POLICY AND PRINCIPLES FOR THE SELECTION OF ASA TEAMS
(An ASA Constitution Schedule)

1 INTRODUCTION

Athletics South Africa has as ultimate goal, to achieve peak performance at the Olympic Games. In order to achieve this goal, a preparation strategy is needed of which transparent and defendable selection criteria should be one of the cornerstones of such a preparation strategy.

1.1 The categories of teams that Athletics South Africa will select from time to time to realize the ASA goal are:

1.1.1 Multi Coded teams e.g. athletics teams to the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and All Africa Games as part of a team consisting of several other sporting codes
1.1.2 Event specific Championships such as
1.1.2.1 Teams to the IAAF World Championships
1.1.2.2 Teams to the CAA African Championships
1.1.2.3 Teams to the Southern Region Championships

1.2 The teams mentioned above will fall under three categories based on age:

1.2.1 Senior teams
1.2.2 Junior (u/19) teams,
1.2.3 Youth (u/17) teams.

2 TEAM SELECTION POLICY

This policy will cover two main areas of focus, namely:

2.1 PRINCIPLES OF THE TEAM SELECTION PROCESS

Question: What are the main, and perhaps the only reason for sending teams to represent Athletics South Africa at any competition?
Answer: To send teams to bring back **honour** to South Africa.

Honour can only be achieved through top class performances. So for us in athletics, honour will be reflected primarily in the number of medals we achieve at any competition.

But of course, whilst we would like to send as part of our teams only athletes who have a potential to win medals, we also need to prepare for the future and at the same time address the demographics of our teams to ensure that the teams represents all communities in the Athletics South Africa.

In summary, our team selection policy should be founded on two principles, namely:

2.1.1 The Excellence Component

The key component of the Athletics South Africa Team, are those athletes who have a great potential to achieve medals, in other words, it is athletes who should at least end in the top eight in their respective events.

2.1.2 Balancing the demographics of the Team

Once the Excellence Component is addressed, in other words once all medal contenders are selected onto the Athletics South Africa Team, the selection process will focus on selecting athletes until the Athletics South Africa Team reflects the correct representation of the South African Population.

3 STRATEGY TO ADHERE TO THE TEAM SELECTION POLICY

3.1 As mentioned in the introduction, there exists three team categories, namely:

3.1.1 The Senior Team
3.1.2 The Junior Team
3.1.3 The Youth Team

It follows from this that the Athletics South Africa Team Preparation Strategy will concern itself with these 3 team categories.

3.2 The vehicle for the preparation of Athletics South Africa Teams will be the Team Preparation Squads. Athletics South Africa will have three squads, namely:

3.2.1 The Senior Team Preparation Squad
3.2.2 The Junior Team Preparation Squad
3.2.3 The Youth Team Preparation Squad

3.3 The Preparation Squads will be reviewed annually at the end of the International Track and Field Athletics Season. Athletes who were on the Athletics South Africa Athletics Preparation Squad the past year and did not meet the criteria this year will not be selected onto the Preparation Squad in preparation for the following International Athletics season.

3.4 The progress of the Preparation Squads will unpack itself as follows;

3.4.1 The selection of a Preparation Squad in August/September
3.4.2 The Selection of a preliminary Team in April/May

3.4.3 A final Athletics South Africa team 3 - 8 weeks prior to the International event and will be known as the “window period”.

3.5 In the initial Preparation Squad selection and the subsequent reviews, the following criteria, amongst others, will be applied:

3.5.1 Athletes must be 15 years or older.
3.5.2 Achieving the IAAF Qualifying Standard in the preceding year
3.5.3 Potential to achieve the IAAF qualifying standard in the future
3.5.4 Winning a medal at the preceding IAAF Championships

3.6 The identified athletes will be selected onto the Athletics South Africa Preparation Squads with the understanding that;

3.6.1 The athlete will be available to compete for Athletics South Africa Teams.
3.6.2 Available for Athletics South Africa press launches, marketing campaigns, etc.
3.6.3 Adhere to Athletics South Africa Selection Criteria for International Championships Events
3.6.4 Remain in good standing with Athletics South Africa and its partners

3.7 Athletics South Africa will meet with each Squad annually to:

3.7.1 Discuss the needs of each individual athlete,
3.7.2 Set goals and objectives to be achieved by each individual athlete, and milestones to be used
3.7.3 Discuss Athletics South Africa rights and obligations, and each individual athlete’s rights and obligations
3.7.4 Establish a relationship between the Federation, the Province, the Athlete, and the Coach. In the case of a junior/youth athlete a relationship must be established with the parent as well.

3.8 Opportunities to test/rehabilitate athletes must be created when the athlete/coach is in need of it.

3.9 Athletes must be committed to the preparation/selection process by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), reflecting a partnership between the Athlete, Federation, Province and the Coach.

3.10 An incentive/motivational based scheme must be implemented to help athletes to stay focused on the preparation/selection strategy. Those athletes who do not adhere to their individual plans drop out of the project.

3.11 Preparation Plans per individual athletes must be drawn up. The Preparation Plans will be based on the Olympic 4-Year Cycle. The ultimate goal for every individual athlete will be to achieve a medal at the Olympics. In other words, each individual athlete’s Preparation Plan should reflect a road map with the Olympics as the final destination.

3.11.1 The immediate goal of the preparation plan will be, to be no. 1 on the SA Top 10 Ranking List.

3.11.2 The intermediate goal will be, to be ranked on the IAAF World Top 10 Ranking List.

3.11.3 At international level, all the other international events, like the Commonwealth Games, IAAF World Half Marathon Championships, IAAF World Cross Country Championships, etc, will serve as milestones on the road to the Olympics, with the IAAF World Championships serving as the major milestones.

4 CONCLUSION

Athletics South Africa believes that with the above-mentioned selection policy and the preparation strategy, we will make a constructive contribution towards the preparation of the national teams to Olympics.

This selection policy will also ensure that our athletes make regular visits to the victory podium, and that our national anthem is sung regularly at major international competitions, including the Olympics.