

Qualification System and Entry Standards (as of May 2025)

Entry conditions

- Individual Events (103.6)
 - Each European Athletics Member Federation may enter up to 5 (five) qualified athletes in each individual event of whom up to 3 (three) may participate.
 - According to 103.7, in each individual event, the current reigning European Outdoor Champion will also be invited to participate as a Wildcard, in the same event organised in the following European Athletics Championships, where this event will be staged, on the condition that the athlete in question is entered by his/her federation in that specific event. If a Member Federation has four athletes in that event, as a result of this regulation, all four will be permitted to compete.
- Relay Events (103.6)
 - Up to 8 (eight) athletes may be entered per team for each relay. From these 8 (eight) and from any other athletes entered for any event in the European Athletics Championships, the 4 (four) athletes to participate must be nominated at the time specified for the Final Declaration.
- Marathon Events
 - Marathon events are both individual and team competitions (for national men's and women's teams).
 - Each Member Federation may take part with one men's and one women's team. Teams entered must participate with minimum of 3 (three) and maximum of 6 (six) runners.
 - In case a Member Federation participates with two athletes who have achieved the entry standard or are qualified via the World Rankings, **other athletes (to reach a total of 3 to 6 athletes entered) may be allowed to take part without entry standard to complete a team.** These additional athletes should not be counted in the quota of 60 target athletes, and would be entered, as unqualified athletes over the quota.
- Unqualified athletes
 - Member Federations who have no:
 - Male and/or no female athletes who have achieved the Entry Standards or considered as having achieved the Entry Standard (see below);
 - Male and/or no female athletes who are potentially qualified by World Rankings.may enter one unqualified male athlete AND/OR one unqualified female athlete in one individual event of the Championships. Two unqualified athletes of the same gender are not allowed.
 - The name and event of the unqualified athlete must be submitted no later than **27 July 2026** to competition@european-athletics.org, together with information about their best performance during the qualification period.
 - The Technical Delegates will decide whether to accept such an Entry or not. Once accepted an athlete will appear in the list of qualified athletes in the Road to Birmingham (please, see below).

- Age categories:
 - No athlete younger than 16 years of age on 31 December 2026 (born in 2011 or later) may be entered.
 - Athletes aged 16 or 17 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2009 or 2010), may compete in any event except the Shot Put (men), the Hammer Throw (men), Marathon, Half-Marathon Race-Walk and Marathon Race Walk.
 - Athletes aged 18 or 19 years on 31 December 2026 (born in 2007 or 2008), may compete in any event except in Marathon, Half-Marathon Race-Walk and Marathon Race Walk.
- I Run Clean:
 - Each European Athletics Member Federation may enter only those athletes who have received and hold a valid certification for having completed European Athletics Anti-Doping Education Programme – I Run Clean. The certification is to be achieved by all athletes in addition to fulfilling any requirements for the qualification for the event they are entered in.

Qualification System

- Qualification period valid for the Entry Standards and World Rankings:
 - For the 10,000m, Marathon, Half-Marathon Race-Walk, Marathon Race-Walk and Combined Events: 18 months from 25 January 2025 to midnight of 26 July 2026 (regardless of the time zone).
 - For Relays: from 1 January 2025 to midnight of 26 July 2026 (regardless of the time zone).
 - For all other events: 12 months from 27 July 2025 to midnight of 26 July 2026 (regardless of the time zone).
- Qualification in Individual Events
 - Athletes can qualify in one of four ways:
 - By achieving the **Entry Standard** within the qualification period in accordance with the criteria detailed below.
 - By virtue of the **Finishing Position** at designated competitions as follows (in these cases the athletes shall also be considered as having achieved the Entry Standards but shall be declared to European Athletics by 30 June 2025):
 - The first three placed athletes (men & women) of the European Cup 10.000m preceding the European Athletics Championships (2025 & 2026).
 - By **Wild Card** as Defending European Champion (such athletes shall be declared to European Athletics by 27 July 2026).
 - By virtue of the **World Rankings Position** achieved at the end of the qualification period according to the respective Event Ranking Rules (and ranking period). In case of ties, athletes with the next best Performance Score will prevail.
 - European Athletics will keep a regularly updated running list of qualification situation for each event in the lead up to the European Athletics Championships starting from summer 2025. This will be published on the Athletes & Data section of the European Athletics Website (<https://european-athletics.com/historical-data/top-list/season>). Member Federations are strongly encouraged to inform European Athletics, in case of any athletes being qualified (included in the Road to Birmingham), but not being able to participate due to injury or whatever other reasons. It would help to keep the list updated and help other MFs and athletes who might being considered qualified in case of withdrawals.
 - Individual Athletes Ranking Process
 - Following the end of the qualification period, based on the target numbers for each event European Athletics will determine:

