

2023 WORLD MOUNTAIN & TRAIL RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

SELECTION POLICY: 7 – 10 JUNE INNSBRUCK - STUBAI, AUSTRIA

Note: Due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, there are ongoing risks relating to international travel. The wellbeing and safety of Athletics New Zealand members and staff is of key importance. The final decision whether to send a team to the 2023 World Mountain & Trail Running Championships will be at the discretion of the Board of Athletics New Zealand following consultation with the Chief Executive Officer and any other personnel that the Board deems appropriate and after consideration of all relevant factors as determined by the Board, including then current overseas travel advice 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) will consider athletes for selection to compete at the 2023 World Mountain & Trail Running Championships ("**2023 WMTRC**").
- 1.2 The 2023 WMTRC is an Athletics NZ "Silver" Singlet competition, i.e., a World Athletics ("**WA**"), an International Association for Ultrarunners ("**IAU**") or World Mountain Running Association ("**WMRA**") World Championship.
- 1.3 The 2023 WMTRC is an Out of Stadia opportunity for New Zealand athletes to represent New Zealand for the below purposes:
 - a) Under 20: To provide an international competition opportunity for U20 (Junior) athletes to represent New Zealand in 2023; and
 - b) Senior representation: To provide an on-going opportunity for athletes to represent New Zealand as a senior athlete (i.e., to encourage them to stay in the sport).
- 1.4 The 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC:
 - a) John Bowden ("**Convenor**"); and
 - b) Kate McIlroy; and
 - c) Geoff Shaw.
- 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 2023 WMTRC, an athlete must:

- a) Have achieved at least one Placing Standard (refer to clause 4) that is listed on the official Athletics NZ rankings website or on a verified international competitions results page and that is achieved within the following Qualification Period; and

Categories/Events	Qualification Period
All individual and team events (WMRC)	1 October 2021 – 26 March 2023
All individual and team events (TWC)	1 June 2021 – 26 March 2023

- b) Be a registered member of Athletics NZ at the time of achieving their Placing Standard; and
- c) Have submitted an [Application for Selection Form](#) by 5pm Friday 24 February 2023; and
- d) Have competed at the Compulsory Selection Trial (refer to clause 6) or have been granted dispensation from that competition; and
- e) Have satisfied all 2023 WMTRC eligibility, nationality, participation requirements; and
- f) Enter into an athlete agreement with Athletics NZ (“**Athlete Agreement**”)
Note: This agreement will be distributed upon selection; and
- g) Be and remain in “good standing” with Athletics NZ and at all times comply with all Athletics NZ and/or 2023 WMTRC 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
- h) 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 World Athletics Technical Regulations or the 2023 WMTRC Local Organizing Committee (“**LOC**”) entry requirements.

4. SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2023 WMTRC based on results achieved in New Zealand during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved one Placing Standard of the following in relation to:

Mountain Running

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

Trail Running

- c) For an Individual Event in a trail running category where the Selectors decide not to select a team, an athlete should have achieved a Top 3 placing in a NZ trail running race which is 50km or greater in distance; and/or
- d) For a Team Event in trail running, an athlete should have achieved a Top 3 placing in a NZ trail running race which is 50km or greater in distance.

4.2 For an athlete to be considered for selection for the 2023 WMTRC based on results achieved outside of New Zealand during the Qualification Period, they must have achieved one of the following in relation to:

Mountain Running

- a) For an Individual Event in a mountain running category where the Selectors decide not to select a team, then an athlete should have achieved a Top 10 placing 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.
- b) For a Team Event in mountain running, an athlete should have achieved a Top 20 placing 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.

Trail Running

- c) For an Individual Event in a trail running category where the Selectors decided not to select a team, then an athlete should have achieved a Top 5 placing in a trail running race during the Qualification Period. Results will be considered from IAU labelled Trail Races and any Major International Trail Running event. The race/s is to be 50km or greater in distance.
- d) For a Team Event in trail running, an athlete should have achieved a Top 10 placing in at least one trail running race during the Qualification Period. Results will be considered from IAU labelled Trail Races and any Major International Trail Running event. The race/s is to be 50km or greater in distance.

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

5. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Age Requirements for each Category

- 5.1 Any athlete aged 20 years or older on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e., for the 2023 Championships born in 2003 or earlier) may compete in any senior category.
- 5.2 Any athlete aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2023 Championships born in 2004 or 2005) may compete in the senior category (10-12km only) or the junior category.
- 5.3 Any athlete aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e. for the 2023 Championships born in 2004 or 2005) cannot compete in the senior 35+ km categories.
- 5.4 Any athlete aged 17 years or younger on 31 December of the year of the competition (i.e., for the 2023 Championships born in 2006 or later) cannot be entered in any category.

