



Welsh Athletics

Commonwealth Games Gold Coast 2018

Athlete Nomination Policy

Introduction

- 1 This nomination policy has been agreed by Welsh Athletics and Commonwealth Games Wales (CGCW). It provides detail on the process by which Welsh Athletics will arrive at its nominations to CGCW for the selection of athletes within the Welsh Team in Gold Coast 2018 which will be submitted for consideration.
- 2 In all cases, the submission by Welsh Athletics represents a nomination to CGCW for selection. The final decision in selection to the 2018 Games lies with CGCW. Achievement of the nomination criteria therefore represents **eligibility for nomination**, not selection.
- 3 Welsh Athletics will only have the option to nominate those athletes that have qualified under both the Welsh Athletics nomination criteria stated below, the criteria listed in the CGCW Selection Handbook (available on the Team Wales website here; <http://teamwales.cymru/en/>) and the relevant criteria within the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Constitution (available on the CGF website here; <http://www.thecgf.com/about/constitution.pdf>) – both of which should be read in conjunction with this policy.

Nomination Policy Aim

- 4 To nominate a team of athletes capable of competing with distinction at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, with the individuals and or the team having the ability to achieve **at least a top six** placing in the anticipated field.

Athlete Eligibility

- 5 Prospective team members must fulfil the eligibility criteria of the CGF, that is outlined in the CGCW Selection Handbook (available on the Team Wales website here; <http://teamwales.cymru/en/>) and the relevant criteria within the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) Constitution (available on the CGF website here; <http://www.thecgf.com/about/constitution.pdf>)
- 6 Where prospective team members do not comply with the above they will only be nominated for final selection if they receive prior dispensation from the CGF.

Games Competition Format

- 7 The following events will be contested at the 2018 Commonwealth Games within the Athletics programme;

Men

100m, 100m – T12 (T11), 100m – T38 (T37), 100m – T47 (T45/T46), 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 1500m – T54 (T53), 5000m, 10000m, Marathon, Marathon – T54 (T53), 20km Race Walk, 3000m steeplechase, 400m hurdles, 110m hurdles, 4 x 100m Relay, 4 x 400m Relay, Long Jump, Triple Jump, High Jump, Pole Vault, Shot Put, Shot Put – F38 (F37), Discus, Hammer, Javelin, Decathlon

Women

100m, 100m – T35, 100m – T38 (T37), 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, 1500m – T54 (T53), 5000m, 10000m, Marathon, Marathon – T54 (T53), 20km Race Walk, 3000m steeplechase, 400m hurdles, 100m hurdles, 4 x 100m Relay, 4 x 400m Relay, Long Jump, Long Jump – F38 (F37), Triple Jump, High Jump, Pole Vault, Shot Put, Discus, Hammer, Javelin, Javelin – F46 (F45), Heptathlon

Nomination criteria

- 8 CGCW requires that athletes have the ability to finish in the top six or to have the ability to enhance medal potential for a Team Event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The contents of this section are written to reflect and support this.
- 9 To be nominated to the CGCW, athletes must;
- i) compete at the 2017 Welsh Athletics Track and Field Championships*
 - ii) and do so in the discipline in which they wish to compete in at the Games*

Note: This does not apply to the 10,000m, Marathon, 20km Race Walk or Combined Events disciplines, which will not be included in the 2017 Welsh Athletics Track and Field Championships

* Permission to do otherwise must be gained in advance from the Head of Coaching and Performance, which will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, which includes;

- i. Injury or illness
- ii. The athlete is a member of the WCPP and their objectives as part of that programme, directly conflict with participation in the Welsh Championships
- iii. The athlete is studying overseas and is unable to return to the UK at the time of the Championships because of their University / College commitments and regulations

- 10 The number of athletes that can be entered for a discipline is set out by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) as follows;
- a. In an individual discipline, up to three athletes may be entered
 - b. Up to six athletes may be entered for relay events

11 To be **considered for nomination**, Athletes must have achieved a valid “A” or “B” standard. Performances are counted as valid Welsh Athletics “A” or “B” standards if they;

- a. meet or exceed the level shown in Table 1.0, and;
- b. are achieved during the Qualification period (paragraph 12), and;
- c. are achieved in an Eligible Competition (paragraph 13), and;
- d. meet the additional criteria (paragraph 14).

