

# PACIFIC GAMES 2027

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## 1. Purpose and selection philosophy

1.1 This policy establishes the process for selecting athletes to represent the Cook Islands in athletics at the Pacific Games 2027 in Tahiti, with athletics competition scheduled for 31 July to 6 August 2027.

1.2 Selection will prioritise verified competitive performances, current form, fitness, international competition readiness, and the strongest achievable team within the available places and funding. Meeting a minimum standard does not guarantee selection.

## 2. Team size and governing requirements

2.1 Athletics Cook Islands anticipates nominating approximately 10 to 15 athletes. This is a planning estimate, not a guaranteed quota. Final numbers and nominations are subject to ACI Board approval, CISNOC confirmation, event entry limits and available resources.

2.2 Final participation is subject to the applicable Pacific Games eligibility, accreditation and entry requirements and CISNOC selection and nomination processes.

## 3. Eligibility

3.1 Athletes must meet the national representation requirements in Schedule A of the ACI General Selection Policy and any additional Pacific Games or CISNOC eligibility conditions.

3.2 Athletes must be at least 16 years old by 31 December 2027 and submit an Expression of Interest by 4 December 2026, be in good standing with ACI, meet passport and travel requirements, have parental consent if under 18, and be medically fit to prepare, travel and compete.

3.3 Athletes must be available for the confirmed team travel and competition period and comply with the Athlete Agreement, anti-doping requirements and team rules.

## 4. Expression of Interest

4.1 An online Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted by 4 December 2026. The EOI is an application for consideration, not an offer of selection.

4.2 Applicants must identify their proposed athletics events, current performances, coach details, and the competitions at which they intend to achieve or submit qualifying results.

4.3 The list of intended competitions is indicative and not exclusive. Other competitions may subsequently be submitted for Selection Panel consideration, provided the results meet this policy.

4.4 ACI may request evidence of eligibility, passport details, coach endorsement, competition results or other relevant information.

## 5. Qualification period and acceptable results

5.1 Qualifying performances achieved from 1 October 2026 through 15 March 2027 (inclusive) may be submitted for selection consideration.

5.2 Results must be achieved at appropriately officiated competitions conducted under applicable athletics rules, with reliable official results capable of independent verification.

5.3 Competitions on the official calendars of Athletics Cook Islands, Athletics New Zealand, Athletics Australia or Oceania Athletics may be considered, as may other recognised meets accepted by the Selection Panel. Calendar listing alone does not establish that a performance is valid.

5.4 Athletes should provide event, result, date, competition name, venue, official result link or documentation, and relevant timing, wind and implement details. The Selection Panel may decline unverifiable or non-compliant results.

5.5 Performances from outside the qualifying period may inform assessment of progression and readiness but will not count as qualifying performances unless an amendment is formally published.

## 6. Optional Cook Islands trials

6.1 Optional trial opportunities are planned in the Cook Islands from 17 to 20 March 2027. Locations, events and arrangements will be advised separately.

6.2 Attendance at the trials is not mandatory for athletes submitting acceptable qualifying results from other competitions.

6.3 To be considered for selection, an athlete must either submit an eligible result from another appropriately officiated competition within the qualifying period or participate in a designated March trial and submit a valid result.

6.4 The March trials are a supplementary selection opportunity after the 15 March qualifying window. Results achieved at these designated trials may be considered for final selection, notwithstanding the earlier qualification-period closing date.

## 7. Selection assessment

7.1 The Selection Panel will consider: verified results and consistency; performance relative to the ACI Open qualifying standards in Appendix 1; World Athletics scoring comparisons where relevant; competitiveness in the Pacific Games field; current fitness and form; progression; coach assessment; conduct and preparation commitment; event entry limits; team composition; and funding and quota constraints.

7.2 Where athletes compete in different events and places are limited, the Selection Panel may use World Athletics scoring tables and other objective performance comparisons, alongside the wider selection considerations.

7.3 The existing ACI Open qualifying standards reproduced in Appendix 1 are the minimum performance benchmarks for consideration. Achieving a standard does not guarantee nomination or selection. The Selection Panel may consider an athlete below a standard only where exceptional circumstances and

credible performance evidence justify an exception, with reasons recorded and approved by the ACI Board.

7.4 The Panel may seek clarification or additional evidence, record reasons for discretionary decisions and recommend a reserve list. No athlete is guaranteed selection solely by submitting an EOI, attending trials or achieving a particular result.

## **8. Selection Panel and approval**

8.1 A three-member Selection Panel will be appointed by the ACI Board in accordance with the General Selection Policy, including its conflict-of-interest safeguards.

