

**Athletics Canada Selection Criteria
WORLD CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS**



**World Cross Country Championships
Bathurst, Australia
February 18, 2023
version 3.0**

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2. Change History

This is version 3.0 of these Criteria which supersedes all previous versions. The following amendments have been made:

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- **December 21, 2022:**
 - Section 4: Adjusted wording of “Qualifying Period – All Events” to “Qualifying Period – Discretionary Decisions (8.c)” and updated date to provide clarity that this does not apply to Mixed Relay Event Rankings period.
 - Section 8.d.ii: Corrected typo which referenced “Mixed Relay” athletes to “Discretionary Pool”.
- **November 16, 2022:**
 - Section 4: Corrected typos in “Qualifying Period – All Events” and “Final Team Selection Meeting” from 2022 to 2023.

3. Overview

- a. These Selection Criteria (“Criteria”) set out Athletics Canada’s selection processes for the World Cross Country Championships team along with the eligibility and qualification requirements that an athlete must satisfy in order to be considered for selection.
- b. Entries to World Cross Country Championships are limited by the bylaws, rules and regulations of the following Governing Bodies:
 - i. Athletics Canada (“AC”);
 - ii. The World Cross Country Championships Local Organizing Committee (“LOC”); and
 - iii. World Athletics (“WA”).
- c. If there are contradictions between any of the Governing Bodies’ bylaws, rules and/or regulations and these Criteria, then the more restrictive will take precedence. Note that this clause is notwithstanding any qualification standards set by a Governing Body, AC reserves its right to set standards that are stricter than those set by any Governing Body.
- d. AC’s National Team Committee (“NTC”) is responsible for the contents of this Criteria and has the sole authority and discretion to make changes to its contents. The Selection Panel has the sole authority and discretion to make decisions relating to the selection of athletes based on these criteria. The Selection Panel is covered in Section 10, below.

4. Key Dates

Important Dates		
DATES	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION
June 1, 2022 – November 26, 2022	Qualifying Period – Mixed Relay Event Rankings	
June 1, 2022 – January 29, 2023	Qualifying Period – Discretionary Decisions (8.c)	
November 26, 2022	Final Declaration Deadline all events	Online Form
November 26, 2022	Canadian Cross Country Championships	Ottawa, ON

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December 1, 2022	Deadline for AC to submit short list of athletes to World Athletics (requirement for visa for entry to Australia)	
January 7-29, 2023	Athletes to complete proof of fitness requirement for Mixed Relay or Discretionary Selections (12.b)	Submit result(s) to nationalteams@athletics.ca
January 31, 2023	Final Team Selection Meeting	
February 1, 2023	Publication of Team List	
TBC	Depart Canada	
February 18, 2023	Athletics Competition	

Each date will be considered to start at midnight (00:00am) and end at 11:59pm in the athlete's local timezone, unless stated otherwise above.

5. Team Objectives

- a. This selection process is designed to align with AC's Strategic Plan 2028. As such, it seeks to prioritize the selection of athletes who have demonstrated an ability to contribute to the following performance targets at the World Cross Country Championships, presented in priority order:
 - i. Total number of medals;
 - ii. Total number of top 8 finishes;
 - iii. Total number of athletes finishing in the top half of their field;
 - iv. Total number of athletes beating their pre-event ranking;
 - v. Total number of athletes setting personal bests; and
 - vi. Total number of athletes setting season's bests.

6. Funding

- a. Athletes will be responsible for all costs associated with transport to and from their approved local airport.
- b. All other reasonable costs of participation at this event will be covered by AC.

7. World Cross Country Championships Events

a. Events

AC may select athletes for the Events listed immediately below. Each Event is contested separately by men and by women, unless stated otherwise:

- i. **Individual Events:**
U20 Female: 6km

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U20 Male: 8km
Open Female: 10km
Open Male: 10km

Please see Section 12.e for details on age restrictions.