- The number of athletes having achieved the standard (either directly or by finishing position at the selected competitions),
- The eligible wild cards,
- The approved unqualified athletes

In those events where the target number of entries (see below) has not been reached, European Athletics shall identify and confirm, as qualified, the athletes with the next best World Rankings position (based on list calculated as of 27 July), in order to reach the established target number while respecting the maximum quota by Member Federation by event. Should the target number of athletes in any event be reached (or surpassed) through entry standards, wild cards and approved unqualified athletes, no athletes would qualify by virtue of their World Rankings position.

NB: To pro-actively identify those athletes, MFs are asked to pre-enter, via WA/EA entry system, by 14:00 on 29 July 2026 all athletes who would be competing/interested to compete at the European Athletics Championships Birmingham 2026 (whether being qualified at that moment, or just being in the 'next to qualify' list, but interested to participate). Athletes whose names are not pre-entered by that deadline, will be automatically considered as 'withdrawn' and thus not included in the final list of qualified athletes. Each member will have until the end of the day.

- The list with the athletes finally eligible for entry will be published on the morning of **30 July 2026**. Once it is published, no further changes would be made to the list (even in case of further, late withdrawals due to injuries or other reasons).
 - Member Federations shall enter all athletes to Birmingham 2026 by the final entries' deadline of **31 July 2026 at 14:00 CEST**.
- Qualification in Relays
 - Only 16 national teams (8 teams in case of 4x400m Mixed Relay and 4x100m Mixed Relay) will be qualified to compete in each relay event.
 - The qualification procedure will be based on the aggregate of the two fastest times achieved by national teams in the qualification period. For being ranked, the results of relay races shall be valid only on condition that they are part of a competition staged in compliance with World Athletics Rules (and included into WA Global Calendar) and that at least 2 international teams, representing at least 2 countries compete in the race.
 - Member Federations that wish their qualified relays to compete must declare it **by 27 July 2026 at 14:00 CEST** and enter them later in the Final Entries.
 - The Host Nation has the right to be represented with one national team in each relay race. If they wish to participate and are not qualified as indicated above, the number of national teams to qualify will be reduced to 15 (7 in case of 4x400m Mixed Relay and 4x100m Mixed Relay). The Host Nation shall declare their intention to compete in any of the relay races **by 27 July 2026**.

Target number of athletes / teams per event

Event	Target Number
100m	36
200m	36
400m	36
800m	32
1500m	30
5000m	25
10,000m	27
Marathon	60
3000m SC	34
110m H / 100m H	36
400m H	36
Half Marathon Race-Walking	35
Marathon Race-Walking	35
4x100m R	16
4x400m R	16
4x100m Mixed R	8
4x400m Mixed R	8
High jump	30
Pole vault	30
Long jump	30
Triple jump	30
Shot	30
Discus	30
Hammer	30
Javelin	30
Combined Events	24

Entry Standards

MEN	Event	WOMEN
10.15	100m	11.18
20.45	200m	22.85
45.25	400m	51.20
1:44.80	800m	1:59.80
3:33.50	1500m	4:03.50
13:08.00	5000m	15:05.00
27:50.00	10,000m	32:00.00
8:20.00	3000m SC	9:28.00
13.40	110m H / 100m H	12.88
49.00	400m H	55.30
N/A	4x100m	N/A
N/A	4x400m	N/A
N/A	4x100m Mixed	N/A
N/A	4x400m Mixed	N/A
2:09.30	Marathon	2:27:00
1:26:15	Half Marathon Race Walk	1:36:20
3:11:00	Marathon Race Walk	3:40:00
2.27	High Jump	1.94
5.82	Pole Vault	4.60
8.05	Long Jump	6.77
16.80	Triple Jump	14.20
20.80	Shot Put	18.20
65.50	Discus	61.00
77.00	Hammer	71.50
83.00	Javelin	60.80
8300	Combined Events	6320

