4% Processing Fee.

Refund of Bond

- b) The full amount of the Bond paid will be refunded (without interest and any processing fee) if an athlete is not selected.
- c) If an athlete withdraws from the team after selection for any reason, they must notify [Deb Develter](#) in writing as soon as possible. A full refund of the Bond paid will not automatically be given in these circumstances. All refund requests will be considered on a “case-by-case” basis, including by reference to whether any costs have already been incurred or committed by Athletics NZ prior to the time of the

withdrawal, as well as to the circumstances behind the withdrawal. In any case, an amount of not less than \$50 will be retained to defray costs.

- d) Any refund is subject to the athlete in question having included details for the refund payment (i.e., bank account details or address and payee for refund cheque) in their *Application for Selection*, otherwise the athlete must provide those details when he or she advises of the withdrawal of their *Application for Selection*. Refunds cannot be made without these details.

Application of Bond

- e) If selected the Bond will be applied by Athletics NZ to offset costs payable by that selected athlete as a member of the 2016 WMRCs team (i.e., it is not an “extra” fee/levy).

Team Leader /Coach/Staff Appointment

- 12.7 Expressions of Interest for the position of 2016 WMRCs Team Leader will be published by Monday 9 May 2016 and expected to be appointed by Monday 30 May 2016.
- 12.8 Any additional support staff and/or coaches required for the team, if deemed necessary, will be advertised at a later date. Further information will follow.
- 12.9 The team is estimated to be away from 1 September to 14 September 2016 but could be more or less (in consultation with the 2016 WMRCs Team Leader) depending on an athlete’s buildup requirements.
- 12.10 For further information regarding staff appointments contact Deb Develter at: Deb@athletics.org.nz

Additional Competition Information

- 14.0 For further information regarding the 2016 WMRCs refer to www.wmra.info