

Schools' International Athletics Board (SIAB) Track and Field – Saturday 18th July 2026
Belfast, Ireland
Selection Policy – published May 2026

Selection Policy Statement

The Welsh Schools Athletics Association has moved to the new age groups (U18 – school years 11 and 12; U16 – school years 9 and 10; U14 – school years 7 and 8). However, the Welsh Schools Athletics Association was out-voted in the latest SIAB meeting, with the SIAB committee voting to keep SIAB for this year as school years 10 and 11 (with year 9s able to qualify). It is hoped and believed that SIAB will move to the new age groups for 2027 as per UK Athletics rules.

As has been the case for many years, the Welsh Schools Athletics Association will use the Welsh Schools Athletics championships this year as a trial race for the Welsh team at SIAB. However, with the Welsh Schools Championships moving to the new age groups as per UK Athletics rules and the SIAB Track and Field using different age groups, this has led to the selection policy being complicated with no ideal solution. This is especially the case for throws and hurdles. The following is our attempt to put forward the fairest possible selection policy given the complications in place this season.

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.
3. **School-Aged Match Opportunity** – a development opportunity in either pathway or non-pathway events for school aged Welsh athletes to compete in a representative match. The eligibility criteria for some of these competitions is different to that for International and Representative opportunities.

The Schools' International Athletics Board (SIAB) Track and Field is classified as a **School-Aged Match Opportunity**.

Selection Policy Aim

The aim of the selection policy is to provide junior Welsh athletes demonstrating potential with a **developmental opportunity** in a pathway event (track and field).

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

The Welsh team being selected to compete in the SIAB Track and Field will provide female and male students in school years 10 and 11 with the chance to compete against athletes from other international teams. Athletes in school year 9 may be selected if their performance profile justifies selection.

Wales will be looking to send teams of up to **2 Girls** and **2 Boys** in each individual discipline. The SIAB Track and Field includes the following events: 100m; 200m; 300m (girls) 400m (boys); 800m; 1500m; 3000m; 1500m S/Chase; 3000m Race Walk; sprint hurdles; 300m hurdles (girls); 400m hurdles (boys); shot; javelin; hammer; discuss; long jump; high jump; pole vault; triple jump

Additionally, Wales will select the following relay teams: **1 Girl** and **1 Boy** 4 x 100m team, **1 Girl** 4 x 300m team and **1 Boy** 4 x 400m team.

Wales will look to select reserves for all disciplines.

Selection Process

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

100m, 200m, 300m (female), 400m (male), 800m, 1500m, 3000m, 1500m SC (female), LJ, HJ, TJ, PV, SP (female), DT (female), JT (female), HT (female):

Implement weight for female throws same in U16 and U18 age groups

- Step 1: The Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships (**Saturday 4th July**) will act as the trial. The winner in the U16 competition and the first year 11 in the U18 competition will be compared. The person out of these two with the best performance at the Welsh Schools Championships will be selected

- Step 2: From remaining athletes, the highest ranked athlete across the age groups from outdoor 2026 performances up to and including Saturday 4th July will be selected. For female steeplechase, both 1500m and 2000m SC ranking will be compared with the strongest athlete selected (also using 2000m SC rankings as this is the standard steeple event for U18 female athletes)

SP (male), DT (male), JT (male), HT (male):

Implement weight in U18 male age group matches that being used for SIAB, U16s use a lighter implement. If U16s want to be selected for SIAB, they will need to provide consent that they are happy to throw an implement heavier than their usual competition implement

- Step 1: The Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships (**Saturday 4th July**) will act as the trial. The first year 11 in the U18 competition will be selected
- Step 2: From remaining athletes, the highest ranked athlete across the age groups from outdoor 2026 performances up to and including Saturday 4th July using the implement weight which will be used as SIAB will be selected

80m Hurdles (female), 300m Hurdles (female) and 100m Hurdles (male)

For these disciplines, SIAB will be over the U16 race distances (U18 females race 100m and 400m hurdles and U18 males race 110m hurdles). If year 11s want to be selected for SIAB, they will need to provide consent that they are happy to compete at the shorter distances.

- Step 1: The Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships (**Saturday 4th July**) will act as the trial. The first U16 will be selected
- Step 2: From remaining athletes, rankings across both U16 and U18 age groups (80m hurdles (female), 300m hurdles (female) and 100m hurdles (male) for U16s and 100m hurdles (female), 400m hurdles (female) and 110m hurdles (male) for U18s) will be compared with the strongest athlete selected (year 11s will only be considered if they consent to compete over the U16 distance at SIAB)

400m Hurdles (male)

SIAB will be 400m Hurdles over barrier height 0.84m. If U16s want to be selected for SIAB, they will need to provide consent that they are happy to 400m hurdles over 0.84m barrier height (U16s compete over 300m hurdles)

- Step 1: The Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships (**Saturday 4th July**) will act as the trial. The first year 11 in the U18 competition will be selected

- Step 2: From remaining athletes, the highest ranked athlete across the age groups from outdoor 2026 performances up to and including Saturday 4th July over 400m hurdles (barrier height 0.84m) will be selected

1500m SC (male)

SIAB will be 1500m SC over barrier height 0.84m. If U16s want to be selected for SIAB, they will need to provide consent that they are happy to hurdle over 0.84m barrier height (U16 barrier height is 0.76m)

- Step 1: The Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships (**Saturday 4th July**) will act as the trial. The first year 11 in the U18 competition will be selected
- Step 2: From remaining athletes, rankings across both 1500m SC and 2000m SC at 0.84m barrier height for outdoor 2026 performance up to and including Saturday 4th July will be compared with the strongest athlete selected (also using 2000m SC rankings as this is the standard steeple event for U18 males at 0.84m barrier height)

Race Walk:

SIAB will be 3000m race walk whilst at Welsh Schools we will be doing 2000m race walk.

- Step 1: The Welsh Schools Track and Field Championships (**Saturday 4th July**) will act as the trial. The winner in the U16 competition and the first year 11 in the U18 competition will be compared. The person out of these two with the best performance at the Welsh Schools Championships will be selected
- Step 2: From remaining athletes, rankings across race walk distances up to and including 5000m for 2026 performance up to and including Saturday 4th July will be compared with the strongest athlete selected

Relays:

- Athletes selected for the individual places in the 100m, 300m and 400m will be selected in the relevant relay team
- Other athletes for the relays teams will be selected using rankings for outdoor 2026 performances up to and including Saturday 4th July

The selection meeting will take place on **Tuesday 7th July** and teams will have been announced by **Saturday 11th July**.

The selection panel will consist of **the WSAA International Team Lead, 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.

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 and Welsh Schools 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](#)