- ii. **Relay Events:**
8km Mixed Relay

b. Maximum Entries per Event

- i. **Individual Events:** up to six (6) athletes and two (2) non-travelling reserve athletes may be selected per Event.
- ii. **Relay Events:** up to two (2) female athletes and one (1) non-travelling reserve and two (2) male athletes and one (1) non-travelling reserve athlete may be selected for the Mixed Relay team.

c. Maximum Events per Athlete

- i. **LOC restrictions:** There are no restrictions on the number of events for which an athlete may be selected, although Scheduling Conflicts (see below) may make some “doubles” impractical.
- ii. **Scheduling conflicts:** Senior athletes may be selected for the Mixed Relay *or* their Individual Event, as the competition schedule makes the double impractical. Athletes eligible for selection to both events will be asked to indicate their preference, but the final decision rests with the selection panel’s discretion as to which composition will optimize the overall team’s ability to meet the Team Objectives (Section 5).

8. Selection Process

- a. The Selection Panel (Section 9) will make decisions in person or electronically, guided by these Criteria, on the Selection Meeting Date[s] (Section 4.d).
- b. The Selection Panel will only consider Eligible Athletes (Section 12).
- c. **Discretionary Selection Decisions**
Whenever these Criteria give the Selection Panel a choice between two or more Qualified Athletes then the Selection Panel will use its joint experience and expertise to select the athlete(s) who, in their sole opinion, are most likely to contribute to the Team Objectives (Section 5) at the World Cross Country Championships.

In making these decisions the Selection Panel will take into account, but not be limited to, the following factors (the order of factors does not imply an order of

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priority for the Selection Panel):

- Best cross-country performance during the Qualifying Period;
- Best other performance during the Qualifying Period (eg road and/or track);
- Head-to-head cross-country results during the Qualifying Period;
- Head-to-head results in other events during the Qualifying Period (eg road and/or track);
- Results at the National Championships in this event;
- Health and fitness levels that indicate optimal competitive readiness;
- Competition evidence of the ability to performance on demand, preferably in the same event and at this level of competition;

For the avoidance of doubt: in order to distinguish between two or more Qualified Athletes (Section 8.b8.c) for any event the Selection Panel may, at their sole discretion, consider additional official competition performances that don't fully otherwise meet the Eligible Performances criteria (Section 13).

d. Individual Events - Senior Team Selection Process

i. Selection Step 1 – Canadian Cross Country Championships

A “Nationals Pool” will be created from the top ten placing athletes at the 2022 Canadian Cross Country Championships Open events who are eligible to compete for Canada. Athletes who have not declared for the WXC will be removed from the Nationals Pool. For the avoidance of doubt if this makes the Nationals Pool less than ten athletes, no additional athletes will be added. Athletes from the Nationals Pool will be automatically selected in priority order based on finishing position at the 2022 Canadian Cross Country Championships until a maximum of four (4) athletes have been selected in each event.

ii. Selection Step 2 – Discretionary Pool

Athletes who competed for Canada at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games and/or the 2022 Eugene World Athletics Championships and are declared and eligible (Section 12) will form a “Discretionary Pool”. Note that athletes in the Discretionary Pool may or may not compete at the 2022 Canadian Cross Country Championships. Up to two (2) athletes may be selected from the Discretionary Pool. Athletes will only be added from the Discretionary Pool if the Selection Panel considers that their inclusion will increase the chances of the team meeting the Team Objectives (Section 5). For the avoidance of doubt, the Selection Panel is not obligated to select eligible athletes from the Discretionary Pool and therefore may opt to select based on finishing position at Nationals (Step 3, below). The Selection Panel will make its decisions based on Section 8.c – Discretionary Selection Decisions. Note that Discretionary Pool athletes must prove form and fitness prior to selection (Section 12.b).

i. Selection Step 3 – Canadian Cross Country Championships

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If fewer than two athletes are added from the Discretionary Pool then any remaining places (up to the maximum team size of 6) will be selected from the Nationals Pool by selecting in the order that athletes finished at the 2022 Canadian Cross Country Championships. Any remaining athletes in the Nationals Pool will be named as non-travelling reserves in the order that they finished at the National XC open event. Note that WA may limit the number of eligible reserves depending on the visa process for entry to Australia, in which case AC would be bound by WA restrictions.

