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**Home Countries Cross Country - Saturday 12th November
2022, Milton Keynes
Selection Policy – published September 2022**

Overview

The Home Countries Cross Country will take place at Milton Keynes on Saturday 12th November 2022. This will be a combined event with the UK Cross Challenge. Welsh Athletics continues to value international competition opportunities and the role it plays in developing Welsh athletes.

Selection Policy Aim

The selection panel will attempt to select the best team possible to represent Wales.

Athlete Eligibility

To be considered for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:

1. Be eligible to compete for Wales by either:
 - a. Birth
 - b. Parentage
 - c. Retention
 - d. Residence (minimum 3 years)

Competition Format

The Home Countries Cross Country provides a **Senior and U20 Age Group** competition opportunity.

Teams of up to **4 Senior Men, 4 Senior Women, 4 U20 Men and 4 U20 Women** may be selected. The age groups follow IAAF rules, so U20 athletes are those born in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Wales will compete against teams from England, Northern Ireland, North of England, England Midlands, South of England and Combined Forces.

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Selection Process:

The Cardiff Cross Challenge on **Saturday 15th October** will act as the trial race for the Welsh team. The first three Welsh athletes across the finish line in each age group race will be selected, with the final place at the discretion of the selection panel. To be considered for the team athletes need to do one of the following:

- 1) take part in the trial race
- 2) if unable to do the trial race, then contact the National Talent Development Coordinator before the trial race to explain why unable to do the trial race and to give an indication of current form. National Talent Development Coordinator email address is steve.mitchell@welshathletics.org. This will be taken into account when discussing discretionary places.

Selection will take place on **18th October 2022** and the teams will be announced as soon as possible after this date.

The **International Selection Panel** will comprise of **2 voting members from the Welsh Athletics Performance Team; a Team Manager and 2 individuals nominated by the Road and Cross-Country Committee.**

Welsh Athletics is committed to offering equal opportunities to all athletes in Wales. Any Welsh athlete will be considered as part of the selection process, providing they have met the criteria that is laid out within this policy. Welsh Athletics will not discriminate in the selection of any athlete on the basis of any protected characteristics.

There is no obligation to fill all available positions.

Selection Process (Cont.)

Incoming to its decision, the Panel will consider the following criteria when it comes to discretionary places (in no particular priority order):

1. Current form
2. 2022 form and fitness
3. Evidence of competing at cross country races in previous cross country seasons
4. Future potential and associated progression / development
5. Head-to-head competitive records
6. Previous / other Event - Championship performances
7. Injury status
8. Athletes who are supportive of Welsh Athletics
9. Any other factors that, in the panel's opinion, give Wales the best chance of success in the match

Appeals Process:

There shall be no right of appeal to 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 athlete 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 it is deemed that the injury or illness will negatively affect the athlete's performance this will result in de-selection

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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) at www.welshathletics.org