

2020 WORLD MOUNTAIN RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS SELECTION POLICY: 13 - 14 November, Lanzarote, Spain

Note: Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, there are risks relating to international travel to and during the 2020 World Mountain Running Championships. Our highest priority is the wellbeing and safety of Athletics New Zealand athletes and staff. It simply may not be safe or responsible to send a team to this competition. With Spain currently still having active cases and community transmission of Covid-19, it is unlikely that a team will be sent to this competition. The final decision whether to send a team to the 2020 World Mountain Running Championships will be made by the Board of Athletics New Zealand in consultation with the Athletics New Zealand Chief Executive and High Performance Director prior to the selection announcement date of 18 September, following the guidance of the New Zealand Government.

1. SELECTION PHILOSOPHY

- 1.1 This Selection Policy is issued by Athletics New Zealand Inc. (“**Athletics NZ**”) and sets out the basis on which the Athletics NZ Selectors (refer to clause 2.1) will consider athletes for selection to compete at the 2020 World Mountain Running Championships (“**2020 WMRCs**”).
- 1.2 The 2020 WMRCs is an Athletics NZ “Silver” Singlet competition, i.e., a World Athletics, an International Association for Ultrarunners (“**IAU**”) or World Mountain Running Association (“**WMRA**”) World Championship other than an Olympic Games, World Athletics Track & Field Championship or Commonwealth Games.
- 1.3 Selections of:
 - a) Individual athletes for this team will be those deemed capable of a Top 32 placing at the 2020 WMRCs; and
 - b) Teams will be those deemed capable of achieving a Top 8 placing at the 2020 WMRCs.
- 1.4 The 2020 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 (refer to clause 11).

2. SELECTION PANEL

- 2.1 The board of Athletics NZ (“**Athletics NZ Board**”) has endorsed the following Selection Panel (“**Selectors**”) to consider and select athletes for the 2020 WMRCs:
 - a) John Bowden (Convenor); and
 - b) Barry Ellis; and
 - c) Sarah Biss.
- 2.2 The Athletics NZ Board reserves the right to replace any member of the Selectors at any time for any reason.

3. CONDITIONS OF SELECTION

- 3.1 As a condition of selection for the 2020 WMRCs, an athlete must:
 - a) Have achieved at least one (1) of the Performance Standards (refer to clause 4) that is listed on the official Athletics NZ rankings website and that is achieved within the following Qualification Period; and

Categories/Events	Qualification Period
All athletes - Long Distance Race and Classic Race	1 April 2019 to 6 September 2020

- b) Be a registered member of Athletics NZ at the time of achieving their Performance Standard; and
- c) Have submitted an [Application for Selection Form](#) and pay a \$250.00 bond (refer clause 11) by 5pm Sunday 6 September 2020; and
- d) Have satisfied all WMRCs eligibility, nationality, participation requirements; and
- e) Enter into an athlete agreement with Athletics NZ ("**Athlete Agreement**")
Note: This agreement will be distributed upon selection; and
- f) Be and remain in "good standing" with Athletics NZ and at all times comply with all Athletics NZ and/or WMRCs and/or World Athletics codes of conduct and regulations and the terms and conditions of the Athlete Agreement and otherwise conduct themselves in a way that does not bring the sport or the team into disrepute; and
- g) Not have used or administered any substance which, if it had been detected as being present in the athlete's body tissue or fluids, would have constituted doping or used any prohibited method or committed any other doping offence as defined in any applicable Athletics NZ or World Athletics anti-doping or related rules or regulations.

Note: Athletes should be aware that failure to comply with any of the requirements set out in clause 3.1 may render an athlete ineligible for selection.

Note: Nothing in this Selection Policy obliges Athletics NZ to select a full contingent of athletes in any event, regardless of the WMRA and/or World Athletics Technical Regulations or the 2020 WMRCs Local Organizing Committee ("**LOC**") entry requirements.

4. SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

Classic Race

4.1 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2020 WMRCs Classic race based on results achieved in New Zealand during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved one (1) of the following:

- a) For a Team Event, an athlete should have finished in the "Top 5" in a NZ mountain running race; or
- b) For an Individual Event in a category where the Selectors decide not to select a team, then an athlete should have finished in the "Top 3" in a NZ mountain running race

4.2 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2020 WMRCs Classic race based on results achieved outside of New Zealand during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved one (1) of the following:

- 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 select 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.

Long Distance Race

4.3 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2020 WMRCs Long Distance race based on results achieved in New Zealand during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved one (1) of the following:

- c) For a Team Event, an athlete should have finished in the "Top 5" in a NZ race of 21km or more; or
- d) For an Individual Event in a category where the Selectors decide not to select a team, then an athlete should have finished in the "Top 3" in a NZ race of 21km or more.