e. Senior Team Mixed Relay Event Selection Process

Eligible athletes will be ranked according to their highest World Athletics Points score within the Qualifying Period (4) in one of the following events: 800m, 1500m, 3000m. Separate rankings lists will be prepared for male and female. World Athletics Points are based on the 2022 Revised Edition of the WA Scoring Table of Athletics (available here). For the avoidance of doubt, the outdoor scoring table will be used regardless of whether the performance was achieved indoors or outdoors. The top-ranked eligible athletes (Section 12) will be selected until the Maximum Entries per Event (Section 7.b) have been filled. Note that Mixed Relay team athletes must prove form and fitness prior to selection (Section 12.b).

f. Individual Events - U20 Team Selection Process

A “Nationals Pool” will be created from the top ten placing athletes at the 2022 Canadian Cross Country Championships U20 Events who are eligible to compete for Canada. Athletes who have not declared for the WXC will be removed from the Nationals Pool. For the avoidance of doubt if this makes the Nationals Pool less than ten athletes, no additional athletes will be added. Athletes from the “Nationals Pool” will be automatically selected in priority order based on finishing position at the 2022 Canadian Cross Country Championships until a maximum of six (6) athletes have been selected in each event. Any remaining athletes in the Nationals Pool will be named as non-travelling reserves in the order that they finished at the National XC U20 event. Note that WA may limit the number of eligible reserves depending on the visa process for entry to Australia, in which case AC would be bound by WA restrictions.

9. Selection Meeting(s)

- a. The Selection Panel (Section 10) will make decisions on the date(s) as indicated in Section 4 to select the team according to these Criteria.
- b. The Chair of the Selection Panel will decide if the meeting will be held in person or electronically, for example by voice or video conferencing or by email.
- c. AC will keep a written record of the proceedings of the Selection Meeting and its outcomes.
- d. The outcome will be published via an Official Team Announcement (Section 11).

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10. Selection Panel

- a. The World Cross Country Championships Selection Panel has the sole authority and discretion to make decisions relating to the selection of athletes for the World Cross Country Championships up until the Team Travel Date (Section 4).
- b. From the Team Travel Date (Section 4) forwards “On-site Decision Making Authority” will apply (Section 15).
- c. The Selection Panel members will be comprised of the members of the NTC.

11. Official Team Announcement

- a. The composition of the selected team will be announced by AC, on the AC website, as soon as practical after the Selection Meeting (Section 4.d).
- b. Athletes may be contacted directly by AC prior to the Official Team Announcement to confirm their selection or non-selection.

12. Eligible Athletes

To be considered for selection for this team:

a. Declaration:

Athletes must declare their interest to compete by submitting the electronic declaration form, published on the AC website, by the Final Declaration Deadline (Section 4.c). Note that by declaring interest for this team, the athlete agrees to be bound by AC Bylaws and Technical Rules and obligations specific within this Selection Criteria which include Team Travel Obligations (Section 14) and the Appeals process (Section 15).

b. Proof of Fitness

To be selected for the Senior Mixed Team Relay (Section 8.e) or via the Discretionary Pool (Section 8.d.ii) must complete one of the following requirements to prove their fitness between January 7-29, 2023:

- i. Mixed Relay: complete a 1,000m to 3,000m indoors or 3k to 5k road race, or any cross country race
- ii. Discretionary Pool: complete a 3,000m to 10,000m indoors or 5k to 10k road race, or any cross country race

Athletes must submit their proof of fitness result(s) to nationalteams@athletics.ca no later than January 29, 2023. The AC Head Coach may request additional proof of fitness if the results above are questionable (indoors result more than 4% difference from 2022 outdoor season's best result, road race more than 2% difference from 2022 outdoor season's best, domestic cross country below top 10, international cross country below top 20 (counting 4 per nation)).

