

## Parameters:

- Set automatic standards that allow top athletes to know they have qualified.
- Set minimum standards to maintain the integrity of the competition.
- All automatic qualifiers are guaranteed acceptance into the meet.
- Fields will be filled to 24 per individual event (exception: 14 in the multis).
- Coaches may declare preferences when entering more than one event.
- Non-automatic qualifying performances will be accepted in descending order, as long as they meet the minimum standard.
- Each institution may enter one team per relay, and no performance is required.
- Except for the 10K, all entries must have an actual performance that meets the minimum standard.
- *For the 10K only, the following order will be used to fill the field:*
  1. All entries with a 10K automatic qualifier will be accepted.
  2. Entries with no 10K performance but with a 5K automatic qualifier will be accepted in descending order.
  3. Entries with 10K non-automatic minimum performances will be accepted in descending order.
  4. Entries with no 10K performance but with 5K non-automatic minimum performances will be accepted in descending order.

## Methodology:

- The #12, #18, and #24 entries in each event over the previous two seasons were charted.
- Automatic standards were set roughly between the #12 and #18 entries over the two years.
- Ensured that neither 2024 nor 2025 had more than 18 entries above the new automatic standard.
- Automatic standards were designed to allow as many athletes as possible to achieve a qualifying mark and therefore avoid chasing performances later in the season, while still ensuring no more than 24 submitted entries (14 in the multis).
- A thorough review of the season-ending performance lists from 2024 and 2025 showed that the new automatic standards are highly unlikely to result in fields larger than 24. If a field ever exceeds 24 with all automatic qualifiers, the standard will be adjusted for the following year.
- Qualifying standards from the past 15 years were reviewed to identify the easiest standard for each event during that period. This served as the baseline for minimum standards to ensure that all entries remain reasonably competitive. Standard conversions between events were then used to establish roughly equivalent minimum marks across events.
- There is no risk associated with the minimum standards due to the field size cap.
- If a field is ever smaller than 24 with all minimum standard entries accepted, the standard will be adjusted for the following year.