**World University Cross Country Championships**

**Cassino, Italy, 12 March 2016.**

**Selection Policy – published December 2015**

**Overview**

The World University Cross Country Championships is a key stepping stone towards success at future cross-country and global track and field championships.

Men’s and women’s teams will be selected (consisting of up to six senior male and six senior females) and to this end, this policy has been structured to select a team with the following aims:

* Medal success at the 2016 World University Cross-Country Championships **and**;
* Opportunities for developing athletes with the potential for future success at senior outdoor major championships (including future Cross Country championships).

Selections will be made after the result of the Official Trial (“the Trials”), which takes place at Gloucestershire University, Plock Court as part of the BUCS cross-country Championships on Saturday 6th February 2016.

The team will travel to the Championships as a single team. Athletes not based in the UK will be required to cover the cost of their own travel to/from the UK.

All questions related to the selection policy (including those relating to athletes based overseas) and the trial races should be directed to Spencer Duval, at sduval@englandathletics.org.

**Eligibility**

1. To be considered eligible for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:
	1. Be eligible to compete for GB&NI (i.e. full British passport holder).
	2. All athletes who wish to be considered for selection must complete a nomination form available on the [BUCS website](http://www.bucs.org.uk/sport.asp?section=17309&sectionTitle=World+University+Championships), and return the required supporting documentation by **21st January 2016.**
	3. See further specific eligibility requirements from FISU and BUCS later in the document.

Any athletes with outstanding information after this time may not be eligible for selection

**Athlete Personal Contributions**

The high cost of participation for this event means there will need to be a personal contribution from each selected athlete. *Each selected athlete will be required to make a standard Athlete Personal Contribution of £450 (or £520 for non-BUCS members).*

The balance of the costs of participation will be met in full by home countries NGB and BUCS.

***Payment(s) will be required in full at the point of selection. Athletes submitting a nomination acknowledge this requirement by indicating their acceptance of the Team Members Agreement, and accept that any unrecoverable costs incurred by BUCS/Home Countries resulting from athlete withdrawal from the nomination process will be passed onto the athlete concerned.***

**FISU Criteria (General)**

FISU Regulations 5.2.1

Only the following may participate as competitors in a FISU Sporting Event:

1. Students who are currently officially registered as proceeding towards a degree or diploma at the university or similar institute whose status is recognised by the appropriate national academic authority of their country (e.g. the Department of Education in the UK).
2. Former students of the institutions mentioned in (i) who have obtained their academic degree/diploma in the year preceding the event. i.e. students graduating in 2014/15 are eligible to compete.

FISU Regulations 5.2.3

**All** competitors must satisfy the following conditions.

1. be a national of the country they represent (therefore hold a full 10 year UK passport)
2. be at least 17 and less than 28 years of age on January 1st in the year of the event (born between 1 January 1988 and 31 December 1998)

Students studying abroad are eligible for selection provided they satisfy FISU regulations 5.2.1 and 5.2.3

Students attending courses franchised out from an institution [complying with FISU Regulations 5.2.1 (i)] are eligible for selection providing they also satisfy FISU Regulation 5.2.3.

**BUCS Criteria (Academic)**

The minimum level of study has been set at Level 4 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, or equivalent. Level 4 is equivalent to Higher National Certificates (HNC) and Certificates of Higher Education (CertHE).

Exemptions to permit the selection of student athletes studying below Level 4 can be considered where :

1. The student still meets the FISU regulation 5.2.1.i) above
2. There is no direct financial implication to BUCS
3. It can be demonstrated that this inclusion encourages additional benefit to Level 4 students

The inclusion of students studying below Level 4 should not be at the expense of a student studying at Level 4 or above.

**Selection Panel**

The selection panel will have representatives from the Home Country NGB’s and BUCS.

England - Spencer Duval (Chair and casting vote if needed)

Scotland – Mark Pollard

Wales – Chris Jones

BUCS - tbc

**Selection process**

1.The team will be selected in one selection meeting on **8th February 2016**.

1. The team will be announced on 11th February 2016.
2. Round 1 – Seniors:
	1. Eligible senior athletes who finish in the top **three** at the Trials will be automatically selected for the senior race if they have met the selection criteria (see point 5 below) before the trial date. For the avoidance of doubt, if any of the top three at the Trials decline selection (through injury or any other reason), their automatic selection will NOT be offered to the next eligible athlete at the trials. Their place will be re-allocated based on point b below;
	2. The Selection Panel may select athletes to fill the remaining team spots based on remaining eligible athletes’ form, fitness and competition history up to and including 6th February 2016;
3. The selection panel may select up to two non-travelling reserves for each of the senior teams who may be added to the relevant team should an athlete withdraw prior to the final entry date, each subject to minimum standards and overriding objectives. Non-travelling reserve places will be selected based on remaining eligible athletes’ form, fitness and competition history up to and including 6th February 2016.
4. Selection performance criteria. These are the minimum standards for selection criteria that will be considered for team places:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Men** | **Women** |
| 5k | 14:40 | 16:40 |
| 10k | 30:30 | 34:30 |
| 10 miles | 50:15 | 56:50 |
| Half Marathon | 1:07:00 | 1:16:00 |
| Marathon | 2:22:00 | 2:39:00 |

*Note: For athletes who have not posted a road time in the relevant selection timescale the selection panel at their sole discretion will take into account cross-country form, fitness and competition history up to and including 6th February 2016.*

**Appeals**

1. There shall be no right of appeal to the selection of the Team made by the Selection Panel.

**Amendment**

BUCS and the GB home countries reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at <http://www.bucs.org.uk/sport.asp?section=17309&sectionTitle=World+University+Championships>