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c. Eligibility to Represent Canada:

- i. Athletes must hold Canadian Citizenship and be otherwise eligible to represent Canada under WA regulations.
- ii. Athletes must hold a Canadian passport valid until at least 6-months after the end of World Cross Country Championships.

d. Membership Requirements:

Athletes must be a registered athlete member of an AC Branch at the time of qualification and through the World Cross Country Championships.

e. Age Restrictions

U20 Events: Athletes aged 17, 18 or 19 years (born in 2004, 2005 or 2006) may be selected.
Open Events: Athletes aged 20 years or more on December 31, 2022 (born in 2003 or earlier) may be selected.

f. Anti-doping Compliance

- i. Athletes must comply with the anti-doping rules of WA, AC, CCES, WADA and any other anti-doping organization with authority over the athlete.
- ii. Athletes must complete any anti-doping eLearning courses as required.

g. Good Standing

Athletes must be in good standing with AC, AC Branches, CCES, WA, WPA and all other Governing Bodies listed in Section 3.b .

h. Inclusion on Multiple Teams

Selection for this team will not affect any athlete's eligibility to be selected and/or nominated for any other AC event, unless specifically note within the other event's Selection Criteria.

i. Forms and Agreements

Athletes must sign, submit and comply with all required forms and agreements, including:

- i. Health Questionnaire (Electronic Pre-Participation Questionnaire)
- ii. Athlete Agreement
- iii. International Travel Waiver

j. COVID-19

- i. Athletics Canada will follow host location and LOC public health restrictions, and as such, vaccination may be a requirement for some national team activities.
- ii. By accepting team membership all team members accept that they will comply with COVID mitigation measures, such as social distancing, hand washing and wearing mask, or risk removal from the team.

13. Eligible Performances

- a. An Eligible Performance will be a competition result that:

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- i. Was achieved within the Qualification Period (Section 4); and
- ii. Was achieved by an Eligible Athlete (Section 12); and
- iii. Was achieved at an Eligible Competition (Section 13.b); and
- iv. Is listed on an Official Ranking List (Section 13.c) prior to the relevant Selection Meeting (Section 9); and
- v. Otherwise met all of the Performance Conditions (Section 13.d).

b. Eligible Competitions

- i. Performance results must be achieved at competitions organized or authorized by the WA, their Area Associations or National Member Federations, and must be conducted under WA rules. Thus, results achieved at university, college or school competitions must be certified by the National Member Federation of the country in which the competition was organized in order to be considered an eligible competition.
- ii. Performance results must have been achieved at competitions listed on an AC Branch Provincial Fixtures Lists or on a WA National Member Federation fixture list.
- iii. Canadian competitions must appear on Provincial Fixtures lists a minimum of 30 days prior to the competition. A Provincial Branch may request that this period be reduced where COVID pandemic related issues have made it unrealistic to list the competition earlier. The NTC will decide on a case-by-case basis if they will allow the performance to stand for selection purposes, provided the following requirements are met:
 - The competition must appear on the Provincial Fixtures lists a minimum of 3 working days prior to the competition; and
 - The Province must request an exemption, in writing, a minimum of 3 working days prior to the competition which includes how COVID related restrictions made it unrealistic to list the competition earlier. (The request should be addressed initially to the chair of the NTC, the High Performance Director.)

c. Official Ranking Lists

- i. The AC Performance Ranking Lists are published on the AC website.
- ii. The WA World Rankings Points Lists are published on the WA website.
- iii. An athlete's performance is considered to be on the Official Ranking Lists if:
 - It is listed in the AC Performance Ranking Lists (which requires the athlete be an AC member in good standing at the time of the performance); or

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- If these Criteria allow qualification by WA World Ranking points, then an athlete's overall World Ranking points score (which may include individual results that are not on the AC Performance Ranking Lists) must be listed on the WA World Rankings Points Lists.
- iv. It is the sole responsibility of the athlete to ensure that all of their relevant performances are included in the AC Performance Ranking Lists and/or WA World Rankings Points Lists prior to the relevant Selection Meeting (see Section 9).

d. Performance Conditions

i. Mixed Events

- Performance results achieved in mixed track events under 5000m involving both male and female participants, held completely in a stadium, **will not** be accepted.
- However, mixed relay team results **will be** accepted in the context of mixed relay event selections.
- In accordance with World Athletics Rule 147 (available [here](#)), as amended from time to time, 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. Athletes are asked to highlight such results to the Selection Panel as early as possible so that their validity can be confirmed in advance.

