Relay Policy (2026–2027)

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the guidelines and selection criteria for athletes representing Berwick Little Athletics Centre (BLAC) at Region and State Relay events. The aim is to provide all eligible athletes with the opportunity to compete as part of a team, develop relay-specific skills, and enjoy the spirit of team-based athletics.

2. Relay Sub-Committee

Relay team decisions will be made by a Relay Sub-Committee consisting of:

- Competition Manager

- Two State Team Managers

- Two Age Group Team Managers, with one representative from each gender.

3. Conflict of Interest

A Relay Sub-Committee member must not participate in the final selection decision for an age group their child is eligible. The member may provide factual administrative information where required but must abstain from the final selection decision.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for relay selection, an athlete must:

- Be a registered and financial BLAC members in age groups U9–U17.

- Have at least one recorded 100m, 200m or 400m time during the qualification period at BLAC competition level.

- Where no current-season qualifying time is recorded, have a previous-season time from Berwick competition that can be used for consideration. This may include athletes who are injured, ill or otherwise unable to record a current time.

- Be available for both Region and State events and for scheduled relay training, subject to approved absences.

- Submit the Relay Nomination Form and payment by the published deadline, unless an approved exception applies.

- Be encouraged by the Centre and age-group leaders to participate in relays.

5. Qualification Period

For the 2026–2027 season, the qualification period will be the first four weeks of the BLAC season, unless the Centre publishes a different period before nominations open.

The Centre will endeavour to schedule approximately two 100m, two 200m and one 400m opportunities during the qualification period.

Where an athlete has no current-season qualifying time, the previous-season Berwick competition time rule in Section 4 applies.

6. Team Selection Criteria

Selections will consider:

- 100m, 200m, and 400m performances during the qualification period.

- Attendance and participation at relay training sessions.

- Attitude, behaviour, and coachability.

- Baton-change technique.

- Team compatibility .

- LAVic eligibility and event limits, including the maximum four-event limit where applicable.

- Availability for Region and State Championships

Where two or more athletes have sufficiently similar performances, the Sub-Committee may consider team spirit and commitment as a distinguishing factor.

The Sub-Committee will apply the same published criteria to all athletes within the relevant age group and will record any material exception to the normal process.

7. Team Formation

Athletes will normally be ranked from fastest to slowest using the published performance information and the selection criteria in Section 6.

The normal formation for Track and Field relay teams will be:

- Team A: ranks 1–4
- Team B: ranks 5–8
- Team C: ranks 9–12
- Subsequent teams: in groups of four.

The Sub-Committee may alter the formation of Team B, Team C or subsequent teams where there is a documented and reasonable relay-specific reason, including team compatibility, baton changes, event eligibility, availability or the need to form a complete team.

Any deviation from the normal ranking order should be recorded by the Sub-Committee.

Swedish Medley Relay – 300m Leg

Selection for the 300m leg of the Swedish Medley will consider the athlete's 200m and 400m performances together with Split Potential, Endurance capability and Curve running technique. The Sub-Committee may use discretion to select the athlete considered most suitable for the 300m leg based on these factors.

8. Running Up Age Groups and Region Teams

Where required to form a complete and competitive team, athletes may be asked to run up by up to two age groups or assist another centre in forming a Region team.

The preferred approach is to form an A team within the athlete's own age group before considering movement to another age group. Where numbers do not allow an A team to be formed, athletes may be considered for movement to another age group.

Running-up decisions will consider the athlete's performance, eligibility, availability, event limits and the needs of the relevant team.

9. Team Finalisation

Following completion of the qualification period, the Sub-Committee will endeavour to announce relay teams within seven days.

After selection, a team may change because of illness, injury, approved unavailability or another circumstance that prevents an athlete from participating. Where a replacement is required, the Sub-Committee may select an eligible replacement using the same selection criteria.

Teams qualifying for State Championships should remain unchanged wherever reasonably possible, subject to the circumstances above.

10. Registration Deadlines and Late Registrations

BLAC will publish a firm relay nomination cut-off before the relevant Little Athletics Victoria deadline.

The standard cut-off for the 2026–2027 season will be 11:59pm on the Saturday of Week 4, unless BLAC publishes an amended date.

Late nominations will only be considered where they can be accommodated without unfairly displacing an athlete who was validly nominated and selected, and where the Sub-Committee determines that accepting the nomination will not compromise team formation or competition entry requirements.

11. Registration Fees and Refunds

An athlete invited solely to complete a team will not be required to pay a relay participation fee.

An injured athlete may request a refund through the Secretary. Refund requests will be considered according to the Centre's published refund arrangements.

An athlete who withdraws without a valid reason approved by the Executive Committee will not be entitled to a refund, subject to any applicable Centre or governing-body requirements.

12. Parental Responsibilities

Parents must acknowledge and complete rostered event duties, including duties such as marshalling, officiating or recording, where required.

Parents are expected to:

- Support their athlete's attendance and participation.
- Maintain respectful conduct towards team managers, coaches, athletes and other families.
- Maintain a positive and encouraging environment.
- Complete required duties at Region and State events.

If a parent is unable to complete an allocated duty, they should notify the relevant team manager as early as possible so an alternative arrangement can be considered. Any concern about repeated refusal to complete required duties will be addressed with the parent directly. Failure to complete rostered duty/ies may effect child/s participation or future selection in relays or other centre events and any decisions will be made by the Executive committee.

13. Uniform Requirements

As a condition of relay participation, athletes must compete in the approved BLAC competition uniform and comply with all Centre and Little Athletics Victoria uniform requirements, including approved sponsor patches and competition identification requirements.

14. Grievance and Review Process

A parent or athlete who believes the relay selection process was not applied consistently may submit a written review request to the BLAC Executive Committee through the Secretary within 48 hours of team announcement.

The request should identify:

- The athlete and age group.
- The part of the policy believed to have been applied incorrectly or inconsistently.
- The relevant factual information supporting the concern.

The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Relay Sub-Committee and subject to applicable conflict-of-interest requirements, will review the process and respond within five working days.

The review is intended to determine whether the published selection process was followed consistently. The Executive Committee's decision following the review will be final.

15. Records and Transparency

The Sub-Committee should maintain a selection record showing the relevant performance information, attendance information, availability, material selection considerations and any documented deviation from the normal team-formation process.

The record should be retained for the purpose of responding to any timely review request and for future policy review.

16. Version Control

Version: 1.0

Adopted: 28th September 2026

Review Date: May/June 2027

Policy Owner: Berwick Little Athletics Centre