



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATHLETICS ADMINISTRATION OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO (NAAATT)

## SELECTION POLICY

*(As approved by the General Council on Sunday, 2016 May 15)*

This Selection Policy is to be read in conjunction with event specific selection criteria. Both policy and criteria shall be used as the basis for team selection.

- 1) The Selection Committee is charged with the responsibility of proposing and recommending a list of athletes for national teams and the Executive has the responsibility for ratifying the final team.

The Selection Committee shall only consider athletes' performances that are properly verified and recorded by the Records Committee/Statisticians of NAAATT.

Information of the performances must include:

- Date(s) of the competition
- Weather conditions
- Venue of the competition and the type of track surface
- Method of timekeeping used
- Wind gauge readings where appropriate
- Date of birth of the athlete if in specific age group events.

When furnishing information to the Selection Committee, the Records Committee/Statistician may supply performance data from overseas, if the information appears in journals recognized by the Association of Track and Field Statisticians, or the information relevant to such performers are verified by the controlling body of the meet. Clubs/Schools are asked to ensure that wind gauges and electronic photo-finish are available and used at all meets where athletes are likely to be considered for National Teams. If available, video recorders may be used to record performances.

- 2) Except where a selection trial is held and/or the particular selection criteria for the team states otherwise, no one performance or place in a particular event or competition shall result in an athlete gaining automatic selection as a member of a team.
- 3) To be selected on any national team to major competitions all athletes shall have participated in the following:

- a) Trinidad and Tobago's National Championships relevant to the intended competition (unless an exemption is granted for not competing); and/or
  - b) Other meets designated by the NAAATT.
- 4) The selection process for all sanctioned events except relays, marathons, 10,000m, Race walk and combine events is as follows:**
- a) In cases such as the Olympics and World Championships where three (3) athletes are allowed to participate; the top two (2) finishers at the National Open Championships, provided that they have achieved the necessary qualifying standard within the qualifying window for the event, will automatically qualify to represent Trinidad and Tobago.
  - b) In other cases such as the Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games, NACAC Championships, CAC Games etc. where two athletes are allowed to participate; the top finisher at the National Open Championships, provided that he/she has achieved the necessary qualifying standard within the qualifying window for the event will automatically qualify to represent Trinidad and Tobago.
  - c) Nomination of the additional athlete shall be at the discretion of the Selection Committee which shall consider:
    - i. Placings at the Championships/Trial in the individual events
    - ii. Health and fitness levels that indicate optimal competitive readiness
    - iii. Individual performance ranking as determined by IAAF and NAAATT rankings
- 5) During the period between the announcement of the team and the date of departure, athletes must demonstrate their competitive readiness, that they are physically fit, be performing well and are likely to compete at a level appropriate to the competition(s) for which they have been selected. If an athlete is not deemed to be at a level required to retain his/her place on a selected team, the Manager shall immediately notify the Executive of the athlete's position on such a team.**
- 6) Where a designated trial is to be conducted immediately prior to the announcement of the team, all athletes wishing to be selected shall compete in such a trial in the events for which they wish to be selected, unless they have an unusual and acceptable exemption agreed to by the Executive. Exemptions shall usually only be granted where the athlete is studying at university overseas or has a certified medical reason for not competing, or has a special compassionate reason. The athlete may be required to undergo a medical examination by a medical officer nominated by the Association.**

7) In the case of CARIFTA Games - An athlete who resides outside of Trinidad and Tobago and who wishes to be selected on a national team must provide to the Selection Committee, through the Secretary, performances verified by the controlling body under whose jurisdiction the performances were made.

**8) FOR OLYMPIC GAMES, COMMONWEALTH GAMES PAN AM GAMES, CAC GAMES & WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

a) In the year preceding that of the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and World Championships, the Executive shall release, graded performance target guidelines, by which the quality of an athlete's performance may be considered by the Selection Committee during a set qualifying period. These performance target guidelines will be established taking into account the standards set by the IAAF; and after consultation with appropriate organizations that may have a vested interest in the teams. The Executive shall monitor statistics for likely performance level at the event.

b) Wind-aided performances shall not be considered. Particular regard shall be paid to standards attained in meets such as the National Championships and other designated meets or trials.

c) Athletes shall meet the basic international entry standards for the specific events, before consideration is given to other selection criteria relative to NAAATT's performance target guidelines.

**9) OTHER INTERNATIONAL TEAMS**

When an invitation is received by NAAATT for a specific number of athletes to compete overseas or for an athlete or athletes to compete in a particular event, NAAATT shall refer the invitation to the Selection Committee for recommendations.

**10) TEAM EVENTS**

If in the opinion of the Executive, the overall standard of available athletes does not warrant a team being selected, any athlete who may have achieved automatic selection in accordance with the published criteria shall be notified. If after the date of selection of any team for a team event, withdrawals, for any reason, make a team uncompetitive or incomplete and suitable replacements cannot be found by the Executive, the team may be withdrawn and the selected athletes notified. If the organizers

of the competition permit individuals to be entered, the Selection Committee may nominate suitably qualified individuals.

**11) TRACK RELAY TEAMS**

a) For the Olympic Games, World Championships, Pan Am Games, Commonwealth Games, NACAC Championships and CAC Games: Teams shall only be selected where at least two (2) available athletes have attained a qualifying standard in the individual event.

b) Six (6) athletes may in general be selected for each relay team. Where practicable, a training squad should be selected as far as in advance as is possible. Commitment to the squad will be an important factor in final selection.

c) Being named to the relay pool does not guarantee final selection.

