

Policy:	Procedural Guidelines for MTBO Selection Panel
Title:	Selection Policy
Objective:	To provide a fair and equitable selection process for New Zealand representative teams

Introduction

These guidelines have been written to complement the D3 - Selection Panel Policy and G1 – Selection Policy, to provide more procedural guidance for the MTBO Selection Panel.

The Selection Panel makes decisions on teams and athletes representing NZ in the World MTBO Champs and ANZ Challenge. It also makes decisions on World Junior MTBO Champs, World Cup MTBO, and other events where formal NZ representation is required, however these are less common.

Use of Selection Data

MTBO selections can be challenging, insomuch as we do not usually hold trials, so tend to rely on known form. Obviously recent known form is preferred and should be the first source of data to look at. Often the selection panel may select major events from the past 12 months to look at, where many/most NZ riders would have likely attended. This would ideally include the NZ MTBO Champs, but may also include the Australian MTBO Champs where kiwi riders may have had significant numbers at.

The selection panel should analyse the performance of NZ riders at the identified events, using percentage against winning time calculations, taken across all identified races, and then averaged. The attached spreadsheet template provides an example of this with the necessary calculations. This will require the convenor, or other delegated person, to upload the necessary finish time data from winsplits or other results sources.

Selectors may choose to omit one mispunch (MP) event in this analysis, which for many athletes may be a rare or very occasional occurrence, in what otherwise could be very good performances and results. This prevents a singular MP excessively swaying the results of the analysis.

Selectors may also look at less recent evidence of performance, as well as other evidence of form, such as XC races etc, to complement this process. This can be useful when certain athletes may have not attended the identified events, or have been impacted by injury, but who have some history or other evidence of performing in MTBO. Whilst we seek to make decisions as objective as possible, judgement is also required so fair decisions are made on selections, all things considered.

In the case of the ANZ Challenge team, the team size will be dictated by the ANZ challenge rules. Based on the team size as agreed per those rules, the best athletes per grade will be selected with the goal of fulfilling the desired numbers of athletes per class (ideally 3 per class, but maybe less).

In the case of World MTBO Champs, certain performance criteria should be met to satisfy selectors of an athlete's suitability to attend the world champs. This means numbers of athletes and team size may vary, depending on who is available and numbers of athletes who meet the criteria. As at 2022 the maximum number of athletes able to represent a country in JWMTBO, WMTBO, and World Cup MTBO are 6 Men and 6 Women. The criteria that the NZ MTBO Selectors have used for selection in these events would be:

- Expected to be within the top 75% of the field at a world champs event, evidenced by;

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- Being within 120% of the winning time of the top Open Male or Female at one or more of the NZ or Australian MTBO Champs events, or top Junior (M/W20) at NZ or Australian MTBO Champs.

Timings and Key Actions Required in the Selection process

World MTBO Champs and JMTBO Champs

For the World Champs, at least 4 months before the event a selection notice should go out via the ONZ Website. The official channel is the ONZ website but may also be notified on the Mountain Bike Orienteering NZ Facebook page, and emailed to clubs and/or via known MTBO marketing lists.

The selection notice should include the event selection is for, convenors name and contact details, dates for application OR dates for selection trials (if applicable), plus “The specific conditions relating to selection criteria or eligibility shall be outlined within the Selection Notice produced to announce the selection qualifying criteria” (3.3 Selection Policy). Selection notices must also specify that applicants must be current financial members of an ONZ club and have no outstanding debts to ONZ. Sample selection notice:

ONZ Selection Notice – Mountain Bike Orienteering World Championships and Junior World Championships 2020

Orienteering NZ Selection Notice – Mountain Bike Orienteering World Championships and Junior World Championships 2020 Jesenik, Czech Republic 16 – 23 August 2020

There will be no specific trial event. Athletes wishing to be considered for selection must be current financial members of an ONZ club and have no outstanding debts to ONZ. Selection will be based on all known recent form with emphasis on the 2020 NZ MTBO Champs, Australian Champs, or World Champs performances. Please include any relevant recent results in your application.

Notification should be to the convenor of MTBO Selectors, Josie Boland at josie.boland@xtra.co.nz. Please include your club, date of birth and age class (junior or open) – remembering that your age class is determined by your age at 31/12/2020.

The convenor will then administer the applications and share with the MTBO Selectors, working through the process as per these guidelines and the Selection Policy. In some cases, the convenor may need to be pro-active in reminding people who they believe may have an interest and who may have missed the selection notice to apply. This in no way should be interpreted as having a bias towards any favoured athlete, but is more a practical step to take to ensure no one misses applying. When communicating on this, it is important the convenor does not use language which may be interpreted as a selection decision being predetermined.

ANZ Challenge

Selectors should refer to the ANZ challenge rules, which have been written for MTBO, but which also reference the foot ANZ challenge rules. This provides timelines around when decisions are made on the ANZ challenge, agreement to which classes will be competed in (which are determined by the visiting country) etc. In terms of the selection process, this requires:

- A selection notice to go out ASAP after the agreement with OA on the ANZ challenge. This would ideally be 6 months before the event.
- Pro-active communication by the convenor and the selection team, to ascertain who may be interested in attending the championships, therefore possible for team selection

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consideration. This is especially important for NZ teams visiting Australia, where travel decisions will also need to be made as early as possible.

- In the case of the visiting team selection, Ideally the team should be selected at least 3 months out from the event, so that the notification requirements can be met: *“The visiting nation is to advise the host nation of the classes to be contested at least three months prior to the Challenge and the teams are to be notified by both nations to each other and to the Oceania Championships organiser at least one month prior to the Challenge. Late team changes are permitted until forty-eight hours before the first Challenge event provided that the opposing nation's manager and the Oceania Championships organiser, are notified. Subsequently however, team changes may only be made with agreement from the opposing nation's manager and this agreement is only to be given in exceptional circumstances such as an injury”*
- In the case of host nation selections, the team can be selected later, but at least 1 month prior to fulfil the notification requirements.
- Amendments to the teams can be made after this time, as per the rules.

Relevant Links to Key Documents

<https://www.orienteering.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/G1-Selection-Policy-Updated-March-2017.pdf>

<https://www.orienteering.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/D3-Selection-Panels.pdf>

[Australia-NZ-MTBO-Challenge-Rules.pdf \(orienteering.org.nz\)](#)

[Australia-New-Zealand-Foot-O-Challenge-Rules.pdf \(orienteering.org.nz\)](#)

<https://orienteering.sport/mtbo/competition-rules/>