Note: para sport events are not included here as they will be selected from a quota system – as outlined in Paragraph 17

Table 1.0

Women		Event	Men	
B	A		A	B
11.45	11.30	100m	10.20	10.28
23.50	23.20	200m	20.60	20.75
52.50	51.50	400m	45.50	45.90
2.02.50	2.01.50	800m	1.46.50	1.47.50
4.11.00	4.08.00	1500m	3.38.50	3.41.00
15.45.00	15.35.00	5000m	13.30.00	13.38.00
33.00.00	32.30.00	10000m	28.35.00	28.50.00
9.55.00	9.50.00	3000m S/C	8.35.00	8.40.00
57.50	56.00	400mH	49.50	50.00
13.50	13.10	100 / 110mH	13.60	13.80
6.40	6.50	Long Jump	7.95	7.80
13.25	13.80	Triple Jump	16.90	16.40
1.83	1.88	High Jump	2.25	2.21
4.15	4.25	Pole Vault	5.45	5.30
16.25	17.00	Shot Putt	19.50	18.50
57.00	59.00	Discus	61.50	60.00
62.00	65.00	Hammer	70.00	67.00
55.00	59.00	Javelin	79.00	76.00
5750	6000	Heptathlon / Decathlon	7800	7500
1.40.00	1.37.00	20km Walk	1.24.00	1.26.00
2.39.00	2.37.00	Marathon	2.16.00	2.18.00
N/A*	44.25	4 x 100m	39.25	N/A*
N/A*	3.32.00	4 x 400m	3.03.50	N/A*

* Note: Relay teams can be selected based on an alternative set of criteria as outlined in paragraph 16

12 Qualifying performances must be achieved within the “Qualification Period” which is defined as follows;

For the Marathon (including the T54 (T53) Marathon) and 20km Race Walk events;

From: 00.00 (GMT) on 1st July 2016

To: 23.59 (GMT) on 30th November 2017

For the all other events;

From: 00.00 (GMT) on 1st December 2016

To: 23.59 (GMT) on 30th November 2017

13 Qualifying performances must be achieved at one of the following competitions;

- a. Any event organised or sanctioned and certified by the IAAF, its area associations or its member federations
- b. Any event organised or sanctioned and certified by British Athletics
- c. In the case of Marathon events, performances must be achieved on an IAAF “Road Label” accredited course, a list of which can be seen here; <http://www.iaaf.org/competitions/iaaf-label-road-races/calendar/2016>

Any competitive performances outside of these events will only be given consideration if the validity of the performance is confirmed by the appropriate standard of officials and is accepted at the discretion of the Nomination Panel.

14 Qualifying performances must meet all of the following additional criteria (from the IAAF Competition rules available here; <http://www.iaaf.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical>);

- a. Wind assisted performances will not be accepted
- b. Hand timed performances will not be accepted for qualification purposes, but **may** be considered in the event of electronic timing failure
- c. Indoor performances for all events will be accepted
- d. Performances in mixed events between male and female participants, held completely in a stadium, may be accepted under specific circumstances
- e. In all field events, only the single best trial from within a single competition series will be accepted
- f. Multiple performances in official Championships, of Welsh National level or higher, achieved in the same discipline on a single day, will all be counted. In all other cases only one performance per day will be counted as follows;
 - i. In track events only the fastest official result of the day will be counted
 - ii. In throwing events, only the result of the first competition of the day will be counted
 - iii. In horizontal jumping events only the results of the first competition of the day will be counted unless every mark achieved by the athlete was wind assisted in which case a second competition held under better conditions will count

- iv. In vertical jumping events only the results of the first competition of the day will be counted unless the competition was abandoned for safety reasons in which case a second competition held under safer conditions will count

15 The minimum age of athletes permitted to compete at the 2018 Commonwealth Games is governed by IAAF rules, as follows;

