



# MINI LONDON MARATHON

## Selection Policy for South West Mini London Marathon Team

### Saturday 25th April 2026

Updated January 2026

Selection Policy – published February 2025

#### Overview

The London Mini Marathon (U18, U16 and U14 para and non-pa athletes) is classified as a School-Aged Match Opportunity.

#### Selection Policy Aim

The aim of the selection policy is to provide U18, U16 and U14 South West athletes demonstrating potential with a developmental road race opportunity.

#### Athlete Eligibility

The South West Region for the Mini London Marathon is made up of Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire.

Please see the rule book for qualification details ( as per county qualifications)-these are birth or residence in any of the listed counties – but NOT just term time school, college or university or club based in the areas.

#### Competition Format

The SW team is selected to compete in the London Mini Marathon ( usually in April each year) will provide athletes with the chance to compete in a representative team against other representative teams in the UK plus borough of London teams. As this competition is after 1st April 2026, this competition will follow the new age group rules.

#### Para athletes.

Any para athletes can also enter themselves in a specific race ( there is no specific selection for this event and no standards to enter – ambulant or wheelchair). There may be the possibility to travel with the SW team if there is space – please speak to the lead team manager for details.

#### Selection Process

The selection team will be made up of the 2 lead team managers, plus other volunteers from a range of counties in the SW. a minimum of 3 and up to 5 will meet every year to select the team.

Selection of the team will use the following process to ensure the selection policy aims are being met:

- 1: The SW Mini London Marathon Trial held at Westpoint in February will be the main considered criteria and qualification. The first 3 finishers will have automatic qualification to represent the SW team. The forms given out to the top athletes at this event need to be completed by all ( including the top 3) for consideration.
2. To be considered for a discretionary place ( the next 3 places per age group), athletes need to have either competed in the SW MLM trials, the SW Cross Country chams, Sw schools cross country/national cross country and other rankings for either road, cross or track over 3k, 5k may also be considered in that order.

The following additional evidence will be considered when deciding who to select:

- improvement in performance
- c. Head-to-head records (priority given to trial, SW Cross country and recent results)

The selection meeting will take place on a date in March (usually the week after the nationals) and teams will be announced by Saturday 11th April. Athletes who are selected, non travelling reserves, and athletes not selected within a week of the selection meeting.

#### SW Team:

We will be looking to send teams of up to 6 U18 Girls, 6 U18 Boys, 6 U16 Girls, 6 U16 Boys, 6 U14 Boys and 6 U14 Girls to compete. The age groups will follow the same rules as the UK road age groups. U18 athletes are in school years 11 and 12, U16 athletes are in school years 9 and 10 and U14 athletes are in school years 7 and 8.

Team staff. Up to 6 team staff will support the athletes at the event – the 2 lead team managers – 1 male, 1 female. All team leads will support an age group team and all have to be either a qualified coach or official with a current valid DBS. Anyone wanting to be part of the team staff please contact the lead Team manager. We encourage volunteers from a range of the 7 counties that make up the SW.

#### 2025 Lead Team Manager – Sonya Ellis - SW / Devon

#### Lead Team Manager Boys Dave Varney- Cornwall

Team Leaders – EP – Glos, M – Cornwall, MP – Dorset, ST- Devon

#### 2026 Lead Team Manager – Sonya Ellis – SW /Devon

#### Lead Team Manager Boys ( admin only for 2026) Dave Varney

Team Leaders – EP – Glos, M– Cornwall, C– Glos, M - Cornwall

Please note that, if having been selected you become unavailable, evidence for why you are unavailable must be supplied back to the lead team managers as soon as possible so reserves can be notified. There is a deadline to the MLM entry portal – please check this so a replacement can be submitted and allow another athlete to take part.

#### Appeals Process

There shall be no right to appeal the selection of the South West team made by the selection panel.

#### De-selection Process

De-selection of an athlete may occur following:

Failure to adhere to the SW Athletics code of conduct.

In the event of an athlete sustaining an injury or illness following acceptance of their

position on the team, they are required to inform the team manager immediately. If

required, evidence will have to be supplied. If it is deemed that the injury or illness will negatively affect the athlete's performance this will result in deselection.

#### Equal Opportunities

SW will not discriminate in the selection of any athlete on the basis of any protected characteristics.

#### Amendment

South West Team reserves the right to amend this selection policy at its sole discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which the amendment was made)

This policy will be made available on the Athletics South West website  
South West Athletics Academy website  
And the Mini London Marathon website

Version last updated – February 2026

### Saturday 25th April 2026 Application for S W Mini London Marathon Team

Application forms for athletes wanting to be considered to represent the SW



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The following must be completed if you want to be considered for the above event & cannot compete at the trial races to be held at Exeter Arena, Westpoint, on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February

Details can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthWestAthleticsAcademy>

You must have 9 months residence or were born in the SW region (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Avon, Gloucestershire). The age group categories are as per UKA age groups – Under 14/16/18 Before 1<sup>st</sup> September **2026**

**Closing date for applications: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026**      **No late entries will be considered.**

The winner of the South West Cross Country Championships plus a further five athletes will be invited to compete for the South West in each of the six age group teams. At least the first three at the trials will be selected, the last two places are at the discretion of the selectors based on known performances & acceptance of a 'valid' reason for not attending the trials. Please provide relevant details below, for our consideration (attach addition sheets if required)

If selected, you must be able to travel together by coach on FRIDAY 25<sup>th</sup> April (if during term time, school permission to travel **MUST** be confirmed) There will be an overnight stay and onward coach travel to the London race start on the morning of SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> April – **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS ARRANGEMENT.** Further details will be provided to selected athletes. Accommodation, kit, and meals will be provided FOC.

<b>FULL NAME:</b>						
<b>Place of Birth</b>		<b>Town</b>			<b>County</b>	
<b>Age Information</b>		<b>Date of Birth</b>			<b>Eligibility:</b> (please circle) <b>Birth or 9 months residence</b>	
<b>Age Group</b> (please circle)	<b>Under14 Boys</b>	<b>Under 16 Boys</b>	<b>Under 18 Boys</b>	<b>Under 14 Girls</b>	<b>Under 16 Girls</b>	<b>Under 18 Girls</b>
<b>Address</b>						
					<b>Postcode</b>	
<b>Home telephone</b>				<b>Parent Mobile</b>		
<b>Parent Email :</b>				<b>Club/School:</b>		
<b>Repeat Email :</b>						
Reason for applying including Competition results and achievements (Use a separate sheet if required):						
<b>Athlete Signature</b>			<b>Date</b>			

If selected, I consent to my child/ care taking part in this event

<b>Parent / Guardian Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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Send completed entry forms to:

**Female** - Sonya Ellis C/o Exeter Craft Hub 31 C Sidwell Street, Exeter, EX4 6NN or email: [sonyaellis2@gmail.com](mailto:sonyaellis2@gmail.com)

**Male** – Dave Varney 38 Manor View, Par Cornwall PL24 2EN or email: [davevarney@uwclub.net](mailto:davevarney@uwclub.net)