

Ballarat Region Track Relay Selection Policy

Context

The four Ballarat senior clubs in the region come together to form Team Ballarat for relay teams for the Victorian Relay Championship every season. Members of the clubs will nominate for a position in a relay team with the region eligible to submit an unlimited number of FULL relay teams within age groups on the day. The teams will represent the region at the championships.

Policy Scope

This policy will cover relay selection for all Athletics Ballarat relay teams which may include track and field, cross country, and road relays.

Athletics Ballarat Relay Selection Committee

Athletics Ballarat delegates the responsibility of relay management to an appointed Athletics Ballarat Relay committee. This committee shall be made up of no less than two and up to four members, with each senior athletic club to have **no more** than 1 representative on the committee.

The committee shall be responsible for:

- Calling for nominations,
- Ranking the athletes
- Team Selection (including the appointment of any coaches and team managers)
- Approaching additional athletes if nominations fail to provide the required numbers to fill a team.
- Team Communication

Selection of the relay committee members will be by the Athletics Ballarat AVSL Committee at its discretion, taking into consideration the timeliness required for event preparation, which relays are approaching, and the availability of interested and qualified individuals.

The selection of the committee members will be for the one relay season only (Eg Track & Field or Cross Country), and Athletics Ballarat may choose to reappoint the committee members for the next season, or appoint new or additional members.

Athlete Eligibility

All Athletes selected MUST:

- Be registered members of Athletics Victoria with a Ballarat based club
- Nominate by the deadline set each year (Deadline defers based on event time)
- Qualify for the allocated age group by year of birth
- Not have withdrawn from previous relay teams without legitimate reasons.

Nomination Process

Members must complete the nomination form by the selected closing time to be considered for a spot in a relay team. All members can access the form three weeks prior to the event.

The form will be made available on the BRAC website and via Social Media Channels.

Athletes **must** nominate for the allotted age group they currently compete within during the AVSL season.

Junior athletes may **also** choose to nominate for consideration within the open category but must also be available for their own age category **if required**.

Team Selection

Team Selection will be at the discretion of the Athletics Ballarat Relay Committee, with a view to maximise the potential of success for the region, whilst also trying to maximise opportunities for Ballarat Athletes to participate.

The committee will utilise the following process for determining teams:

1. Open teams will be selected from all eligible nominees (including any junior Athletes who choose to also nominate for open), with teams being chosen on athlete rankings from 1 down to number of nominees. Eg 10 Nominees, Athletes will be ranked 1-10.
2. Athlete ranking will occur using the fastest times in each relay distance over the previous 12 months.
3. All times used for athlete ranking must have been achieved at an AV or AA accredited competition such as AVSL, Championships or Specialist AV meets.
4. Should there be enough nominees, multiple Ballarat teams will be entered. Teams will be selected using the 'A','B','C' methodology, with the 'A' team consisting of the 4 highest ranked athletes, "B' Team consisting of athletes ranked 5-8 and so on.
5. Should a nominee not be selected for the 'A' team, it is expected that they will be available for selection in a B or subsequent team.
6. Junior Teams will be selected from all athletes nominated in that age category using the same ranking methodology as outlined in point 1.
7. If more than 4 athletes have been nominated for an age group, athletes may be asked to move into a higher age group to fill other teams. This will occur only if there are vacant positions in older age groups. EG - No age group progression is to occur, which may lead to a nominated runner missing the opportunity to run.
8. Age group progressions will only occur if there is an excess of runners in the original age group, or if it is unlikely that Ballarat will be able to field a team in that age group due to lack of numbers. EG - An age group progression can not occur that may lead to the original age group being unable to field a side.
9. In the case of an age group progression needing to occur, the relay committee will use its discretion as to which athlete it chooses to progress. This may be based on which team has the greater chance of success, however other factors may be considered such as team cohesion, athlete load etc.
10. An athlete who is age group progressed will ideally only be asked to move into the next age level, however may also be progressed to a higher age group if required.
11. Athletes **can** compete in one junior grade and one OPEN grade in the same competition, however **can not** compete in two different junior age groups in the same competition. Eg 4x100.
12. Athletes **can** compete in multiple age groups across different competitions. Eg U14 4x100 and then u16 4x400.
13. Where a Junior athlete is selected within the open team, and does not wish to also compete in the Junior team, all reasonable efforts will be made by the relay committee to prevent the need for them to run in both junior and open teams, however should they be required to compete in the junior team to allow a team to participate, they must do so.

Athlete Withdrawals

Should an athlete wish to withdraw from a relay after nomination, it is expected that they provide a legitimate reason for doing so, and provide evidence to support this reason.

Legitimate reasons include:

- Injury or illness.
- Clash with higher level of competition.
- Other reasons will be considered case by case.

Failure to provide evidence may result in restrictions to future relay eligibility.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed by the BRAC Board of Management at the completion of each relay season, with feedback sought from BRAC Athletes as well as the Club Development Committee and Members Advisory Committee.