- a. Junior Athletes: any athlete aged 18 or 19 on 31 December in the year of competition (born in 1999 or 2000) may compete in any event except the Marathon
- b. Male Youth Athletes: any athlete aged 16 or 17 on 31 December in the year of competition (born in 2001 or 2002) may compete in any event except the throwing events, Decathlon, 10000m and Marathon
- c. Female Youth Athletes: any athlete aged 16 or 17 on 31 December in the year of competition (born in 2001 or 2002) may compete in any event except the 10000m and Marathon
- d. Athletes younger than 16: no athlete younger than 16 years of age on the 31 December in the year of competition (born in 2003 or later) may be entered

16 In making their nominations to the CGCW, the Welsh Athletics nomination panel will use the following criteria;

Individual Events;

- a. Any eligible athlete who has achieved a valid "A" standard (Table 1.0), within the qualification period (paragraph 12), in a recognised competition (paragraph 13) and whose performance fulfils the criteria in paragraph 14, will **automatically receive a nomination** from Welsh Athletics to the CGCW. Please note that this does not guarantee selection, as outlined in paragraph 2
- b. Any eligible athlete who has achieved a valid "B" standard (Table 1.0), within the qualification period (paragraph 12), in a recognised competition (paragraph 13) and whose performance fulfils the criteria in paragraphs 14, will **be considered for a nomination** from Welsh Athletics to the CGCW. In considering athletes who have achieved this criteria and which of those will receive a nomination from Welsh Athletics to the CGCW, the panel will assess the ability of the athlete to achieve the aim of the policy (paragraph 4). In doing so, the following factors will be considered;
 - i. The proximity of the athlete's performance to the "A" standard in that event
 - ii. The consistency of the athlete's performances, demonstrated by performing at or around the "A" or "B" standard within the qualification period (in relevant events)
 - iii. The athlete's performance profile both within the 2017 season and across the 4-year Games cycle from 2014 to 2017
 - iv. Previous Championship performances
 - v. The athlete's position in the 2017 Commonwealth rankings
 - vi. The likely strength of the event at the 2018 Commonwealth Games
 - vii. Position at the 2017 Welsh Championships, where relevant

- viii. Head to head competitive records, where relevant
 - ix. Current form and fitness (athletes may be asked to undertake health and fitness checks prior to nomination to the CGCW or any period thereafter prior to the Games, as required)
 - x. The athlete's long term potential and the potential benefit of attending the 2018 Commonwealth Games in supporting a future medal winning performance
 - xi. Any other factor(s) which in the panel's opinion will impact on an athlete's ability to finish in the top six at the Games
- c. At its sole discretion, the nomination panel **may** consider nominating an athlete who has not achieved the relevant "A" or "B" standard, but who they strongly believe has the potential to win a medal at the Games but that the attainment of the relevant standard has not been possible due to an unforeseen situation (long term injury etc.). The body of evidence to support a nomination under these circumstances must be overwhelming.

Relay Events;

- a. A relay team that has achieved a valid "A" standard (Table 1.0), within the qualification period (paragraph 12), in a recognised competition (paragraph 13) and whose performance fulfils the criteria in paragraphs 14, will **automatically receive a nomination** from Welsh Athletics to the CGCW. Please note that this does not guarantee selection, as outlined in paragraph 2
- b. At its sole discretion, the selection panel **may** consider nominating a relay team who has not achieved the relevant "A" standard, but who they strongly believe has the potential to achieve the aim of the policy (paragraph 4). This would **normally** occur when two or more individual athletes who make up part of the relay team are already nominated in individual events and where the other individual athletes who would make up the remaining places are within reasonable proximity to their individual event standards.

