



## WESTERN PROVINCE ATHLETICS

# 2015 CROSS COUNTRY SELECTION CRITERIA

### Introduction:

This is a Western Province Athletics policy document that details the conditions under which an athlete can qualify for selection to the WPA Team to compete at the following:

South African Cross Country Championships  
Middelburg, Mpumalanga  
12 September 2015

This policy document provides the selection criteria that an athlete must meet before they can be considered for selection to the WPA team for the above Championship event.

### Selection Philosophy:

WPA is committed to providing its athletes the opportunity to compete at South Africa Championships. WPA recognises the importance of selecting those athletes who will be able to best contribute to the continued success of athletics in the Province whilst acknowledging the support that its athletes give to the association and the sport as a whole. WPA sees the SA Cross Country Championships as both an important event in the development of young distance runners, as well as, an elite event in the Open age groups, providing athletes a pathway to international selection.

For the avoidance of doubt, this philosophy statement is not to be regarded as part of the selection criteria. It is included in this document as a guide to those aspiring to be part of the team and also as reference in understanding selection decisions.

### WPA Cross Country Selection Objective:

WPA's selection philosophy is to select athletes for WP teams, whose current results indicate that the athlete is capable of being competitive at the national level and will be a worthy representative of WP athletics. Given WPA's commitment to developing sustainable talent, it is the express intention to weight the team in favor of the Senior and Under 16, 17, 19 categories. It is WPA's intention to field a maximum squad of 60 athletes if funds allow.

### Selection Guidelines:

1. SA Cross Country Championships: (Priority Categories)

Event	Distance	Minimum Team Size
Senior Men	12km	4
Senior Women	8km	4
Under 16 Boys	6km	4
Under 16 Girls	4km	4
Under 17 Boys	6km	4
Under 17 Girls	4km	4
Under 19 Boys	8km	4
Under 19 Girls	6km	4
All other categories		As per selection criteria

2. Additional athletes may be added to these age groups at the discretion of the WPA Cross Country Selection Panel.
3. To be considered for selection for the team, to compete at the 2015 SA Cross Country Championships, all performances must be achieved during the 2015 WPA Cross Country season.

#### **Selection Event:**

The WPA Cross Country Championships on 15 August 2015 at CPUT will serve as the Team Trial.

#### **Eligibility:**

To be eligible for selection for the WP Team for the SA Cross Country Championships athletes must:

- a) Compete in the Western Province Athletics Cross Country Championships on 15 August 2015 in the event in which they wish to qualify (exemptions noted below).
- b) Participate in at least 5 of the 8 WPA Cross Country League events.
- c) Be a current licensed member of WPA in accordance with Rule 5 of the WPA Domestic Rules. Note – Unregistered athletes, or athletes not registered with a club may be selected for the team but must register as a club member before their selection is confirmed.

#### **General Criteria:**

1. All team selections are subject to the approval of the WPA Board.
2. In selecting athletes for the SA Cross Country Championships, priority will be given to the selection of athletes with the potential to win medals for Western Province Athletics.
3. The size of the WPA Cross Country team is subject to the availability of funds.
4. Athletes who do not achieve the above standards may be selected for the final team at the discretion of the WPA Board. In doing this, the Board will take the following factors into consideration, in the specified priority order:
  - 4.1. Potential for a medal or potential to finish in the top 10.
  - 4.2. Demographics of the team.
  - 4.3. Development in general.

#### **Selection Process:**

1. WPA licensed athletes who place 1<sup>st</sup> at the WPA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS (15 August, at CPUT) in the Senior (Male 12km, Male 4km, Female 8km & Female 4km) will automatically meet the selection criteria regardless of the number of league races run.
2. WPA licensed athletes in all other age categories who place 1<sup>st</sup> at the WPA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS (15 August, at CPUT) will automatically meet the selection criteria regardless of the number of league races run.
3. Athletes who meet all eligibility criteria and who place 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the WPA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS (15 August, at CPUT) in the Senior (Male 12km & Female 8km) and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> in the age groups U16, U17 and U19 (Boys & Girls) will automatically meet the selection criteria. These athletes must finish within the TOP 6, in 5 of the 8 league events.
4. Athletes who meet all eligibility criteria and who place 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the WPA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS (15 August, at CPUT) in all other categories, automatically meet the selection criteria. These athletes must finish within the TOP 10, in 5 of the 8 league events.
5. Athletes who meet all eligibility criteria and who place 2<sup>nd</sup> at the WPA CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS (15 August, at CPUT) in the Senior 4km (Male & Female) will automatically meet the selection criteria.
6. Non-automatic selections will apply to all OTHER categories. WPA licensed athletes must have participated in 5 of the 8 league races, as well as the WPA Cross Country Championships, in the event in which they wish to qualify (exemptions noted below). Selection is at the discretion of the Cross Country Selection Panel.
7. Other athletes may be added to the team at the discretion of the Cross Country Selection Panel. The selectors will make their determination based upon results at all WPA Cross Country events over the 2015 season.