- 4.4 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2020 WMRCs Long Distance race based on results achieved outside of New Zealand during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved one (1) of the following:
- c) For a Team Event, an athlete should have finished in the “Top 20” in a race of 21km or more, which was sanctioned by the WMRA, the International Sky Running Federation and/or the European Mountain Grand Prix circuit.
 - d) For an Individual Event in a category where the Selectors decide not to select a team, then an athlete should have finished in the “Top 10” in a race of 21km or more, which was sanctioned by the WMRA, the International Sky Running Federation and/or the European Mountain Grand Prix circuit.

Please Note: Achieving a Performance Standard gives no right or guarantee of selection.

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Age Requirements for each Category

Classic Race

- 5.1 Any athlete aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2020 Championships born in 2001 or 2002) may compete in the senior category or the junior category.
- 5.2 Any athlete aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2020 Championships born in 2003 or 2004) may only compete in the junior category.
- 5.3 No athlete younger than 16 years on 31 December in the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2020 Championships, born in 2005 or later) may be entered.

Long Distance Race

- 5.4 No athlete younger than 18 years on 31 December in the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2020 Championships, born in 2003 or later) may be entered.

Categories and Distances

Classic Race

- 5.5 Teams can be entered in the following categories for the Classic race:
 - a) Junior Women: Up to four (4) athletes can compete with three (3) to score.
 - b) Junior Men: Up to four (4) athletes can compete with three (3) to score.
 - c) Senior Women: Up to four (4) athletes can compete with three (3) to score.
 - d) Senior Men: Up to four (4) athletes can compete with three (3) to score.
- 5.6 Races at the Championships will be contested over the following approximate distances:

	Up & Down		
	Distance	Ascents	Descents
Junior Women	4.5km	400m	62m
Junior Men	4.5km	400m	62m
Senior Women	13km	795m	182m
Senior Men	13km	795m	182m

Long Distance Race

- 5.7 Teams can be entered in the following categories for the Long Distance race:
 - a) Senior Women: Up to five (5) athletes can compete with three (3) to score
 - b) Senior Men: Up to five (3) athletes can compete with three (3) to score
- 5.8 Races at the Long Distance Championships will be contested over the following approximate distances:

	Up & Down		
	Distance	Ascents	Descents

Senior Women	44km	1789m	1789m
Senior Men	44km	1789m	1789m

6. **COMPULSORY SELECTION TRIAL**

6.1 There will be no Compulsory Selection Trial for the 2020 WMRCs for any category.

7. **ADDITIONAL SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

7.1 Notwithstanding the provisions outlined in this Selection Policy, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to select any eligible athlete for the 2020 WMRCs if they, in consultation with the Athletics NZ High Performance Director, believe it is in the best interests of Athletics NZ to do so.

7.2 In any category where the Selectors decide that a Top 8 Team Event placing is not realistic, then they may select up to two (2) athletes to compete in the Individual Event for both the Classic Race and the Long Distance Race in the respective categories.

Please Note: All athletes competing as part of a "Team", are eligible for selection for any Individual Event where Athletics NZ is entitled to enter an Individual as well.

7.3 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 selecting the team.

7.4 In considering athletes for selection, the Selectors may consider any factor or combination of factors that they deem relevant to their decision whether to select an athlete for the 2020 WMRCs, including but not limited to the athlete's:

- a) Performance at the 2019 Athletics NZ Mountain Running Championships, 2019 Athletics NZ Cross Country Championships, and 2020 Athletics NZ Cross Country Championships;
- b) Potential to be highly competitive at the 2020 WMRCs;
- c) Competitive record against other athletes under consideration for selection in the same event;
- d) For the Classic category, quality and consistency of performance in other mountain running races and trail races between 10km-20km races during the Qualification Period;
- e) For the Long Distance category, Quality and consistency of performances in other mountain running races and Long Distance races of 21km or more during the Qualification Period;
- f) Commitment and focus on competing at the 2020 WMRCs;
- g) History of performances at previous selected individual or team events;
- h) Any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.

7.5 In any decision regarding the selection of athletes for the 2020 WMRCs, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, also take into account any extenuating circumstances, including but not limited to:

- a) Injury or illness;
- b) Travel delays;
- c) Equipment failure;
- d) Bereavement or personal misfortune; and/or
- e) Any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.

7.6 Athletes unable to compete at competitions relevant to meeting the requirements outlined in this Selection Policy, must advise the [Convenor](#) of the extenuating circumstances and reasons (accompanied by a medical certificate if applicable) or other such details, in writing, as soon as the extenuating circumstances is known (or at least within 7 days). If the Convenor is not notified of any extenuating circumstances in accordance with this Selection Policy then the Selectors have no obligation to rely on such circumstances.