It should be noted that the nomination from Welsh Athletics to the CGCW represents the nomination of a team – not individual athletes. The composition of that team remains at the discretion of the nomination panel and the CGCW, and may not include all of the athletes who ran in the teams whose qualification performances were considered as part of the nomination process. The nomination of individual athletes to support relay teams will be based on the following factors;

- i. The proximity of the athlete's performance to the "A" or "B" standard within the qualification period (in the corresponding individual event(s))
- ii. The consistency of the athlete's performances, demonstrated by performing at or around the "A" or "B" standard within the qualification period (in the corresponding individual event(s))
- iii. Position at the 2017 Welsh Championships (in the corresponding individual event(s))
- iv. The athlete's specific relay skills, as determined and recommended by the Welsh Athletics relay coaches

- v. The athlete's attendance at, and support for, Welsh Athletics relay programme training sessions
- vi. Head to head competitive records with other eligible athletes
- vii. Current form and fitness (athletes may be asked to undertake health and fitness checks prior to nomination to the CGCW or any period thereafter prior to the Games, as required)
- viii. The athlete's long term potential and the potential benefit of attending the 2018 Commonwealth Games in supporting a future medal winning performance
- ix. Any other factor(s) which in the panel's opinion will impact on an athlete's ability to support the relay team at the Games

If an athlete is selected as part of a relay team, but is not selected in an individual event, then their priority will always be to support the relay team in the pursuit of achieving the aim of the policy (paragraph 4). However, at the sole discretion of the panel, an athlete who is not already nominated as an individual, **may** be nominated in an individual event, if it is deemed to be in the best interests of the relay team and the athlete concerned.

Typically, Welsh Athletics would look to nominate a total of 5 individual athletes as part of a relay team in order to provide the necessary support for the "strike four" in the event of injury, illness or any other factors that would prevent one of the "strike four" from competing in one of the rounds. However, it is possible that only 4, or up to 6 individual athletes could be nominated as part of the relay team.

In the event that one or more of the "strike four" relay athletes is forced to withdraw from the Games team prior to departure for the Games (for any reason), then it will be at the discretion of the CGCW, in consultation with Welsh Athletics, as to whether the relay team is also withdrawn at that time.

17 Para-Sport athletes will receive an invitation to compete from the CGF, based on a quota system adopted by the CGF in line with IPC Commonwealth rankings. However, athletes must show consistent form within the qualification period (paragraph 12) in order to be nominated by Welsh Athletics. Due to the limited competition opportunities available, an athlete who is nominated would be expected to demonstrate genuinely competitive form and fitness

Note: Para-Sport nominations will be considered in conjunction with the Para-Sport Athlete Allocation System for Athletics that can be seen in Appendix 4

18 Para-Sport athletes must hold a current IPC Licence and have a permanent IPC Classification

19 The onus of providing evidence of the achievement of a performance rests with the athlete / coach

20 Where an athlete attains the nomination criteria in one event, they may still be nominated for a second event, but would be expected to prioritise the event in which they have achieved the nomination criteria

- 21 In circumstances deemed appropriate by the Head of Coaching and Performance, an athlete may be requested to complete a fitness test prior to nomination to the CGCW. Specific details of this testing can be seen in Appendix 3.

Nomination and Appeals Process

- 22 The Welsh Athletics Gold Coast 2018 Nomination Panel (as detailed in Appendix 1), as appointed by the Board of Directors, will nominate athletes to the CGCW, in accordance with the nomination criteria detailed above. In the event that any of the nomination panel member has a conflict of interest in relation to the nomination of any person or team, they shall declare it to the other members of the nomination panel and shall not exercise their vote in relation to the nomination of that person or team.
- 23 The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games qualifying period for Welsh Athletics will start and finish as detailed in paragraph 12.
- 24 The Welsh Athletics nomination panel will meet on the 4th December 2017 to discuss and confirm nominations to the CGCW.
- 25 Following the Welsh Athletics nomination panel meeting listed in paragraph 24, a member of the nomination panel will contact, by telephone and in confidence, those athletes who the panel have nominated to the CGCW. This will be done within 24 hours (i.e. by 9pm on the 5th December) of the nomination panel meeting.
- 26 Athletes who do not receive a telephone call from a member of the nomination panel within 24 hours (i.e. by 9pm on the 5th December), should consider themselves as being not included in the list of nominations to the CGCW. Confirmation of this can be sought by contacting the Head of Coaching and Performance (as detailed in Appendix 2). Those athletes who are not included in the list of nominations to the CGCW will have the right to appeal (to Welsh Athletics) their non-nomination, as long as the appeal conforms to the details outlined in Appendix 2).
- 27 Appeals will be considered by the Welsh Athletics Appeals Panel (as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2) on the 8th December 2017. All athletes who have appealed will be notified of the decision of the Appeals Panel by telephone and in writing. Telephone notification will be made within 24 hours of the Appeals Panel meeting.
- 28 The proposed list of nominees will be submitted to CGCW on the 10th December 2017.
- 29 The CGCW selection panel will meet to consider the nominations in mid-December 2017 and will then make recommendations to the CGCW Board, who will confirm the team selection.
- 30 Welsh Athletics will confirm both non-selection and selection to nominated athletes before Christmas of 2017, by telephone and in writing.
- 31 Athletes will have the right of appeal to the CGCW, following their non-selection, until 17.00 on the 5th January 2018 – as detailed in the CGCW Selection Handbook