ii. Wind-assistance

- Individual wind-assisted performances **will not** be accepted.
- Where qualification is allowed by WA World Ranking points and wind assisted results are allowed by the WA World Ranking system, an athlete's overall World Ranking points score (that may include wind assisted results) **will** be accepted.

iii. Hand-timed performances

Hand-timed performances in individual and relay events up to and including the 800m **will not** be accepted. For all other timed events, hand-timed results will be accepted as long as the result is properly documented and signed by the chief track referee. Note that where qualification is allowed by WA World Ranking points and hand timed times are allowed with the WA World Ranking system, the overall World Ranking points score (including hand timed results) will be accepted.

iv. Converted times

Converted times, for example a mile time converted to a 1,500m time, **will not** be allowed. Note that where qualification is allowed by WA World Ranking points and

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a combination of distances is allowed by the WA World Ranking system, an athlete's overall World Ranking points score (that may include converted times) will be accepted.

v. **Split times**

Official split times, for example an official electronic 1,500m time within a mile race, **will** be accepted.

vi. **Downhill performances**

Downhill performances **will not** be allowed. Note that where qualification is allowed by WA World Ranking points and downhill performances are allowed by the WA World Ranking system, an athlete's overall World Ranking points score (that may include downhill performances) will be accepted.

vii. **Indoor performances**

Indoor performances **will** be accepted.

viii. **Racewalk and Road Running performances**

- Both road and track performance results **will** be accepted.
- All road results must be achieved in conformity with the following rules:
 - the course must be certified and sanctioned by a National Governing Body (Section 3.b).

14. Team Travel Obligations

- a. If there is a Competition Levy associated with this event it must be paid before the athlete can travel. No travel tickets will be issued until the Competition Levy is paid.
- b. Athletes who wish to participate on a National Team are required to comply with AC travel plans (including participation in pre-competition and pre-target-event training camps and competitions) as they pertain to training schedules, travel and accommodation schedules.
- c. By declaring interest for consideration for this team, athletes agree to fully participate in both the final preparation camp and the full duration of the event specified in Section 4 of this Criteria.
- d. By accepting a position on this team, athletes also agree to travel on the official traveling dates.
- e. In extraordinary circumstances, exceptions to these Team Travel Obligations may be granted at AC's sole discretion. The request for an exemption must be made in writing to the AC HPD in advance of travel dates, requests must be made on or before the Final Declaration Deadline (Section 4.c).

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- f. Failure to comply with these Team Travel Obligations may result in de-selection from this team and may affect current high performance support status (for example CAPP or AAP support) and/or future high performance support eligibility. Any additional costs incurred as a result of failure to comply with these Team Travel Obligations will be the sole responsibility of the athlete.

15. On-Site Decision Making Authority

- a. To ensure at-competition decisions may be made quickly and decisively in the best interest of performance, the following delegation of authority and processes for making final confirmation of entries onsite at the will apply. This includes, but is not limited to, decisions around removal of an athlete from the team, injuries and /or use of alternates, starting orders, relay team make up, etc.
- b. Starting on the Team Travel Date (Section 4.e) all final Decision Making Authority (“DMA”) will reside with the High Performance Director (“HPD”) or the team’s appointed Head Coach in the absence of the HPD.
- c. As per competition regulations, the athletes entered to compete in individual events will be confirmed during the competition. The timing is to be confirmed by the LOC but typically confirmations will be made before noon two days before the first day of competition and before 9am the day before each remain day of competition. Any final changes of the team will be made by the HPD (or whomever has the DMA).
- d. The deadline for confirming the composition of relay teams, including the running order, will be confirmed during the competition. The timing is to be confirmed by the LOC but typically confirmations will be made one hour before the published first call time for each relay event. The composition of the relay teams, including the running order, shall be at the sole discretion of the team’s Head Coach or the HPD in the absence of the Head Coach.

