

Australian Team to contest the 24 Hr World Challenge for 2010

Qualification Guidelines

Applications are sought from athletes to represent Australia at the forthcoming IAU 24hr World Cup to be held in Brive, France, on 13 & 14 May, 2010. The annual 24 hr World Challenge race is the one international race at which AURA has fielded an ultra distance team for the last four years. Australia will be represented in the 24 hr event by a team of up to six men and up to six women ultra runners. The team will be selected by the AURA International Team Selection Committee, which is made up of past and present Australian ultramarathon running representatives.

Standards for Consideration for 2010 and 2011 Australian 24 Hr Teams

To be considered for the Australian 24 Hr Team, Australian runners must be currently financial AURA members and meet the following qualification standards. Such performances must have been achieved in the period from June 2008 to January 2010. :

Primary:

In a 24 hr road or track event:

Males: exceed 200 km (this is expected to be raised to 210km from and including 2011).

Females: exceed 180 km (this is expected to be raised to 190 km from and including 2011).).

Secondary:

Athletes who have not met the primary qualification standards may still be considered for the selection pool based on performances at established track, road or trail races of 100 miles or more.

Team Selection Process

Athletes will be named to the team based on the order of the criteria above until all the team spots are filled. Priority will be assigned to 24 hour road and track performances as these are closest to the actual World Challenge race format. However, road and trail race performances of greater than 100 miles distance (see above) will be considered.

If fewer than 6 athletes achieve the primary qualifying standards for consideration, no fewer than 4 athletes (three scoring and one additional) will be named based on performance. In this situation the Selection Committee will have the discretionary right to consider secondary and other qualifying criteria.

In addition to the qualification criteria, applicants must be citizens of Australia and must have not represented a foreign country for at least 12 months prior to the date of competition.

Applications close Feb 12, 2010. Selected athletes will be notified on or before Feb 14, 2010, with an official team announcement to follow.

Team funding

Team members are responsible for paying for their own airfares and for organizing accommodation outside of the official IAU nominated competition team grant dates.

The IAU Local Organizing Committee (LOC) normally organizes transfers for team members from the closest Airport/Train station just prior to, and after, the event. In the past these transfers have been inconsistent and have only been offered on limited dates meaning that team members may have to consider making their own arrangements.

The first three male and female team members will be funded by the IAU Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for accommodation. AURA will try to cover any shortfall for accommodation costs for remaining team members after the IAU team grant has been distributed.

Team members may receive a stipend from the IAU (amount varies each year but ranges from about \$A100 to \$A500) according to their qualifying distances in a standard format 24h event: Category A (>240K) > Category B (>220K) > Category C (>200k). This stipend is normally paid to the Team Captains for distribution immediately following completion of the World Challenge event

The first three male and female team members will also be eligible for grants from AURA according to their performance at the World Challenge- these will vary each year according to available funds and will be credited to the team member's nominated account at some time after the event.

Team member responsibilities

AURA expects that selected team members will give priority to preparing for the 24h World Challenge. No major ultramarathon events should be considered within a 5 week period prior to the World Challenge without the Selection Committee's approval. Failure to follow this rule will lead to the team member forfeiting any financial assistance from AURA and may jeopardize their future selection in the Australian team.