

Athletics Northland Championship Eligibility Dispensation

The purpose of this regulation is to enable athletes who have a genuine connection to the Northland region to compete for Athletics Northland Championship medals, while maintaining the integrity of Athletics New Zealand membership regulations.

Eligibility for Regional Championship Medals

An athlete who is registered with an Athletics New Zealand club outside the Northland Centre may apply for a **Regional Eligibility Dispensation** if they:

1. Permanently reside within the Northland boundaries;
2. Hold a secondary or social membership with a Northland Athletics Club; and
3. Have a demonstrable connection to the Northland athletics community through one or more of the following:
 - Previous membership with an Athletics Northland affiliated club;
 - Regular trainings and/or competition participation within the Northland region;
 - Ongoing volunteer involvement in athletics within Northland; or
 - Other circumstances deemed appropriate by the Athletics Northland Centre Board.

Conditions

1. The athlete must hold a current Athletics New Zealand membership.
2. The athlete is **not** required to transfer their primary club membership.
3. A Regional Eligibility Dispensation applies only to Athletics Northland Centre Championship events.
4. The dispensation does not provide eligibility for Athletics New Zealand championship events where separate Centre of Origin regulations apply.
5. The dispensation is valid only for the championship event for which it is granted.

Application Process

1. Applications must be submitted to Athletics Northland Centre no later than 21 days before the relevant championship event.
2. The application must include:
 - Athlete name and date of birth;

- Current registered club;
 - Evidence of residence or regional connection;
 - Reason for seeking the dispensation.
3. Applications will be considered by a panel consisting of:
- Centre Chair (or delegate);
 - One additional Board member.
4. The panel's decision shall be final.

Medal Eligibility

Athletes granted a Regional Eligibility Dispensation:

- May compete in Athletics Northland Championship events.
- Shall be eligible for championship placings and medals.
- Shall be recorded in results in the same manner as other eligible athletes.

Guiding Principles

When considering applications, Athletics Northland Centre will seek to:

- Support athletes who identify Northland as their home region.
- Encourage continued connection with Northland athletics.
- Provide opportunities for athletes who train elsewhere due to coaching, study, or performance pathway requirements.
- Ensure fairness to athletes registered within Northland clubs.
- Maintain alignment with Athletics New Zealand regulations.

Example Circumstances

Examples of athletes who may be eligible include:

- A Northland athlete living in Dargaville who is registered with an Auckland club to access specialist coaching.
- A former Northland athlete studying outside the region who maintains a strong connection to Northland through officiating at regional events.

*This regulation has been approved by Athletics Northland Board in September 2026.
Next review due September 2027.*