16. Appeals

- a. **Who Can Appeal**
Athletes who are directly affected by a selection decision have the right to appeal.
- b. **Filing a First Appeal**
 - i. Athletes should refer to the Commissioner’s Office – Terms of Reference for the full procedure for filing an appeal (see <https://athletics.ca/about-ac/governance/>).
 - ii. In the first instance, Appeals must be sent to the AC Commissioners’ Office via e-mail (to Commissioner@athleticscommissioner.ca) within the Appeals Period (Section 16.c below).
 - iii. All appeals must be accompanied by a fee of \$250 (payable to Athletics Canada). This amount will be returned if the appeal is successful. Contact

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appeals@athletics.ca for payment options.

c. Appeals Period

The Appeals Period starts when the Official Team Announcement is made (see Section 11) and ends **five (5)** calendar days later. (So if the Official Team Announcement is made on Monday the Appeals Period ends at midnight on the following Saturday.)

d. Grounds for an Appeal

The Commissioners' Office will determine whether an appeal will be considered, based on the following factors:

- i. The Selection Panel failed to follow the processes outlined in this Selection Criteria;
- ii. The selection decision was based on an error of fact; or
- iii. The selection decision was influenced by bias, bias being defined as a lack of neutrality to such an extent that the Selection Panel was unable to consider other views.

e. Affected Parties

If it is determined by the Commissioner that a first Appeal, if successful, would displace another athlete nominated to the team as per this Selection Criteria, then that athlete will be consulted as part of the Commissioner's deliberations, and will be bound by the Commissioner's decision.

f. Injury or illness

Where an Appeal relates to injury or illness, the athlete must supply documentation from a medical practitioner diagnosing the injury or illness. In deciding such appeals, AC's Commissioners' Office may obtain input from the AC Chief Medical Officer, or designate. Any decision by the Commissioner on an appeal relating to illness or injury must take into consideration the athlete's ability to fulfill the Competitive Readiness Requirements contained in this Selection Criteria.

g. Right to a Second Appeal

If an athlete is not satisfied with the decision of the Commissioner, a formal second appeal may be available, timelines permitting, pursuant to The Commissioner's Office – Terms of Reference (see <http://athletics.ca/federation/governance/policies-rules-laws/>) to the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC).

17. Amendments

AC reserves the right to amend this Selection Criteria. If amendments are made, they will be communicated as soon as possible through the AC website.

Athletics Canada is carefully following the evolution of the coronavirus on the global and domestic level and how it may impact this competition. Unless otherwise required by exceptional and unforeseen circumstances related to the impact of the coronavirus, Athletics Canada will respect this selection criteria as written.

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However, situations related to the coronavirus pandemic may arise that require this criteria to be modified. Any modifications will be made promptly and as often as required following developments that directly impact the criteria (including Athletics Canada's decision whether or not to send a team). In such circumstances, any modifications will be communicated to all affected individuals as soon as possible.

Further, situations may arise that do not allow this criteria to be modified or applied as written due to time constraints or other exceptional and unforeseen circumstances. In such situations, any decision, including selection decisions, will be made by the individual(s) with decision-making authority, as stated in this criteria in accordance with the stated performance objectives as stated herein. Should it be necessary to make any decision in this manner, Athletics Canada will communicate with all affected individuals as soon as possible.

In addition to the above, the NTC may amend the Criteria under the following circumstances:

- 1) When additional (or altered) information that is deemed relevant by the NTC to the Criteria is provided by external parties, such as (but not limited to) an event organizing committee, Sport Canada, the Canadian Olympic Committee, World Athletics, or any other relevant organization; and
- 2) To correct, clarify or amend any inconsistencies, errors or omissions in the Criteria.

Any amendments made by the NTC are deemed to come into effect immediately upon publication on the AC website. The NTC will publish the amended Criteria by whatever means and wherever the original Criteria were published.

18. Unforeseen Circumstances

In situations where unforeseen circumstances do not allow the process for selection as contemplated in this Selection Criteria to be implemented, the NTC reserves the right to determine an appropriate course of action. Depending on the circumstances, such course of action may involve implementation of an alternate process for selection.