

Foreign Athlete Registration

The England Athletics rule regarding Foreign Athlete Registration is as follows:

Rule G2 S5 (6):

“Foreign Athletes: Foreign Athletes: Under 20 and Senior athletes who are not eligible to compete for Great Britain and Northern Ireland under World Athletics Rules are only permitted to represent a Club in Open Team Competition as a first claim member if they:

- (i) satisfy the criteria for eligible residence set out below, and
- (ii) have been registered as an eligible foreign athlete with UKA in the year of competition in accordance with the procedures then applied by UKA or have successfully applied under rule G2 S8 to the appropriate National Eligibility Committee for relaxation of or exemption from the above.

When applying for registration, the athlete must provide as much evidence as may reasonably be required in order to demonstrate their eligible residence and will be required to pay a registration fee in an amount from time to time determined by the Board of UKA. Application must be made to renew registration annually, but a fee shall only be payable in the first year of registration. Should an athlete change their World Athletics eligibility during the year from GB & NI to another Country (except as set out in the “Note” below) an application under this rule to register as an eligible foreign athlete is required and have that approved under this rule before they are eligible to resume Open Team Competition for their first claim club.

An athlete shall satisfy the criteria for eligible residence for the purposes of these Rules if they:

- (iii) have been continuously resident in the UK for a period of at least 4 weeks and
- (iv) their presence would not reasonably be regarded as temporary.

For these purposes, presence shall be regarded as temporary, irrespective of the intended length of stay, if the primary purpose of that presence would reasonably be considered to be for any of the following: holidays, attending sports training or competition, visiting family members and work and educational visits, Provided that presence for the purposes of performing an employment contract or a formal course of education, in each case for a continuous period of at least 3 months, shall not be regarded as temporary.

Competition Providers may choose to apply more restrictive restrictions as allowed in G2 S4(6) Additional Rules & Conditions above.

When registered as an eligible Foreign Athlete, the registration may be revoked (with retrospective effect) if false information has been provided during the application process or the athlete’s situation changes and the relevant Eligibility Committee deems that the athlete no longer satisfies the criteria for eligible residence.

NOTE: Athletes possessing dual nationality of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and another country recognised by World Athletics will be regarded as eligible to seek to represent any Club under the jurisdiction of UKA unless they represent that other country in international competition when they will henceforth be regarded as an athlete governed by this Rule and will need to seek registration for subsequent seasons. Athletes born in Northern Ireland and resident within the United Kingdom are exempt from the requirement to register even if they have represented the Republic of Ireland in international competition.”

In practice, this means that for foreign athletes that are members of Valley Striders AC, the club will pay a registration fee of £10 to England Athletics. For most local level competition, no further rules will apply. However, for some national and regional level competitions this may have an impact on participation and team selection.

English National Cross Country Championships

<https://www.englishcrosscountry.co.uk/the-national-cross-country-championships/entry-procedure/>

For the participation in the current year, rule 6 states ***“Clubs may enter Foreign Athletes BUT ALL must be Bona Fide and Permanent Residents in the UK and Registered as Foreign Athletes with UKA by January 1st of the previous year”.***

Northern Cross Country Championships

<https://www.race-results.co.uk/results/2024/northern%20cross%20country%20championships%20prospectus%202024.pdf>

The prospectus for this event usually states that *“Any Foreign Athletes in the team MUST also be currently registered with UKA as Foreign Athletes”* and *“Only one registered Foreign Athlete can count in the scoring team.”*

Yorkshire Cross Country

<https://www.northernathletics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Yorkshire-XC-Prospectus-2022.pdf>

The prospectus for the Yorkshire Cross Country Championships does not usually mention any criteria for foreign athletes. However, there is an eligibility requirement based on residency in Yorkshire: *“All competitors MUST have been born in NORTH, SOUTH OR WEST YORKSHIRE or have nine months continuous residence in the counties prior to the date of competition.”*

English 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays (Spring)

<https://www.race-results.co.uk/onlineentries/uploads/info3117.pdf>

The prospectus usually states: *“Clubs may enter Foreign Athletes BUT ALL must be Bona Fide and Permanent Residents in the UK and registered as Foreign Athletes with UKA by January 1st 2018. A club can enter as many foreign athletes as they wish, but only 2 (two) may run.”*

Northern 12 & 6 Stage Road Relays (Spring)

<https://www.northernathletics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Mens-12-Stage-Relay-2024-Prospectus.pdf>

The prospectus usual states: *“Any Foreign Athletes in the team MUST also be currently registered with UKA as Foreign Athletes. All team and athlete affiliation will be verified prior to the event. A club can enter as many foreign athletes as they wish but only 2 may run. This applies to both ‘A’ & ‘B’ teams.”*

English 6 & 4 Stage Road Relays (Autumn)

<https://www.englishroadrunningassociation.co.uk/2023women4stageprospectus.pdf>

“FOREIGN ATHLETES JUNIOR/SENIOR MEN & WOMEN. Any Foreign Athletes in the team MUST be currently registered with UKA as foreign Athletes. All team and athlete affiliations will be verified prior to the event. A club can enter as many foreign athletes as they wish, but only 2 (two) can be selected in a team. This applies to both “A “ & “B” teams.”

Northern 6 & 4 Stage Road Relays (Autumn)

<https://www.northernathletics.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Northern-64-Stage-and-Young-Athletes-Relays-Prospectus-2023.pdf>

The prospectus usually states: *“Any Foreign Athletes in the team MUST also be currently registered with UKA as Foreign Athletes. All team and athlete affiliation will be verified prior to the event. A club can enter as many foreign athletes as they wish but only 2 may run. This applies to both ‘A’ & ‘B’ teams.”*

National Cross Country Relays (Autumn)

<https://www.englishcrosscountry.co.uk/the-saucony-english-cross-country-relays/info/>

For participation in the current year, rule 6 states that *“Clubs may enter Foreign Athletes BUT ALL must be Bona Fide and Permanent Residents in the UK and registered as Foreign Athletes with UKA by January 1st of the previous year.”*