

**Schools' International Athletics Board (SIAB) Cross Country – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025**  
**Callander Park, Falkirk, Scotland**  
**Selection Policy – published October 2024**

## **Overview**

The Welsh Athletics performance vision is to deliver a sustainable sector leading elite performance system that consistently transfers talented athletes to UKA's WCP whilst winning medals at Commonwealth Games. As part of this strategy, Welsh Athletics is committed to providing competition opportunities to developing and aspiring Welsh international athletes. Opportunities to compete for Wales are categorised as one of the following;

1. **International Opportunity** - a competitive opportunity in pathway events for senior Welsh athletes.
2. **Representative Opportunity** - a development opportunity in either pathway or non-pathway events for both junior and senior Welsh athletes.

The Schools' International Athletics Board (SIAB) Cross Country is classified as a **Representative Opportunity**.

## **Selection Policy Aim**

The aim of the selection policy is to provide junior Welsh athletes demonstrating potential with a **developmental opportunity** in a non-pathway event (cross country).

## **Athlete Eligibility**

To be considered for a Welsh Schools' Team athletes must be in school/college in Wales or registered with an Education Authority in Wales.

## **Competition Format**

Welsh Schools' Athletics Association and Welsh Athletics will select the following teams to compete at the SIAB Cross Country International Fixture:

- 8 Junior Boys and 8 Junior Girls (Schools years 8 and 9) - Individual Races
- 8 Middle Boys and 8 Middle Girls (Schools years 10s and 11) - Individual Races
- 2 Junior Boys and 2 Junior Girls – Mixed Relay
- 2 Middle Boys and 2 Middle Girls – Mixed Relay

Reserves will be selected for all races, with a boy and girl reserve selected for both relays.

## Selection Process

Selection of the team will use the following process to ensure the **selection policy aim** is met:

### Individual Races:

- The Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships (to be held at Brecon **on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February**) will act as the trial race. The first 6 in each race will be automatically selected in the Junior and Middle teams
- The final 2 places and reserve place for the Junior and Middle teams will be selected using the following criteria:
  - Recent Performance History (9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025: priority given to cross country races and to races in 2025)
  - Head-to-head records (9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025: priority given to cross country races and to races in 2025)

### Mixed Relay Races:

- The winner of the Welsh Indoor 1500m U15 and U17 Championships (U15 championships to be held **on the weekend of 1<sup>st</sup> - 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025** and U17 championships to be held **on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025**) to be automatically selected in the Junior and Middle Mixed Relay teams respectively
- The final male and female places and the reserve places for the mixed relays will be selected using the following criteria:
  - Recent Performance History (9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025: priority given to 1500m races and to races in 2025)
  - Head-to-head records (9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025: priority given to 1500m and to races in 2025)

Athletes who meet the automatic criteria for selection in both the individual race and the mixed relay race, will be asked which race they would prefer to compete in prior to the selection meeting. Whichever race they choose, their automatic place will not go down to the next finisher in the trial race.

The selection meeting will take place on **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February** and teams will have been announced by **Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March**.

The selection panel will consist of **the WSAA International secretary, the WSAA Chair, 1 representative from each of the eight school districts and 1 Welsh Athletics representative. Selections will be ratified by the Welsh Athletics Head of Performance.** Selection meeting notes will be made available.

Please note that, if having been selected you become unavailable, evidence for why you are unavailable will need to be supplied to the Welsh Athletics Head of Performance and the

Welsh Athletics NTDC for endurance.

### **Appeals Process**

There shall be no right to appeal the selection of the Welsh team made by the selection panel.

### **De-selection Process**

De-selection of an athlete may occur following:

1. Failure to adhere to the Welsh Athletics code of conduct
2. In the event of an athlete sustaining an injury or illness following acceptance of their position on the team, they are required to inform the team leader immediately. If required, evidence will have to be supplied. If it is deemed that the injury or illness will negatively affect the athlete's performance this will result in deselection.

### **Equal Opportunities**

Welsh Athletics will not discriminate in the selection of any athlete on the basis of any protected characteristics.

### **Amendment**

Welsh Athletics reserves the right to amend this selection policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publically available (including the date on which the amendment was made) on the [Welsh Athletics website](#)