

**2021 European Race Walking Team Championships - 16 May 2021
Podebrady, Czech Republic**

Selection policy – Published April 2021

Overview

The 2021 European Race Walking Team Championships provides a vital opportunity for athletes to prepare and qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. Given the risks associated with international travel during the COVID-19 pandemic, a decision has therefore been taken to reduce the overall team size and prioritise the athletes seeking qualification or preparing for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games.

As such, British Athletics will only select athletes for the 20km events for the 2021 edition of the competition.

Qualification standards have therefore been set to reflect the expected high quality of competition at the European Cup.

The health and safety of all athletes and staff selected will underpin our final preparations and competition arrangements. Selected athletes will be asked to confirm their decision to compete by signing an 'Opt In' form.

British Athletics will discuss with selected athletes travel arrangements lowest risk to COVID-19.

At the time of publication, the impact of COVID-19 is immense, unpredictable, and unknown. Considering the global pandemic, British Athletics can amend this policy at its discretion.

Final selection will be at the discretion of the Performance Director, Head Coach and Selectors.

The GB and NI team will travel to the Championships as a single team. All questions related to the selection policy should be directed to team leader Andi Drake (adrake@englandathletics.org).

Eligibility

1. To be considered for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:
 - a. be eligible to compete for GB&NI (i.e. full British passport holder);
 - b. have achieved a relevant British Athletics qualification standard within the qualification period;
 - c. hold a valid certificate for having completed the European Athletics Anti-Doping Education Programme – 'I Run Clean'; and
 - d. sign the British Athletics Team Members' Agreement ("TMA") and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of competition will result in their selection being withdrawn. The current version of the TMA can be found online at <https://www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/>.

Qualification

2. Qualification performances for Senior 20km events must be achieved between 00:00 (GMT) 1 January 2019 and 24:00 (GMT) 25 April 2021 (BST).
3. The British Athletics qualification standards are as follows:

Men	Event	Women
1:25.00	Senior 20km	1:37.00

Selection meeting process

4. The team will be selected on **Wednesday 28 April**.
5. The final team will be announced on Thursday 29 April 2021.
6. Up to four athletes may be selected in each of the men's and women's senior races.
7. The Selection Panel ("the Panel") will select athletes as follows:
 - a. Athletes must have achieved a relevant qualification standard in the qualification period;
 - b. Athletes must be fit and not otherwise currently affected by a performance limiting factor;
 - c. Athletes must demonstrate current form (at the point of selection).
 - d. If more athletes satisfy the criteria outlined in paragraph 7 (a) and (b) above than there are places available, athletes will be selected based on the Panel's consideration of a combination of the following criteria, as well as any other factors that may be deemed relevant. The criteria below are not listed in any priority order:
 - i. Current form;
 - ii. Number of standards achieved;
 - iii. Future individual medal potential at major events;
 - iv. Head-to-heads;
 - v. Previous major competition history;
 - vi. Injury/illness status;
8. Eligible junior athletes will only be selected to compete in the senior event at the discretion of the selection panel and only if the Panel deem it to be in the long term interests of the individual athlete (and provided they have met the relevant British Athletics qualification standard for the senior event).

Conditions

9. Qualification times must be completed on a World Athletics certified course.

Appeals

10. There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the GB&NI Team made by the Selection Panel. The provisions of the British Athletics Selection and Nomination "Fast"

Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB&NI team selections for the 2021 European Race Walking Team Championships.