32 CGCW will confirm the final Athletics team selections in January 2018, subject to any appeals that may be pending.

33 Nominations must be kept confidential until CGCW have completed their selection process. Nominated / non-nominated athletes are not permitted to make any announcements to the media or general public in any form whatsoever (including any social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook) of their possible confirmed selection or non-selection prior to the official team announcement by the CGCW of such selection. Breach of this clause may impact on an athlete's selection or appeal.

34 Final selection to the Games team is dependent on receipt of relevant information required by CGCW such as the CGF Eligibility form and Team Member Agreement.

35 Details of compulsory Games briefing/fitting session will be announced in the Spring of 2017.

De-nomination

36 De-nomination from the list of athletes submitted to CGCW (and / or athletes selected by the CGCW following nomination) may occur as a result of:

- Failure to meet the standard fitness testing protocols (see Appendix 3).
- Failure to adhere to the athlete code of conduct or the Team Member agreement.
- As detailed in paragraph 16, a relay team may be de-nominated following the withdrawal of one or more of the "strike four" athletes.

Appointment of Team Staff

37 The Head of Coaching and Performance will act as the Team Leader for Welsh Athletics. The final complement of Welsh Athletics team staff attending the Games (including Team Managers and Team Coaches) will ultimately depend upon team size and composition and will be determined by CGCW in consultation with Welsh Athletics after the final team selection is made.

Nomination and Appeals Panels

The following appointed individuals will finalise the nominations by Welsh Athletics for the 2018 Commonwealth Games to the CGCW;

Nomination Panel;

- 1. Team Leader for Athletics at Gold Coast 2018*
- 2. Chair of the Welsh Athletics Board of Directors*
- 3. Welsh Athletics Board of Directors Member (Performance Remit)*

Non-voting:

- 1. Academy Manager, Disability Sport Wales*
- 2. Independent Observer*

Appeals Panel;

- 1. CEO for Welsh Athletics*
- 2. Welsh Athletics Board of Directors Member*
- 3. Welsh Athletics Board of Directors Member*

Note: The appeals panel will be made of three appropriately positioned and knowledgeable experts who are independent of the nomination panel

Appeals Procedure

If an athlete has not received a telephone call by 9pm on the 5th December informing them of their nomination to the CGCW, they should assume their non-nomination. If an athlete wishes to clarify this, they should contact the Head of Coaching and Performance (Scott Simpson) immediately by e-mail (scott.simpson@welshathletics.org). Any athlete who has not been nominated has the right to appeal that decision and for that appeal to be considered by an independent panel. Any appeal should be made on the basis of an error of fact or incorrect process.

Any appeal against the decision(s) made by the Welsh Athletics Nomination Panel, based on an error of fact or incorrect process, must be submitted to the "Appeals Panel", C/O Welsh Athletics, Cardiff International Sports Campus, Leckwith Road, Cardiff, CF11 8AZ no later than 17.00 on the 7th December 2017. This process is outlined below:

1. An athlete ("the Appellant") may appeal against the decision of the Welsh Athletics Nomination Panel to Welsh Athletics, Cardiff International Sports Campus, Leckwith Road, Cardiff, CF11 8AZ

2. The appellant shall lodge an appeal in writing ("Notice of Appeal") to the Appeals Panel C/O Welsh Athletics, Cardiff International Sports Campus, Leckwith Road, Cardiff, CF11 8AZ no later than 17.00 on the 7th December 2017. The Notice of Appeal should set out in full the basis on which the Appellant wishes to appeal and the remedy sought, and should be accompanied by all relevant documentation which the Appellant wishes to rely on in support of the Appeal. A non-refundable deposit of £50 made payable to Welsh Athletics, for administration costs, shall also be sent with the Notice of Appeal.