8.2 The Panel will assess applications and recommend nominations to the ACI Board. Final team confirmation is targeted by 31 March 2027, with ACI Board approval of nominations followed by CISNOC confirmation. ACI nomination alone does not guarantee inclusion in Team Cook Islands.

8.3 Athletes will be notified in writing. The Board may approve reserve athletes for vacancies or withdrawals, subject to applicable deadlines.

## **9. Confirmation and ongoing obligations**

9.1 Selected athletes must accept selection, sign the Athlete Agreement, provide required documents and meet the notified financial requirements within the deadline communicated by ACI. Under the General Selection Policy, the standard initial athlete contribution is \$300 within 48 hours, unless ACI publishes an event-specific arrangement.

9.2 Selected athletes must maintain an agreed training and competition preparation programme, communicate with designated ACI coaches, disclose relevant injuries or illness promptly and attend required team activities.

9.3 Selection may be reviewed or withdrawn for failure to maintain eligibility, fitness, conduct, preparation commitments or financial obligations, subject to fair consideration of relevant circumstances.

## **10. Costs and travel**

10.1 Team travel and logistics will be coordinated with CISNOC and ACI. The total athlete contribution amount is yet to be confirmed. Inclusions, fundraising expectations and travel dates will be advised when confirmed.

10.2 Athletes may be responsible for visas, personal expenditure and unrecoverable costs following withdrawal, as set out in the General Selection Policy and Athlete Agreement.

## **11. Appeals and amendments**

11.1 An athlete may seek clarification from the Selection Panel Convenor. Written appeals must be lodged within 48 hours of announcement, on grounds that the published process was not followed or

published criteria were incorrectly applied. Appeals will be considered and ratified in accordance with the General Selection Policy.

11.2 The ACI Board may amend this policy before final selection. Any material amendment will be communicated to applicants and published in a timely manner.

### Selection timetable

|                                 |                                                                    |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1 October 2026</b>           | <b>Qualifying results period opens</b>                             |
| <b>4 December 2026</b>          | Online EOI closes                                                  |
| <b>15 March 2027</b>            | Qualifying results period closes                                   |
| <b>17 to 20 March 2027</b>      | Optional Cook Islands trials; designated results may be considered |
| <b>By 31 March 2027</b>         | Target final team confirmation                                     |
| <b>31 July to 6 August 2027</b> | Pacific Games athletics competition, Tahiti                        |

## Appendix 1: Existing ACI Open qualifying standards

The following standards are reproduced from Schedule B of the Athletics Cook Islands General Selection Policy. They are minimum benchmarks for consideration, not automatic selection criteria. For events not listed, the Selection Panel will assess performance evidence and relevant event requirements.

| Event                     | Women Open | Men Open |
|---------------------------|------------|----------|
| <b>100m</b>               | 12.70      | 11.40    |
| <b>200m</b>               | 26.50      | 23.10    |
| <b>400m</b>               | 59.00      | 51.50    |
| <b>800m</b>               | 2:20.00    | 2:03.00  |
| <b>1500m</b>              | 5:00.00    | 4:14.00  |
| <b>3000m steeplechase</b> | 13:00.00   | 11:00.00 |
| <b>5000m</b>              | 22:30.00   | 16:50.00 |
| <b>10000m</b>             | 42:00.00   | 35:00.00 |
| <b>100m hurdles</b>       | 17.00      | —        |
| <b>110m hurdles</b>       | —          | 17.00    |
| <b>400m hurdles</b>       | 68.00      | 60.00    |
| <b>5000m walk</b>         | 34:00.00   | 30:00.00 |
| <b>10000m walk</b>        | 62:00.00   | 56:00.00 |
| <b>Long jump</b>          | 5.00m      | 6.20m    |
| <b>Triple jump</b>        | 11.00m     | 13.00m   |
| <b>High jump</b>          | 1.60m      | 1.85m    |
| <b>Pole vault</b>         | 3.00m      | 3.40m    |
| <b>Discus</b>             | 35.00m     | 40.00m   |
| <b>Hammer</b>             | 32.00m     | 40.00m   |
| <b>Javelin</b>            | 35.00m     | 45.00m   |
| <b>Shot put</b>           | 12.00m     | 13.20m   |

Track times are based on electronic timing. The General Selection Policy specifies adding 0.24 seconds for hand-timed 100m, 110m hurdles and 200m, and 0.14 seconds for 400m. Implement specifications, wind legality and official event rules must be satisfied.