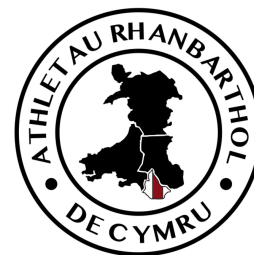




SOUTH WALES REGIONAL ATHLETICS COUNCIL



Regional Selection & Eligibility Policy v1.0

Version Number	Adoption Date	Revision Date	Publisher / Reviewer	Summary of Changes
1.0		August 2027	Chair (KP)	New policy (July 2026)

Selection & Eligibility Policy

1. Purpose

This policy sets out how South Wales Regional Athletics Council ("the Council") selects athletes and teams to represent the region, and how it applies the regional eligibility rules referred to in the Constitution, so that selection decisions are fair, consistent and transparent for athletes, clubs and Team Managers.

This is the Council's parent policy on selection and eligibility. Discipline-specific policies sit beneath it and cover only fixture dates, squad sizes and discipline-specific selection criteria — they do not restate the general principles, appeals process, data protection or safeguarding requirements set out here. Where any discipline-specific document appears to conflict with this policy, this policy takes precedence.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Selection of athletes for South Wales regional teams in Welsh Inter-Regional events and other representative fixtures (Constitution, Clause 4(7)).
- Entry and eligibility to compete in regional championships organised by the Council (Constitution, Clause 4(6)).
- Team Managers appointed under Constitution, Clause 9(1)(a).

3. Eligibility to represent South Wales or compete in regional championships

Eligibility is governed by Constitution, Clause 15, which currently applies the UK Athletics competition rules (Rule 21, S6(6)). An athlete must:

- Be registered with Welsh Athletics or another home country athletics federation, and be registered on the day of the event; and
- Meet one of the regional qualifications: (i) birth within the region; (ii) nine months' continuous bona fide residence within the region immediately before the championship or fixture; or (iii) attendance at a school, college or university within the region (note: this route does not qualify an athlete for UK Inter-County competitions).

An athlete who has competed for another region or county may not compete in a South Wales regional championships, nor represent, the South Wales region in that same year.

Where an athlete supplies documentation to evidence a residence-based claim (e.g. proof of address), this will be handled in line with Section 8 (Data protection) below and used solely to verify eligibility.

Caerphilly County Borough boundary: athletes affected by the 2016 Caerphilly County Borough boundary change should refer to Constitution, Clause 16, which sets out transitional and ongoing eligibility arrangements for that area.

4. Regional championships — age groups and entry

The Council's regional championships will follow current UK Athletics age categories. Officers, Team Managers and entry administrators should note the following, effective from 1 April 2026:

- UKA-recognised competition age groups are now U14, U16, U18, U20, Senior and Masters (replacing the previous U13, U15, U17, U20 structure).
- The competition year for age-group purposes runs from 1 October, so an athlete's age group is set at the start of the autumn season and carries through cross country, road and track & field competition for that year.
- Age category is determined by date of birth against the 31 August school-year cut-off, not by school year group directly — an athlete's age-group year and school year will not always match.
- Masters categories: athletes may enter the Senior age category, with awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the 35–44 age group and then in 10-year age groups from 45 upwards.
- Entries must be received by the Council at least 14 days before the championship (any alternative arrangements will be advised in advance), entries received after this point cannot be guaranteed processing in time for the championship.
- Athlete-owned throwing implements may be used in field events, subject to being weighed and checked by a qualified official to confirm they meet the age-specific specification before use.
- No medals will be awarded for club team performances at regional championships unless the Executive decides otherwise for a specific event.

5. Inclusion and eligibility disputes

Selection and entry decisions will be made without discrimination on the grounds of sex, race, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy or maternity, or marriage/civil partnership, in line with the Council's adopted Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Where an eligibility question involves para-athletics classification or female category eligibility, the Council will apply current Welsh Athletics / UK Athletics guidance on these matters, and will seek advice from Welsh Athletics before making a final decision.

6. Selection principles

Where selection is required — for example for inter-regional teams — the Council will apply the following principles:

- Selection will be based on published objective criteria (e.g. ranked performances within a defined qualifying window, championship placings, or squad-size limits per event) circulated to clubs in advance of the qualifying period.
- Selection criteria and squad sizes will be agreed by the relevant Competitions Officer(s) and confirmed by the Executive before the qualifying window opens. Discipline-specific criteria are published in the relevant discipline policy.
- Selection decisions will be made by the relevant Competitions Officer(s), in consultation with the Team Manager(s), and recorded in writing.
- Athletes will be notified of selection decisions in good time to arrange travel, and non-selected athletes may request written reasons.
- Any officer or selector with a personal connection to an athlete under consideration (e.g. as parent, coach or club official) must declare this to the Chairman or another officer. A second Team Manager or officer must then review and confirm the decision before the squad is published. This principle applies identically across every discipline; discipline policies should not restate it with different wording.

7. Appeals

An athlete, parent/guardian (where the athlete is a minor) or club may, before submitting a formal appeal, query a selection or eligibility decision directly with the relevant Team Manager or Competitions Officer. Written feedback explaining the basis of the decision must be provided within 7 days of the query being raised. This informal query stage is intended to resolve straightforward queries without the need for a formal appeal, but does not affect the right to appeal under this section at any time.

An athlete, parent/guardian (where the athlete is a minor) or club may appeal a selection or eligibility decision — in any discipline — in writing to the Secretary within 7 days of notification, or within 7 days of receiving written feedback from an informal query under the paragraph above, whichever is later, setting out the grounds for appeal.

Appeals relating to a selection decision (as opposed to an eligibility decision) will only be heard once the appealing athlete has declared their availability for the fixture in question.

Appeals will be considered by the Chair, or a panel appointed by the Executive, who were not involved in the original decision, in line with Constitution, Clause 18 (Interpretation).

This is the Council's single appeals route for all selection and eligibility decisions. Discipline-specific policies should not describe an alternative or additional process; they may only cross-refer to this section.

8. Data protection

Personal data collected for entry, selection and eligibility purposes (including proof-of-residence documentation, dates of birth and contact details) will be held securely, used only for the purpose it was provided, and retained no longer than necessary, in line with the Council's adopted Privacy Policy. Requests to access or correct this data should be directed to the Secretary.

9. Team Managers

Team Managers are appointed by the Executive under Constitution, Clause 9. Team Managers are responsible for squad communication, kit, travel logistics and oversight of the team on the day, and are advised to report to the Executive on each fixture (Constitution, Clause 12(3)(c)).

10. Safeguarding

All selection, entry and team travel arrangements involving athletes under 18 or adults at risk must follow current Welsh Athletics / UK Athletics safeguarding requirements, including appropriate supervision ratios for the age group involved, and overnight travel guidance where relevant, available via the Welsh Athletics Safeguarding & Welfare pages.

Separate open events for younger athletes (Section 5) will have supervision arrangements agreed in advance by the Welfare Officers.

Discipline-specific policies may add procedural detail relevant to that discipline (for example, how selection notifications reach parents/guardians) but should not restate these general requirements.

11. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually by the Executive, or sooner if UK Athletics, Welsh Athletics or Constitutional eligibility rules change.