# *International Island Games XXI 2027*

## *3rd-9th July 2027 – Faroe Islands*

## *Selection Policy*

**Overview**

Guernsey Athletics aims to select its strongest possible team for the 21st International Island Games.

The club recognises that this edition of the Games will be the most expensive yet to attend. Therefore, for the first time the club will offer direct funding to athletes who achieve A or B Standards in the events for which they ultimately gain selection. This funding will be subject to fulfilment of terms and conditions outlined in Appendix 3. Guernsey Athletics hopes that this significant investment will help make the trip feasible for more athletes and achieve the aim of selecting the strongest possible team for the Games.

Athletes are obliged to communicate their events preferences and any evolution or changes to the Development Team of Tom Druce and Lee Merrien on an ongoing basis. Athletes will be required to 'rank' their events in terms of priority to them, which will be factored into selection decisions involving athletes doubling up. If it is perceived that an athlete has withheld information that adversely affects the ability to set the correct team size and/or to select the strongest possible team, they will likely not be considered for selection. Though ongoing communication is expected, the two key dates are:

- End of December 2026 – Team size confirmed to Guernsey Island Games Association (GIGA)
- End of April 2027 – Team management preparing for the selection meeting

The aims of the selection policy is to:

- Maximise medal success at the Games
- Facilitate ongoing athletics career progression of established athletes, particularly those with Island Games top-6 potential
- Provide development athletes with the opportunity to experience an international event
- Provide aspirational standards for performance and development athletes

**Eligibility**

To be considered for selection, athletes must:

- Be eligible to compete for Guernsey (i.e. by birth or been a resident for a minimum of 12 months prior to the Opening Ceremony of Faroe Islands 2027)
- Be 15 years or older on 1st June 2027 (18 years old for 10,000m or Half Marathon)
- Be a paid-up member of Guernsey AC or another athletics club for at least 12 months leading up to the Island Games
- If requested to do so, to partake in the club's instalments scheme whereby monies will be collected towards the cost of the trip

**Team Size**

The team size is provisionally confirmed as 27 athletes. Though the final submission is not due to the organisers until December, GIGA has requested a firm indication as of the start of November due to the complexities in arranging travel and accommodation. This number was arrived at by the Guernsey Athletics team management

by assessment of expressions of interest, 2026 performances, athletes' commitment to partake in instalment payments and other relevant factors. The team size could possibly change by the end of December with GIGA's permission but will then be fixed from that point with no flexibility.

International Island Games rules allow the following entries:

- Individual events (except Half Marathon)
  - A maximum of 2 athletes can be selected
- Half Marathon
  - A maximum of 3 athletes can be selected
- Relays
  - A maximum of 6 athletes can be selected for the squad

**Qualification Standards**

The Guernsey Athletics qualification standards are as follows:

| | Men | | Women | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Event** | **A Standard** | **B Standard** | **A Standard** | **B Standard** |
| **100** | 11.10 | 11.45 | 12.60 | 12.90 |
| **200** | 22.60 | 23.15 | 25.80 | 26.80 |
| **400** | 50.00 | 51.35 | 59.00 | 60.75 |
| **800** | 1:57.75 | 1:59.50 | 2:18.50 | 2:21.50 |
| **1500** | 4:01.00 | 4:06.00 | 4:48.00 | 4:54.00 |
| **5000** | 15:15.00 | 15:50.00 | 18:20.00 | 18:45.00 |
| **10000** | 32:15.00 | 33:00.00 | 38:40.00 | 39:00.00 |
| **3000 Steeplechase** | 10:00.00 | 10:20.00 | - | - |
| **110H/100H** | 15.50 | 16.00 | 15.75 | 16.40 |
| **400H** | 56.25 | 58.00 | 67.25 | 69.00 |
| **High Jump** | 1.87 | 1.82 | 1.58 | 1.54 |
| **Long Jump** | 6.60 | 6.35 | 5.20 | 5.00 |
| **Triple Jump** | 13.55 | 13.30 | 10.80 | 10.40 |
| **Shot Put** | 12.80 | 11.90 | 10.70 | 10.35 |
| **Discus** | 42.00 | 37.00 | 36.50 | 32.00 |
| **Hammer** | 50.00 | 44.00 | 40.00 | 35.00 |
| **Javelin** | 53.00 | 50.00 | 35.00 | 32.00 |
| **Half Marathon** | 1:11:00 | 1:14:00 | 1:25:10 | 1:27:45 |

Qualification Standards must initially be achieved between 22nd March 2026 and 2nd May 2027. All athletes selected for the team on 2nd May 2027 will then have until 6th June to post further qualification marks in their preferred event(s). The only exception is the Half Marathon where no further performances will be considered.

Further details regarding the achievement of qualification standards are noted in Appendix 2.

**Selection**

The main selection meeting will be held on the evening of 2nd May. There will then follow another meeting to finalise the allocation of athletes into events on the evening of 6th June.