Categories and Distances

- 5.5 Teams can be entered in the following categories:
 - a) Mountain races: Up to four athletes can compete with three to score.
 - b) Trail races: Up to six athletes can compete with three to score.
- 5.6 Races at the 2023 WMTRC will be contested over the following approximate distances:

Classic Up & Down – Junior	6.7km	370m ascent/descent
Classic Up & Down – Senior	13.7km	781m ascent/descent
Classic Uphill – Senior	7.0km	1020m ascent
Short Trail Race – Senior	45km	+3200m/-2772m
Long Trail Race-Senior	85km	+6000m/-6300m

6. COMPULSORY SELECTION TRIAL

- 6.1 The 2022 NZ Mountain Running Championships, 20 August in Queenstown and the 2023 NZ Mountain Running Championships, 18 March in Tauranga are the Compulsory Selection Trials for athletes seeking selection for any Mountain running categories in the 2023 WMTRC.
- 6.2 The 2022 NZ Trail Running Championships, 16 October in Christchurch, both long and short trail distances, and the 2023 NZ Trail Running Championships, 26 March in Dunedin, short trail only are the Compulsory Selection Trials for athletes seeking selection for any Trail running categories in the 2023 WMTRC.
- 6.3 All athletes seeking selection for the 2023 WMTRC must have either:
 - a) Competed in the relevant Compulsory Selection Trial; or
 - b) Have received written dispensation from the Convenor for the Compulsory Selection Trial (refer to clauses 6.3 and 6.4); or
 - c) Have received a medical exemption from the Compulsory Selection Trial as a result of injury or illness that occurred during the competition, or during the 10 days before the competition, that can be verified by the provision of a medical certificate (refer to clause 6.5).

Dispensation from Compulsory Selection Trial

6.4 Athletes seeking dispensation from the Compulsory Selection Trial (other than a medical exemption covered by clause 6.5) must make a request by e-mail no later than ten (10) days prior to the competition, to the [Convenor](#).

6.5 Dispensations from the Compulsory Selection Trial will be at the sole discretion of the Convenor and will generally only be granted to athletes in exceptional circumstances.

Medical Exemption from Compulsory Selection Trial

6.6 Athletes who are unable to effectively compete at the Compulsory Selection Trial as a result of injury or illness that occurred during the Compulsory Selection Trial or during the ten (10) days immediately prior to the start of their event at that Compulsory Selection Trial must make a request for a Medical Exemption by e-mail. This must be accompanied by a copy of a Medical Certificate to verify their situation, as soon as they are aware of their situation, but no later than 48 hours after the conclusion of the Compulsory Selection Trial, to the [Convenor](#).

Requirements for athletes granted a Dispensation or a Medical Exemption.

6.7 Athletes who are granted a dispensation or a medical exemption from competing in the Compulsory Selection Trial will generally be required to complete an alternative Proof of Fitness trial by a date agreed between the athlete, their personal coach (if applicable) and the Convenor in consultation with the 2023 WMTRC Team Leader.

7. ADDITIONAL SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Subject to the entry and eligibility requirements stipulated in this Selection Policy, the winners of their respective category at the Compulsory Selection Trial (i.e., the 2022 NZ Mountain Running Championships, 20 August in Queenstown and the 2023 NZ Mountain Running Championships, 18 March in Tauranga, the 2022 NZ Trail Running Championships, 16 October in Christchurch and the 2023 NZ Trail Running Championships (short only), 26 March 2023) will have priority consideration for selection in that category at the 2023 WMTRC, provided those athletes submit an [Application for Selection Form](#) as required by this Selection Policy.

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 athletes to compete in the Individual Event for the respective category.

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 Notwithstanding the provisions outlined in this Selection Policy, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to select any eligible athlete for the 2023 WMTRC if they, in consultation with the Athletics NZ Community Manager believe it is in the best interests of Athletics NZ to do so.

7.4 It is recognized that due to the nature of mountain and trail 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.

- 7.5 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 2023 WMTRC, including but not limited to the athlete's:
- a) Performance at the relevant Compulsory Selection Trial/s;
 - b) Potential to be highly competitive at the 2023 WMTRC;
 - c) Competitive record against other athletes under consideration for selection in the same event.
 - d) Quality and consistency of performances in other mountain and trail running performances during the Qualification Period.
 - e) Commitment and focus on competing at the 2023 WMTRC.
 - f) History of performances at previous selected individual or team events; and/or
 - g) Any other factors reasonably considered by the Selectors to constitute extenuating circumstances.
- 7.6 In any decision regarding the selection of athletes for the 2023 WMTRC, the Selectors may, in their sole discretion, also consider 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.
- 7.7 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 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC will be published on the Athletics NZ website by 5pm on Friday 31 March 2023.

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 time of publishing of the Selection Announcement on Athletics NZ website 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 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC Team Leader. However, generally it will be prior to them leaving for the 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC. Such a decision is at the discretion of the Convenor in consultation with the 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC 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 2023 WMTRC Team Leader and/or support staff (if applicable).

Note: The funding information (refer to clause 11.2 and 11.3) does not include any costs that may be incurred, nor does it account for the duration of time that may be spent in managed isolation, because of quarantine regulations upon return to New Zealand or the athlete's place of residence. Any quarantine costs will be at the athlete's own expense as part of their decision to participate in the 2023 WMTRC.

11.5 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-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 2023 WMTRC. Unpaid amounts will remain outstanding and will be subject to collection in accordance with [Athletics NZ Debtors policy](#).

Team Leader /Coach/Staff Appointment

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

11.7 If required, the Team Leader, in consultation with the Athletics NZ Community Manager, will identify a shortlist of possible team coaches and liaise with those coaches regarding their availability for the 2023 WMTRC.

11.8 If required, additional support staff and/or coaches, will be advertised by Friday 31 March 2023

11.9 For further information regarding staff appointments contact [John Bowden](#).

12. ADDITIONAL COMPETITION INFORMATION

12.1 For further information regarding the 2023 WMTRC refer to the website www.innsbruck-stubai2023.com or contact [John Bowden](#).