**Selection Policy for SSACT 13yrs & Over Team for National**

**Cross-Country Championships.**

The ACT 13yrs & Over team has a maximum size of 60 students, which does not include places that can be offered for eligible Multi-Class students (previously referred to as Athletes with Disabilities). This is a School Sport Australia rule for cross country.

The age groups covered by the 13yrs & over team are:

* **Under 14** (turning 13 years of age in the year of the competition),
* **Under 16** (turning 14 years or 15 years of age in the year of the competition),
* **Under 18** (turning 16 years or 17 years of age in the year of the competition) and
* **Under 20** (turning 18 years or 19 years of age in the year of the competition).

There is no mandated requirement from School Sport Australia to include a minimum, or maximum, number of athletes in any specific double-age group, or any single age within a double-age group, as long as the total team size does not exceed 60.

**The Selection Trial for places in the ACT team for the National Championships is the ACT School Cross Country Championship.**

Students wishing to be considered for selection must complete the nomination process as outlined on the School Sport ACT website and pay the online registration fee by the date specified.

After the nomination period closes, the ACT Selectors will offer places to students under the following criteria:

* Students who finished in the first 5 of the Selection Trial for each double age group (as specified above) will automatically be offered a place in the team subject to them having completed the nomination process. This selection process will result in up to 40 places being automatically offered from the Selection Trial.
* The first two students from each single age, within a double-age race, will automatically be offered a place in the team if they finish outside the first 5 but within the first 16 in the Selection Trial, subject to them having completed the nomination process. This means that each age group, within a double-age group, will have at least two students selected. This selection process could result in up to 12 additional places being automatically offered from the Selection Trial.

***Selector’s Discretion*,** or the ***Top 50 Standard*,** will apply to all other places available in the ACT team beyond the places offered from the point above.

***Selector’s Discretion:***

The following considerations will be used to offer additional places to students.

* Students who have nominated for the team by the due date but were not able to compete in the Selection Trial due to reasons such as illness, injury, school excursions, school exams or any misadventure.

*(Illness and injury reasons will require a Doctor’s Certificate, or a note from a qualified Physiotherapist. Other reasons as listed above may be considered, but in all cases, students seeking selection consideration* *are also required to fill in the ‘Request for Inclusion’ form and have it returned by their school to the School Sport Executive Officer).*

For these students above, Selectors will give consideration to:

1. Their prior (in the previous 18 months) performances at **National Championships** in cross country, or track distance races (1500m and above).
2. Their prior (in the previous 12 months) performances at **ACT** **State Championships** in cross country, or track distance races (1500m and above).
3. Their prior (in the previous 6 months) performances at **ACT** **Zone Championships** in cross country, or track distance races (1500m and above).

**No consideration will be given to school-organised events for cross country or track distance events.**

Students will need to complete information in ‘Playing History’ in the online Nomination registration if they wish to be considered under the above criteria. With regards to cross country performances, relative results against other athletes will be the main consideration. Race times will be less of a consideration due to the variability of courses used and the inexact nature of distances raced over (with the exception of timed performances at the Stromlo Forest Park Cross Country course over the recognised distances).

***Top 30 Standard***

After Selector’s Discretion has been applied to offer additional places to students unable to compete at the Selection Trial, and should there be places still available in the team further students will be considered for the offer of a place in the team under the following criteria:

* Students who race in the Cross-Country Selection Trial and have met the following Standards will be considered for places in the team.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age Group | National XC Distance | Time |
| 13-year Male | 3k | 11:00 |
| 13-year Female | 3k | 12:00 |
| 14-year Male | 4k | 14:30 |
| 15-year Male | 14:00 |
| 14-year Female | 4k | 16:00 |
| 15-year Female |
| 16-year Male | 6k | 21:00 |
| 17-year Male |
| 16-year Female | 4k | 16:30 |
| 17-year Female | 16:00 |
| Under 20 Male | 8k | 21:00\* (6k at ACT Championships) |
| Under 20 Female | 6k | 16:00\* (4k at ACT Championships) |

* If less places are available than the number of students who qualify under the Standards above, then students will be ranked based on their how far inside the Standard they are.

If places are still available after Selector’s Discretion and the Top 50 Standard are applied, additional places may be offered based on how close students are to the Top 50 Standard.

Notwithstanding anything set out in this Policy document, the Selectors have an overriding discretion to name any athlete in the Team if they believe it is in the best interests of School Sport ACT to do so.

Amended May, 2023