**d) Relay Team Athlete Selection**

The following factors shall be considered in relay team selection:

- i. Athletes entered in the individual 100m and 400m events
- ii. Top two (2) placings at the Championships/Trial in the individual 100m and 400m events
- iii. Health and fitness levels that indicate optimal competitive readiness
- iv. Individual performance ranking as determined by IAAF and NAAATT rankings
- v. Commitment to the National Relay Programme as determined by attitude, attendance, participation and performance at national relay team camps, competitions and events
- vi. Performance on previous relay teams
- vii. Decisions pertaining to final selection and positioning of relay team members shall be determined jointly by the Relay Team Coach, Head Coach and Team Manager.

e) Any athlete who is placed in an alternate position or chosen as a reserve is expected to fully participate in team practice and training, including dressing and warming up with the team on the day of competition and to be prepared to contribute if needed. Reserves are expected to accompany the four selected athletes to the call room area or as far as officials will allow. Punctuality is expected at all relay events; tardiness will not be tolerated.

**12)** Any athlete seeking, or having achieved selection, must keep the Secretary of NAAATT and Team Manager informed of their contact address, telephone numbers and email addresses. Any changes to

these details, particularly if traveling overseas, must be advised immediately.

13) Competitive Readiness - Injury or Illness: At any time after having been selected, even during the final preparation camp, athletes with questionable competitive readiness because of lack of fitness, injury or illness may be removed from the team. Athletes are required to report immediately any injury, illness or change in training regimen that could affect their ability to compete at their highest level at the relevant competition.

14) Athletes must compete in the events for which they have been selected.

15) **FOR ALL MEETS NOT COVERED ABOVE AND FOR WHICH SPECIFIC SELECTION CRITERIA ARE GIVEN, THESE SHALL BE READ AND INTERPRETED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PRECEDING SELECTION POLICY**

**a) CAC JUNIOR/SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Athletes shall be selected based on the merit on their performance at the relevant National Championships. For athletes to be considered, their qualifying performances should be achieved within the stated time period and with strong back-up performances in the three-month period immediately prior to the competition.

**b) CAC AGE GROUP CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Selection Committee shall consider for selection the first and second placed athletes in each age group at the Trials. The Selection Committee will also consider performances at other NAAATT sanctioned events.

**c) CARIFTA GAMES**

i) Athletes shall be selected on the basis of their performance at the Carifta Trials in keeping with the guidelines/standards set by the Executive.

ii) **Automatic Qualification:** (a) The top two finishers at the Carifta Trials, provided that they have achieved the necessary qualifying standard within the qualifying window for the event; and (b) In the case of the multi-events, the top three (3) athletes who have attained the qualifying standard

**iii)** If there is only one automatic qualifier, the additional spot will be determined in the following order: (a) Athletes who attained the qualifying standard within the qualifying period for their event may be included in the eligibility pool for consideration by the Selection Committee and the Executive and (b) The Executive may consider other athletes who may benefit from participating at the competition.

**d) IAAF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Athletes shall be selected on the basis of their performance at the Championship. For them to be considered, their qualifying performance should be attained within period established by the IAAF and with strong back-up performances in the three-month period immediately prior to the competition.

**e) PAN AM JUNIORS & SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS/NACAC JUNIORS; SENIORS & UNDER 23**

Athletes shall be selected on the basis of their performance at the Championship. For them to be considered, their qualifying performances should be achieved within the stipulated qualifying period and with strong back-up performances in the three-month period immediately prior to the competition.

**f) ROAD & CROSS COUNTRY RACES**

Athletes shall be selected on the basis of their performance at sanctioned road and cross country events and based on guideline standards as set by the Executive.

**16) Attaining a qualifying standard is just one of the criteria for consideration and does not guarantee automatic selection. The Executive may consider other factors such as availability of funds, discipline of the athlete, development benefit to be derived, competitiveness and fitness.**

**17) OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**a) Code of Ethics:** Athletes are required to sign the "Code of Ethics" provided by NAAATT as soon as is practical after selection on a national team.

**b) Travel Documents:** All athletes seeking selection on national teams shall ensure that they have valid travel documents which will enable them to leave and return to their country of residence.

**c) Tickets:** NAAATT shall provide selected athletes with return economy class airline tickets using the most direct route from their usual place of residence and/or with ground transportation to the site of the competition at the best

affordable fare. Where athletes elect to purchase their own tickets, refunds shall be made on the basis of the cost of a ticket which could have been purchased by NAAATT as mentioned above. Where athletes elect to purchase their own tickets, they shall seek to book their travel within adequate time and to obtain the lowest possible fares available.

- d) **Travel Itinerary:** Athletes shall provide details of their travel itinerary to the Team Manager and/or Secretary of NAAATT for ticketing to be done immediately upon notification of selection. If any changes are requested by an athlete, he/she shall be responsible for the cost of changes.
- e) **Assistance with Visa & Passport:** NAAATT shall assist athletes with applications for visas required to enter the country where the competition is to take place. While NAAATT may try to assist with applications for Trinidad and Tobago passports, it is the athletes' responsibility to apply for and obtain passports.
- f) **Dress Code:** NAAATT shall undertake to provide official wear for all teams. Where these are provided, they must be worn during competition. For award ceremonies, the award/presentation suit provided for such ceremonies shall be worn. Where NAAATT provides training gear, this must be used during training sessions. Athletes **(with the exception of those with professional contracts who are otherwise limited to competition footwear)** are not allowed to use other uniform items during medal presentations, special events or competition.
- g) **Casual Wear:** NAAATT shall undertake to provide casual wear for traveling, non-competition days and special events. Team members shall be properly attired at all times unless otherwise informed of a change by the Team Manager/Coach. In all instances, athletes are expected to maintain a dress and grooming standard that would present them in a positive and appealing manner.
- h) **Competing Brands:** Team members shall not wear clothing that promotes or advertises a manufacturer that competes with NAAATT's sponsor(s) when taking team photographs, making media appearances, participating in team activities or representing the team.