

2026 School Games National Finals Selection Policy v1

4th & 5th September 2026

Overview:

The School Games National Finals is a biennial multi-sport event for the UK's school-age athletes, organised by the Youth Sport Trust and funded by Sport England. It brings together top young athletes from across the country to compete in a variety of sports, promoting physical activity, teamwork, and personal development.

Eligibility:

To be considered for selection for this event:

- Athletes must be competing as an Under 18 on or before the 31st August 2026. (D.O.B. 1st September 2009 to 31st August 2011)
- Athletes must be currently registered with a Home Country affiliated club.
- Athletes must be in full time education which includes state education, independent education, home schooling, college or an apprenticeship that includes college education.
- Athletes must have competed in their Home Country National or Schools Championships or their County Schools Championships.
- Athletes must not currently be serving a period of ineligibility or a provisional or permanent suspension for a doping violation or for any other reason of misconduct.
- Athletes will be required to sign the Welsh Athletics Team Members' Agreement ("TMA") and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so before the date of the competition will result in their selection being withdrawn.
- All athletes wishing to be selected must express their interest by 6th July 2026. Link for this is [here](#).

Format of competition:

- 2026 will see a new format of competition of this event - Dynamic New Athletics. Full details of the 'DNA' can be found here – [Dynamic New Athletics](#).
- 10 Integrated Teams will compete.
- Teams will be based on geographic regions. Athletes will be allocated a team based on their residential region.
- All teams will compete across both days – Qualifiers on day 1 with all teams progressing to finals on day 2.
- As per the disciplines below, each team is to have one athlete in each individual event and one relay team for 4x400m relay and for the Hunt.
- All athletes will compete on day 1 & day 2. The composition of the team will not necessarily stay the same across both days
- Each team will be made of 22 athletes. Team composition will be made up of:
 - 9 male + 9 female athletes
 - 4 Para Athletes (2 male + 2 female)

Athletes will be selected either for individual events or for relay events, not both. This is to ensure each team meets the overall size of 22 athletes and para-athletes.

Events:

Track (Finals)

- 100m women
- 200m men
- 80m/100m Hurdles men & women
- 800m women
- 400m Hurdles men
- 4x400m Relay (2 male+2 female)
- The Hunt Relay (600m women, 400m men, 200m women, 800m men)

Jumps & Throws (all head-to-head competition)

- Long Jump Men
- High Jump Women
- Shot Put Women
- Javelin Throw Men

Selection Process:

- Selection meeting will take place week commencing 6th July 2026.
- A maximum of 22 athletes will be selected for each team.
- A reserve list will also be selected on the day based on the criteria set out within this document.
- The selected team will be published w/c 13th July 2026.
- The selection panel will be made up of the Welsh Athletics Performance Team.
- The panel may also (at their discretion) seek assistance from anyone else that may be of help. (N.B any voting member of the panel shall declare his/her conflict of interest in respect of any selection issue and shall not be entitled to vote on that issue.
- Athletes must submit an expression of interest to be considered for selection. Deadline for this is the 6th July 2026. Expression of interest is [here](#). (Please note completing *this form does not guarantee selection. It is an important part of the process, to ensure we have all the required information for those athletes successfully selected*).

Selection Criteria:

- The consideration for performance is from 1st April 2026 to 6th July 2026.
- The following considerations will also be considered during selection (please note this criterion is not listed in any order of priority and those involved in selecting will exercise discretion fairly and without bias in making selection decisions).
 - Power of 10 Rankings
 - Performance history
 - Head-to-head performances within the past 12 months
 - Career trajectory

- Illness/injury status
- If applicable, any further relevant evidence/information

Conditions:

- o Performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by the World Athletics, its Area Associations, or its National Member Federations.
- o Domestic competitions will only be accepted if they are achieved in Permit Level 2 competition (or higher) OR any of the following Permit Level 1 competitions: Please visit - <https://www.uka.org.uk/competitions/fixtures/>
 - Welsh Schools Championships.
 - All County / Regional Championships
 - All County Schools' Championships
 - All divisions of the British Athletics League (BAL)
 - All Premier division UK Youth Development League (YDL) matches (upper age group).
 - Scottish Schools National Champs, Scottish League and Scottish District Champs
 - Northern Ireland & Ulster Age Group Championships
 - Ulster Schools Championships
 - Any Open Meeting run by Athletics Northern Ireland
- o For the avoidance of doubt, any Permit Level 1 competitions not listed above will NOT be valid for entry standard purposes.
- o Providing the sprints are timed using photo finish and that sprints and jumps all use a wind gauge.
- o Wind-assisted performances (or performances achieved at events where wind measurement was not available) will not be accepted.
- o Hand-timed performances in 100m, 200m, 800m, 80m/100m Hurdles and 400m Hurdles will not be accepted.
- o Indoor performances for all field events and for races of 400m or longer will be accepted.

** The panel reserve the right to apply a level of discretion for events with limited competition opportunity.*

Appeals:

- o There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the School Games Teams made by the Panel. The provisions of the British Athletics Selection and Nomination "Fast" Appeals Procedure do not apply to the School Games team's selection for the 2026 School Games National Finals.

Amendments:

- o Welsh Athletics reserves the right to amend or vary this selection policy where necessary at any time. Any such amendments or variations will take effect from the first date of publication of the amended selection policy on the Welsh Athletics website.

Additional Information:

- Transport will be provided for teams. Athletes will be expected to travel with their team.
- Athletes will be provided with accommodation. Athletes will be expected to arrive at Loughborough on Thursday 3rd September and will leave after the competition on Saturday 5th September.
- Athletes will be provided with a team vest and a school games hoodie.
- For more information about the School Games National Finals contact – rhys.williams@welshathletics.org