The Selection Panel will comprise of three voting members – the team managers; and a non-voting member – the Guernsey Athletics' statistician. Further details regarding the selection meeting process are outlined in Appendix 1.

Whilst it is expected that the majority of potential selectees will be identified by the team management well in advance of the selection deadline, this will not always be the case and that any athletes who make late breakthroughs will have equal chance of selection in line with the principles outlined in Appendix 1. The only barriers to overcome in this scenario are timely administration (entry forms etc) and the ability to commit to payment at short notice.

**Island Games – a unique opportunity where senior performance and youth/junior development co-exists**

The value of the Island Games to Guernsey Athletics and its athletes cannot be overstated. It also cannot be overstated how much of a step-up in competition experience the Games are. They stand as an effective vehicle for driving both performance and development – aspects which rarely directly co-exist in the competition environment. Whilst medal success is the top priority at the Games, ensuring a positive experience for our development athletes is also important and is a key part of our team selection and management. Ensuring that the Games serve our purposes as both a senior performance and a development event is a fine balance which we are well equipped to manage. One example of this is that in the majority of cases, youngsters will not be considered for doubling up, particularly in track events with multiple rounds. As the Games are a senior event which can also have a significant mental/emotional toll on youngsters, the management discourage any thoughts of athletes/parents seeking to do extra events 'to make the trip more worthwhile' despite the significant financial outlay.

Any queries regarding the selection criteria or other information should be directed to tom.druce@guernseyathletics.org.gg. Endurance athletes can also alternatively contact lee@leemerrienrunning.com

**Appendix 1 – Selection Process**

The Selection Panel will select the team in 2 rounds at each selection meeting. The May meeting will be conducted as a formal selection process, factoring in the team size limit and the limit on athletes per event. However, athletes will not be locked into events, therefore allowing another month for event selections to be confirmed at the June meeting.

**Performance Factors**

The following factors will be considered (in no particular order) throughout the selection meetings. These points will be particularly relevant where more athletes are selectable for an event than spaces available:

- Seasons bests 2027 and 2026;
- Current form (e.g. is the athlete's 2027 performance level the same as or trending towards 2026 level)
- Future individual medal potential at Island Games, National Senior or National Age Group Championships and Commonwealth Games
- Head-to-heads during the qualification period and particularly in 2027
- Previous competition history (specifically Island Games history where applicable)
- Contribution to relay teams (where relevant)
- Injury status
- Commitment, attitude and conduct
- Range, level and quantity of competitions entered during the whole qualification period
- (For B Standard athletes only) Developmental Athlete status, i.e. U20 or younger, or an Island Games debutant

The following factors will all be considered in both rounds where an athlete has requested consideration to compete in multiple events:

- Medal potential in their first and second (and third) choice events
- Top 6 potential in their first and second (and third) choice events
- Event schedules
- Competition history when undertaking multiple events
- Athlete age and stage of development
- Performance level in second (and third) choice events when compared against other selectable athletes in relevant round of selection

**Round 1: Two A Standards (and single A Standards in 10,000m & Half Marathon)**

- All athletes who have achieved at least two A Standard performances (or one A Standard performance in the 10,000m & Half Marathon) will be selected where there are sufficient spaces
- Where more athletes are selectable than spaces are available, the panel will make their decisions based on the performance considerations outlined above
- Where athletes wish to compete in multiple events, the panel will again make their decisions based on the relevant performance-based considerations outlined above.

**Round 2: All other athletes including relay squads**

- The panel will consider all athletes who have achieved a single A Standard, athletes who have achieved B Standard(s) and young development athletes without standards
- Attainment of standards will be of primary consideration as well as the factors outlined above
- Athletes in this round will only be considered for multiple events at the end of the round if there are additional spaces remaining
- Relay athletes' engagement with organised relay practice sessions and their technical relay skills evident within those sessions will be considered.

Athletes will be contacted immediately following each of the meetings. This will be by email in the majority of cases, though phone calls will be utilised where deemed more appropriate. The team selections will be formally announced the following day.

**Appendix 2 – Qualification Performance Conditions**

Performances must be achieved during competitions where the results are eligible to be entered on to the Power of 10 database.

For all relevant track and field events, wind assisted performances (performances with a wind value more than 2.0 m/s) shall not be accepted as formal qualifying marks but will be considered when assessing form or head to heads.

Hand timed performances in 100m, 200m, 400m, 100m/110m hurdles and 400m hurdles shall not be accepted as formal qualifying marks but can be considered by the panel when assessing form or head to heads.

Indoor (Short Track) performances will be accepted for all relevant events.

Performances in road races (if eligible for Power of 10) can be accepted for 5,000m and 10,000m. However, track performances will be considered favourably versus road performances.

Performances achieved in the same individual event in a single day where that event is not an official championship of UK regional level or higher will only count as follows:

- In track events, only the fastest legal performance of the day
- In throwing events, only the best performance of the day
- In horizontal jumps, only the best legal performance of the day

**Appendix 3 – Athlete Subsidies**

Athletes who comply with the terms and conditions listed below will be eligible for the following subsidies:

- A Standard - £500
- B Standard - £250

Athletes are only able to claim one subsidy, i.e. the achievement of multiple standards does not mean multiples of £250 or £500 can be claimed.