8. SELECTION PROCESS

- 8.1 Athletics NZ will select Individual(s) and/or Team(s) in accordance with the criteria set out in this Selection Policy and as allowed by the WMRCs Technical Regulations and the LOC entry requirements.
- 8.2 Nothing in this Selection Policy obliges Athletics NZ to select a full contingent of athletes in any particular event regardless of the WMRCs Technical Regulations or the LOC entry requirements.

Ratification Review

- 8.3 The Board must ratify selections prior to the Selection Announcement.

Selection Announcements

- 8.4 The Selection Announcement of the athletes selected for the 2020 WMRCs will be published on the Athletics NZ website by 5pm on Friday 18 September 2020.

9. NON-SELECTION QUERIES &/OR APPEALS PROCESS

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

Non-selection appeals process

- 9.2 The publishing of the Selection Announcement on Athletics NZ website by 5pm on Friday 18 September 2020 will be deemed to be the commencement of the 48 hour period to lodge non-selection appeals in accordance with this Selection Policy.
- 9.3 Any athlete whose selection is not ratified by the Athletics NZ Board in accordance with this Selection Policy may appeal their non-selection to the New Zealand Sports Tribunal providing they:
 - a) Have submitted an [Application for Selection Form](#) in accordance with timelines contained in this Selection Policy; AND
 - b) Submit a notice of their intention to appeal their non-selection in writing to the CEO of Athletics NZ ([Peter Pfitzinger](#)) within 48 hours of the decision of the Athletics NZ Board being published on the Athletics NZ website (i.e. the Selection Announcement).
- 9.4 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 By-Laws of Athletics NZ will not apply.

10. VILLAGE PRE-ENTRY PROOF OF FITNESS

- 10.1 All selections for the 2020 WMRCs remain conditional until each athlete has met their Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness.
- 10.2 All Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness will be confirmed by the Convenor and/or 2020 WMRCs Team Leader in consultation with the athlete and their coach.
- 10.3 The time frame for all athletes to achieve specific Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness will be at the discretion of the Convenor and/or the 2020 WMRCs Team Leader. However, generally it will be prior to them leaving for the 2020 WMRCs from New Zealand or their place of residence.
- 10.4 Generally, failure by a selected athlete to meet the Village Pre-Entry Proof of Fitness may result in that athlete who has been selected to the team being withdrawn from the 2020 WMRCs. Such a decision is at the discretion of the Convenor in consultation with the 2020 WMRCs Team Leader and the Selectors.
- 10.5 Athletics NZ reserves the right to select a replacement athlete if any athlete is withdrawn or otherwise fails to meet the requirements set out in this Selection Policy.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION

11.1 This Selection Policy may be amended at any time prior to the Selection Announcement by the Athletics NZ Board. Any amendment will be published on the Athletics NZ website.

Funding

11.2 The 2020 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.

11.3 Athletes considering competing at the 2020 WMRCs should plan their funding and budgets early. The trip cost is expected to be around NZ \$7,000 per athlete.

11.4 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 2020 WMRCs Team Leader and/or support staff (if applicable).

11.5 For athlete-funded competitions, two (2) weeks prior to the departure of “the team” from New Zealand all athlete-funding components must be paid in full to Athletics NZ.

Please Note: Non-payment of the athlete-funded component 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 2020 WMRCs. Unpaid amounts will remain outstanding and will be subject to collection in accordance with [Athletics NZ Debtors policy](#).

Bond

11.6 Athletes seeking selection for the 2020 WMRCs will be required to pay a Bond of \$250.00 along with their [Application for Selection Form](#) by 5pm Sunday 6 September 2020. The conditions associated with Bond are:

- a) The Bond should either be paid by:
 - i. 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 4.2% processing fee; or
 - ii. Depositing cleared funds into 12-3192-0002433-00 noting “2020 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

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 [Brianna Maynard](#) 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 \$100 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) 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 2020 WMRCs team (i.e., it is not an “extra” fee/levy).

Team Leader/Coach/Staff Appointment

11.7 In some instances, when there is a need for an Athletics NZ High Performance staff member to fill a team management position, at the discretion of the Athletics NZ High Performance Director and approval of the Athletics NZ Board, team management appointments will not be advertised.

- 11.8 If required, expressions of interest for the position of 2020 WMRCs Team Leader will be advertised by Friday 7 August 2020.
- 11.9 If required, additional support staff and/or coaches, will be advertised by Friday 7 August 2020.
- 11.10 For further information regarding staff appointments contact [Brianna Maynard](#).

12. ADDITIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

- 14.1 For further information regarding the 2020 WMRCs refer to the [website](#) or contact [Brianna Maynard](#).

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