3. The Appeals Panel will consider the appeals on the 8th December 2017. Appellants will be notified of the decision by telephone between 16.00 and 20.00 on the 8th December 2017. They will also receive written notification thereafter.

4. The decision of the Appeals Panel is final.

5. Costs

The costs of an unsuccessful appeal will be met by the Appellant as follows (Excluding the £50 non returnable administration fee);

Unsuccessful Appeal - £200

The Appellant is required, when lodging a Notice of Appeal, to forward a cheque made payable to Welsh Athletics for £200 to be held on account pending the outcome of the Appeal. In successful appeals the held cheque will be returned.

Fitness Testing Protocols and Procedures

At any time prior to Team Wales being formally entered into the Games, Welsh Athletics reserves the right to withdraw an athlete's nomination should, in the opinion of the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist and the Welsh Athletics Team Leader (the "Team Leader"), injury/illness impact on an athlete's potential to achieve performances within 3% or less of their average qualifying performances in their event in the Games.

Where such concerns exist, the following process will be undertaken:

- a. The Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist, at their absolute discretion, will request that the athlete undergoes a medical examination to determine his/her fitness to compete. This examination will be conducted by the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist, or Sport Wales Lead Sports Physician (depending on the nature of the issue). If the athlete fails, or refuses to undergo, the examination, his/her nomination will be withdrawn.
- b. If the athlete passes the medical examination carried out in accordance with paragraph a. above, but Welsh Athletics retains concerns over their potential to achieve performances within 3% or less of their average qualifying performances in their event in the Games due to the underlying injury or illness, the Welsh Athletics Team Leader ("Team Leader"), at his sole discretion, may request that the athlete undergoes a set of event-specific performance tests. The test(s) will be agreed between the Team Leader and the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist and will be designed to determine the impact of any injury/illness on the athlete's potential to achieve performances within 3% or less of their average qualifying performances in their event in the Games. If the athlete fails or refuses to undertake the test(s), his/her nomination will be withdrawn.

After Team Wales has been entered into the Games, athlete de-selections and replacements may only be allowed in accordance with the CGF's "Late Athlete Replacement Policy" (or any revised or amended CGF policy relating to athlete replacement in force at the time). Athletes may be de-selected at this stage due to the athlete no-longer being eligible (as detailed in paragraph 36) or due to injury/illness. In such circumstances, should the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist or Team Leader believe injury/illness to an athlete may impact upon their potential to achieve performances within 3% or less of their average qualifying performances in their event in the Games, the following process will be undertaken:

- a. The Team Wales CMO, in conjunction with the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist, will request that the athlete undergoes a medical examination to determine his/her fitness to compete. This examination will be conducted by the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist, or Sport Wales Lead Sports Physician (depending on the nature of the issue). If the athlete fails, or refuses to undergo, the examination, his/her nomination will be withdrawn.

- b. If the athlete passes the medical examination carried out in accordance with paragraph a. above, but Welsh Athletics and/or Team Wales retain concerns over their potential to achieve performances within 3% or less of their average qualifying performances in their event in the Games due to the underlying injury or illness, the Team Wales Chef de Mission, at their sole discretion, may reasonably request the athlete undergoes a set of event-specific performance tests. The test(s) will be agreed by each of the Team Leader, the Welsh Athletics Lead Physiotherapist and a delegated Team Wales representative, and will be designed to determine the impact of any injury/illness on the athlete's potential to achieve performances within 3% or less of their average qualifying performances in their event in the Games. If the athlete fails or refuses to undertake the test(s), his/her nomination will be withdrawn.

Para Sport Athletics – Athlete Allocation System

Please see separate Appendix 4 document