The subsidy can only be claimed against an event that an athlete is ultimately selected in, e.g. if an athlete is only selected for the relay squad then they are not eligible for a subsidy even if they have achieved a standard in the 100m.

**Terms & Conditions**

As this is a potentially large investment by Guernsey Athletics, it is necessary to impose some terms and conditions. Subsidies will be paid to all athletes who adhere to the following points:

- Athletes must demonstrate a consistently high commitment to training and competition in 2027, ensuring that performances remain at the expected level. There may be added scrutiny of athletes who under-competed in 2026
- Athletes must pay some level of club membership for 2027 (basic/lite options are available for non-local athletes – contact club@guernseyathletics.org.gg)
- Athletes should address any negative issues with the club through the available channels and avoid publicly criticising the club through social media or other means
- Athletes must ensure that they conform to the Athletes Code of Conduct at all times
- Athletes will adhere to Guernsey Island Games Association's code of conduct during the Games themselves
- Any athletes who receive direct sponsorship from a company or their own workplace will lose some proportion of any subsidy due to them if the sponsorship exceeds £1,000
- If athletes or parents are unsure about any of the points above, they should contact Tom Druce in the first instance

**Appendix 4 – Provisional Athletics Schedule**

Day 1 (Sunday)

| | Men | Women |
|---|---|---|
| pm | 400m Heats | 400m Heats |
| | 100m Heats | 100m Heat |
| | Hammer Final | 10,000m Final |
| | | High Jump Final |
| | | Long Jump Heats |

Day 2 (Monday)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| am | 400m Repechage | 400m Repechage |
| | 100m Repechage | 100m Repechage |
| | 1500m Heats | 1500m Heats |
| pm | 100m Semi (or Repechage) | 100m Semi (or Repechage) |
| | 400m Semi | 400m Semi |
| | 10,000m Final | |
| | 100m Final | 100m Final |
| | Triple Jump Final | Shot Put Final |
| | Javelin Final | Pole Vault Final |

Day 3 (Tuesday)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| am | Free morning | |
| pm | 400m Final | 400m Final |
| | 4 x 100m Heats | 4 x 100m Heats |
| | 1500m Final | 1500m Final |
| | 4 x 400m Heats (Mixed) | 4 x 400m Heats (Mixed) |
| | Pole Vault Final | Long Jump Final |
| | | Javelin Final |

Day 4 (Wednesday)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| am | 200m Heats | 200m Heats |
| | 400m Hurdles Heats | 400m Hurdles Heats |
| | 800m Heats | 800m Heats |
| | Long Jump Heats | |
| pm | 200m Repechage | 200m Repechage |
| | 400m Hurdles Repechage | 400m Hurdles Repechage |
| | 3000m Steeplechase Final | 5000m Final |
| | High Jump Final | |
| | Discus Final | |

Day 5 (Thursday)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| am | 110m Hurdles Heats | 100m Hurdles Heats |
| | 200m Semi Final | 200m Semi Final |
| pm | 110m Hurdles Repechage | 100m Hurdles Repechage |
| | 200m Final | 200m Final |
| | 800m Final | 800m Final |
| | 400m Hurdles Final | 400m Hurdles Final |
| | 5000m Walk Final | 5000m Walk Final |
| | Long Jump Final | Hammer Final |

Day 6 (Friday)

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| am/pm | Half Marathon | Half Marathon |
| pm | 110m Hurdles Final | 100m Hurdles Final |
| | 5000 metres | |
| | 4 x 100m Final | 4 x 100m Final |
| | | 2000m Steeplechase Final |
| | 4 x 400m Final (Mixed) | 4 x 400m Final (Mixed) |
| | Shot Put Final | Triple Jump Final |
| | | Discus Final |

**Appendix 5 – Cost Information**

The instalments scheme will commence shortly and will follow this approximate schedule:

- September (or as soon as possible): £800
- January: £800
- May: Balance (TBC)

Any athletes who are only able to afford to attend the Games on the basis of a more flexible payment plan can approach the club (club@guernseyathletics.org.gg) in confidence to discuss. The deadline to do so is 30th September 2026. The only club officials who will be involved and have knowledge of this will be the Athletics Development Officer, club administrator, and club treasurer.

Families are asked to only seek an alternative payment plan if it is genuinely needed, but equally are encouraged to ask for help rather than overstretch financially or opt out of the Games.

As of August 2026, the cost is still unknown as it could vary significantly depending on the accommodation that we are offered and the travel plans that GIGA ultimately decide on. Currently, £2,500 seems a fair estimate before any subsidies are applied. This could however change in either direction.

Athletes on the long list will be kept updated on progress in this area – whilst any club member who is looking to try to qualify for the Games can approach the club for an update.