### **Exemptions and Overriding Discretion of the Selectors:**

Notwithstanding anything set out in this Policy document, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to name any athlete to the Team, if they believe it is in the best interests of WPA to do so.

### **Team Announcement:**

The team will be selected after the WPA Cross Country Championships and announced as soon as practically possible thereafter.

### **Note**

1. Should an athlete who is sick or injured on the day of the Championships, wish to be considered for selection, they must provide a medical certificate to the Chairman of the WPA Cross Country Selection Panel, certifying their inability to compete at the WPA Cross Country Championships. The athlete must also provide evidence of recent performances so that the selectors may take this into consideration when considering eligibility for selection. This must be provided prior to the selection event.
2. An athlete who cannot compete on the day of the Championships, for any other reason than injury or illness, and wishes to be considered for selection must provide written reasons to the Chairman of the WPA Cross Country Selection Panel outlining their reasons for not competing at the WPA Cross Country Championships. The athlete must also provide evidence of recent performances so that the selectors may take this into consideration when considering eligibility for selection. These details must be provided no later than the day **before** the Championships. The Cross Country Selection Panel will rule whether the nominated reason provided by the athlete is considered serious enough for the athlete to be still eligible for selection. The WPA Cross Country Selection Panel decision will be final.

Where a selected athlete (refer to selection process above) is not available the next best placed athlete from the WPA Cross Country Championships will be selected to fill the position. Notwithstanding the appeal process, the decision of the WPA Cross Country Selection Panel is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

### **Appeal:**

The team will be circulated to all clubs and placed on the WPA website. An athlete not included in the team announced, has the right to appeal, in writing, for reconsideration of the decision. The appeal must be made to the WPA office at [office@wpathletics.co.za](mailto:office@wpathletics.co.za) within 48 hours after the announcement of the team. The appeal should include all information the athlete considers relevant for the selection panel's reconsideration of its decision.

### **Athlete Declaration Form:**

All athletes wishing to be considered for team selection are to complete a WPA Athletes Declaration Form prior to the WPA Cross Country Championships.

### **Conclusion:**

Western Province Athletics (WPA) reserves the right to amend this Selection Criteria in circumstances where the rules governing the event are amended by the event organisers (ASA) or further information comes to hand. To give effect to the policy, following discovery of a drafting error, or oversight, or for any other reason, determined to be in the best interests of WPA. Any such amendments or further information will be communicated as soon as it becomes available. WPA shall not be responsible or liable in any way, to any one, as a result of any such amendment.

## WESTERN PROVINCE ATHLETES DECLARATION FORM

All ATHLETES must submit the **WESTERN PROVINCE ATHLETES DECLARATION FORM** prior to the WPA Cross Country Championships in order to be considered eligible for selection to a Provincial Team. By submitting this form you are consenting to the use of your information. For the purpose of this declaration form, your information will be used to determine eligibility and availability for selection and for communication purposes. Additionally, upon selection to the team, your information may be shared with third parties (such as the ASA) and as deemed necessary.

Queries and fully completed Declaration Forms can be directed to Barbara (office@wpathletics.co.za) at our Provincial office.

### PERSONAL INFO:

Name:	
Surname:	
Date of Birth:	
ID number:	
Gender:	
Address:	
Cell Number:	
Email address:	
Name of Club:	
ASA License Number:	

### GENERAL INFO:

Name of Coach:	
Cell Number:	
Email Address:	

### COMPETITION INTEREST

Please check off the events to which you would like to be considered for selection in 2015 provided you meet all of the qualifying criteria.

SA Cross Country Championships	Yes	No
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By submitting this **WESTERN PROVINCE ATHLETES DECLARATION FORM**, I hereby confirm that:

1. This declaration form serves ONLY as an expression of interest and in no way binds WPA to select me.
2. As per clause 16.2.5.3 (WPA Constitution) the Commission reserve the right to propose WPA athletes to any teams selected, subject to approval of the Board. The Board has sole discretion to decide which of the athletes are to be selected. No individual communication will be entered into.
3. I am aware of and understand Rule 27.1 of the WPA Domestic Rules in that: *"Any athlete selected to represent WPA for a specific competition, who accepts such nomination and then subsequently withdraws, shall not be permitted to compete in any other athletic event within 8 days on either side of the date of the competition."*
4. All athletes selected for Provincial Teams will be required to attend Provincial Team Briefing session(s)/dates to be released in due course.
5. I hereby agree to travel, either by road or air, to the Championship on the dates provided to me by WPA.

I accept a position on the Western Province Team should I be selected.

..... Signature .....  
Full Name Signature Date