

London Schools' Athletic Association

Selection Policy for London team for English Schools' Track & Field Championships

London Schools' Athletic Association feels that it is important that athletes, schools, parents and coaches understand the selection policy for the London teams attending the English Schools' Track & Field Championships. Our aim is for an open and fair selection policy which balances rewarding those who have done well at the London Championships (Juniors & Intermediates) or South of England Championships (Seniors - if held early enough in the season) with selection for a strong London team to compete at the National Championships. As neither steeplechase nor pole vault are currently offered at the LSAA Championships athletes in these events are encouraged to compete in those events at the Kent Schools' Championships by agreement with their organiser. Please contact the LSAA competitions' organiser (currently Marilyn Walker on marilyn.athletics@gmail.com for more information)

- All athletes selected for the London team must be in full time education at a school affiliated to the London Schools Athletic Association. (A slightly different arrangement is in place for those attending a 6th form college or who are home schooled).
- The LSAA Track & Field Championships (normally held annually on the second Saturday in June) serve as the primary selection competition for the London team in the Junior and Intermediate age groups. Only in exceptional circumstances – agreed in writing in advance with the Lead London Team Manager will an athlete seeking selection be given permission not to compete at these trials.
- Senior athletes and athletes competing in the steeplechase or pole vault should complete an 'Availability for selection' form prior to the date of the London Championships and notify the selectors of any improvement in their PB prior to the selection meeting.
- The selection meeting for the London team usually takes place on the Sunday immediately following the London Championships.
- County teams may select a maximum of 3 individuals in any event.
- In addition to the above, the selectors may decide that previous experience or progress during the current season will also be taken into consideration – for example an athlete who has competed on several occasions at English Schools for the London team and who is in year 13 may be deemed to have greater experience at this level than someone who is just developing at this age.
- Athletes will be required to complete 'availability for selection' forms electronically confirming their details and PB(s) no later than the day of the London Championships. Failure to complete and return the forms by this date may mean that the athlete is not selected – even if they were placed 1st in the LSAA Championship.
- At the selection meeting the selectors will first of all look at the performances of those athletes that competed at the London Schools Championships the previous day and those that have notified us of their results if competing in the Kent Schools Championships because they are aiming for selection in steeplechase or pole vault. This is the 'first phase of selection' - and this is likely to include those who have achieved ESAA National Standard or Entry Standard in their chosen event(s).
- The selectors will then look at athletes that have achieved NS or ES prior to the LSAA Championships.

- In the event that there are more than three athletes that have achieved NS or ES in a particular event, then the placings of the competition at the LSAA Championships will be the deciding factor (as per the JB 1500m in 2024).
- Following the 'phase 1' selection, the selectors will move to 'phase 2' and look at the performances achieved at the LSAA Championships or submitted by the due date that are very close to ES in each event that does not already have its full complement of athletes.
- Phase 2 - A list of potential athletes will then be drawn up by the selectors which will be used should there be no further verified improved performances submitted by the due date – for 2025 this will be 8pm on Saturday 21st June.
- Winning an event or being placed in the top three at the London Championships does not mean that an athlete will be selected for the London team. The selection will only be confirmed by receipt of the relevant letter from the London Teams administrator.

The Monday following the selection meeting a letter listing all those that have been selected in 'phase 1' will be sent to all athletes and their parents using the email address(es) on their selection form. It will also be sent to coaches, PE teachers and borough managers. This letter will contain brief details and will ask for a rapid response to confirm that the athlete wishes to take up their offer of a place.

This letter will confirm the athletes that have been selected in Phase 1 but there will still be some places for athletes who achieve ES (or very close to ES) in the following few days.

A similar letter requiring an immediate response will be sent to 'phase 2' selected athletes on Sunday 22nd June.

A letter with full information will be sent to ALL athletes after the 'Phase 2' athletes have been added.