Conditions for the validity of performances

- All performances must be achieved during competitions organised or authorised by World Athletics, its Area Associations, or its National Federations, and conducted in conformity with World Athletics Rules and for which an application has been submitted to WA (World Rankings Competition Framework). No results will be considered from competitions not submitted to WA and not included into WA Global Calendar.
European Athletics reserves the right to establish additional criteria for the acceptance of the results for the purpose of the entry standards, with the aim to preserve the integrity of the sport.
- Special conditions for validity of performances:
 - Performances achieved in mixed competitions in track events will not be accepted. Exceptionally, in accordance with Rule 9 of the World Athletics Technical Rules, performances achieved in events of 5000m and 10,000m may be accepted in circumstances where there were insufficient athletes of one or both genders competing to justify the conduct of separate races and there was no pacing or assistance given by an athlete(s) of one gender to an athlete(s) of the other gender. If applicable, Member Federations must submit a specific request to the World Athletics (competition@worldathletics.org) providing the documentation as required.
 - Performances which are wind assisted or for which a wind reading is not available, will not be accepted for Entry Standards purposes (but will be valid for the World Rankings with the appropriate adjustments).
 - Hand-timed performances in 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 110m/100m Hurdles, 400m Hurdles and 4x100m and 4x100m Mixed relays shall not be accepted.
 - Indoor performances for all field events and for races of 200m and longer will be accepted.
 - Performances in events conducted indoors or in an otherwise fully or partly covered venue where their length or other specifications of the facility do not comply with the rules for indoor competition, shall be valid and recognized as if they were achieved outdoors, if they are made subject to all of the following conditions:
 - The relevant governing body as provided in WA Competition Rules 2 to 3 has issued a permit for the event;
 - A qualified panel of National Technical Officials are appointed to and officiate at the event;
 - Where applicable, equipment and implements in conformity with the Rules are used;
 - In case of an oval track, its length is greater than 201.2m (220 yards) but not greater than 400m; and the event is conducted in a competition area or facility in conformity with the Rules and in respect of which, if held on a temporary facility, a survey has been made in accordance with Rule 10 of the Technical Rules.
 - For 10,000m, results of 10km races conducted on the road will be accepted.
Please note, performances achieved by women in mixed competitions in road events will not be accepted.
 - For 5000m, results of 5km races conducted on the road will be accepted.
Please note, performances achieved by women in mixed competitions in road events will not be accepted.
 - For Marathons
 - Performances for qualifying purposes may only be achieved on a course measured by a World Athletics/AIMS Grade "A" or "B" international Road Race Course Measurer with the measurement certificate established no more than five years before the date of the race.

- For entry standards the overall decrease in elevation between the start and the finish will not exceed 1:1000, i.e. 1m per km.
- For World Rankings in case of performances achieved on courses with a drop in elevation which exceeds 1:1000, a correction will be made in the result score from which points will be deducted depending on the drop.
- For the Race Walk
 - Track performances (20.000m) will be accepted.
 - Performances achieved in competitions conducted with the penalty zone rule will be accepted.
 - Performances for qualifying purposes may only be achieved on a course measured by a World Athletics/AIMS Grade "A" or "B" international Road Race Course Measurer with the measurement certificate established no more than five years before the date of the race.
 - A minimum of 3 International or Area Race Walking Judges must be on duty.
- For the combined events, at least one of these conditions must be met:
 - the wind velocity in any individual event will not exceed plus 4 m/s);
 - the average velocity (based on the algebraic sum of the wind velocities, as measured for each individual event, divided by the number of such events) will not exceed plus 2 m/s.

Qualification procedure in sprint events during the Championships

- The following qualification procedure will apply for track events up to 400m (incl. hurdle events):
 - There will be 3 rounds: pre-qualification round, semi-final and final.
 - The pre-qualification round will include all athletes entered and eligible to compete, except the 12 top athletes (12 best ranked athletes according to the "Road to Birmingham") who will directly qualify for the semi-finals.
 - There will be 3 semi-finals where the 12 top athletes and the 12 best athletes from the pre-qualification round will compete.
 - The 2 first athletes in each semi-final plus 2 athletes with the best performance in the semi-final will be qualified for the final.
- Direct qualification for semi-finals:
 - The athletes to be directly qualified for the semi-finals are
 - The 12 best ranked, entered, athletes according to the "Road to Birmingham".
 - The 12 best ranked, entered, athletes, or more in case of a tie for the 12th place. *(In that case the number of athletes to qualify from the pre-qualification round will be decreased based on final number of athletes directly qualified for the semi-finals.)*
 - The 12 best ranked, entered, athletes, or less in case an athlete will not be confirmed at final confirmation or is withdrawn before the pre-qualification round. *(In that case the number of athletes to qualify from the pre-qualification round will be increased based on final number of athletes directly qualified for the semi-finals.)*
 - The list of athletes directly qualified for the semi-finals will be published after the closing of the final entries (31 July 2026 at 14:00 CET). *(Participation of athletes directly qualified for the semi-finals need to be confirmed at the same time as the final confirmation for athletes participating in the pre-qualification round.)*