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**WMRA International U18 Mountain Running Cup
Saturday 22nd June – Montana Palencia Region, Spain
Selection Policy published October 2023**

Overview

The WMRA International U18 Mountain Running Cup will take place in the Montana Palencia Region, Spain on Saturday 22nd June 2023. Welsh Athletics values the role this representative opportunity will provide in gaining experience in competing against a high quality international field as part of a representative team competing against other representative teams.

Selection Policy Aim

The selection panel will attempt to select the best team possible to represent Wales.

Athlete Eligibility

To be considered for selection, athletes must satisfy the following:

1. Be eligible to compete for Wales by either:
 - a. Birth
 - b. Parentage
 - c. Residence (minimum 3 years)
 - d. Retention

Competition Format

The WMRA International U18 Mountain Running Cup provides an **U18 Age Group** competition opportunity.

Teams of up to **4 U18 Men and 4 U18 Women** may be selected. The age groups follow World Athletics rules, so U18 athletes are those born in 2007 and 2008. Wales will compete against teams from Europe and around the world.

Selection Process

The **Red Kite Challenge**, incorporating the Welsh Trail Championships, on **Saturday 27th April** will act as the official trial race for the Welsh team. The first three Welsh athletes across the

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finish line in both the male and female U18 races will be selected, with the final place at the discretion of the selection panel. **There is no obligation to fill all available positions, even if athletes finish in the top three in the trial race, if runners are not considered of the required standard to warrant selection.**

To be considered for the team athletes need to do one of the following:

1. Take part in the trial race
2. If unable to do the trial race, contact Arwel Lewis (Welsh Athletics Mountain and Trail committee representative) and Steve Mitchell (Welsh Athletics National Talent Development Coordinator) before the entries for the trial race closes. The athlete must explain why they are unable to do the trial race and prior to the selection meeting must give an indication of current mountain and fell running form. The athlete will be considered in the selection meeting when discussing discretionary places.

Arwel Lewis contact email address: arweleryri@googlemail.com

Steve Mitchell contact email address: steve.mitchell@welshathletics.org

The selection meeting will take place on **Tuesday 30th April 2024** and the teams will be announced on **Saturday 4th May 2024**.

The **Selection Panel** will comprise of **2 individuals nominated by the Welsh Athletics Mountain and Trail Committee, a team manager and 2 individuals from the Welsh Athletics performance team.**

In coming to its decision, the **Selection Panel** will consider the following criteria when it comes to the discretionary places (in no priority order):

1. 2024 form and fitness in mountain and fell races
2. Evidence from competing at mountain and fell races in previous seasons
3. Future potential and associated progression / development
4. Head-to-head competitive records
5. Previous / other event championship performances
6. Athletes who are supportive of Welsh Athletics
7. Any other factors that, in the panel's opinion, give Wales the best chance of success

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Appeals Process

There shall be no right to appeal the selection of the Welsh team made by the selection panel.

De-selection Process

De-selection of an athlete may occur following:

1. Failure to adhere to the Welsh Athletics code of conduct
2. In the event of an athlete sustaining an injury or illness following acceptance of their position on the team, they are required to inform the team leader immediately. If required, evidence will have to be supplied. If it is deemed that the injury or illness will negatively affect the athlete's performance this will result in deselection.

Equal Opportunities

Welsh Athletics will not discriminate in the selection of any athlete on the basis of any protected characteristics.

Amendment

Welsh Athletics reserves the right to amend this selection policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publically available (including the date on which the amendment was made) on the [Welsh Athletics website](#)