

**BRITISH ATHLETICS LEAGUE
RULES OF COMPETITION 2017
Adopted 28th November 1987
with amendments up to and including 5th November 2016
and Guest Protocol 23rd January 2016
Issued 15th March 2017**

PART 1: GENERAL

Competitions

1. The BAL will promote the following competitions each year -
 - 1.1. A Divisional League Competition for Club teams of male athletes.
 - 1.2. A Cup competition for Club teams. (Club Super8)^a
 - 1.3. The Jo Smith Cup Competition^b
 - 1.4. Such other competitions as are decided upon by General Meeting.

Governing Rules

2. All BAL competitions shall be held under the Rules of United Kingdom Athletics (“UKA”)

Guest Competitors

3. Except as provided in Rules 4 and 5, no guest competitor shall be allowed in BAL competition.
4. Finance & General Purposes Committee (F&GP) may agree to incorporate any other event in any BAL event forming part of the competition if F&GP are satisfied that it is in the interests of BAL competition so to do and that facilities are available for it to be done.
5. F&GP may invite an individual athlete to take part in an event forming part of the BAL competition and may fix a fee to be paid by an athlete who is not a member of a BAL club who accepts such invitation. F&GP may delegate their powers under this rule to the Promotions Officer (or in the case of the Cup, the Cup Secretary).

NOTE F&GP has adopted a protocol giving guidance on when such an invitation may be issued.

Club Vests

6. Club vests as registered for men or women as appropriate must be worn in all BAL competitions unless the Finance and General Purposes (F & G P) Committee or the Referee of an individual competition decides that such vests are not clearly distinguishable in which case the Committee or the Referee shall make such provisions as are thought fit.

NOTE: This means that in the Cup or Jo Smith competition a club may have different vests for its mens and womens teams provided that each vest is registered. However, where separate designs are registered for the mens and womens teams, men may NOT compete in vest design of the womens team or vice versa.

Eligibility of Clubs

7. BAL competitions shall be confined to open amateur athletic clubs in the United Kingdom, membership of which is not confined to persons in a particular occupation, business organisation or educational establishment. In case of doubt, the F & G P Committee shall decide whether a club is an open club for the purposes of this rule. For the avoidance of doubt, a composite club as defined by UKA Rule 3(14) is not eligible to take part in BAL competitions

^a At the Annual General Meeting held on 5th November 2016 it was agreed that there would not be a Cup Competition in 2017.

^b At the Annual General Meeting held on 5th November 2016 it was agreed that there would not be a Jo Smith competition in 2017. The 2014 AGM decided that in years when there was not a separate Jo Smith Competition the Jo Smith Bowl would be awarded to the club with the highest combined position in the BAL and the UKWL

Eligibility of Athletes

Definitions

8. A Foreign Athlete shall mean any athlete required to be registered with UKA pursuant to UKA Rules until F&GP resolves that a Foreign Athlete shall mean any athlete who is not eligible to represent the United Kingdom under IAAF Rules but who complies with the rules of eligibility of UKA
9. A UK Athlete shall mean any athlete who is not a Foreign Athlete.
10. A Foreign Athlete being an athlete who is not a UK Athlete must comply with the rules of eligibility of the National Association of the club of which he or she is a member.
11. A Higher Competition Athlete shall be an athlete who is a Higher Competition Club Member as defined by UKA Rules
12. A Resident Foreign Athlete is a Foreign Athlete who
 - 12.1. has been resident in the United Kingdom for 240 days in each of the two complete calendar years prior to the year of competition; AND
 - 12.2. has been a first claim member of a club affiliated to UKA for each of the two preceding track seasons. AND
 - 12.3. has competed for the club of which he was then a first claim member in both of the two preceding track seasons (but not necessarily in a track or field event)

NOTE This means that an athlete who is eligible as a Resident Foreign Athlete can transfer that status if he changes clubs within the BAL and also means that an athlete joining a BAL club from a non BAL club who can meet these requirements can be registered as RFA immediately.

12. A Transient Foreign Athlete is any Foreign Athlete who is not a Resident Foreign Athlete
13. The Eligibility Criteria shall mean the eligibility criteria set out in rule 15.
14. First Claim shall not include athletes who are secondary first claim members of the club they are representing.

Eligibility Criteria

15. The Eligibility Criteria are:
 - 15.1. that on the date of the competition the athlete is either:
 - 15.1.1. a first claim member of the club he or she is representing or
 - 15.1.2. in the case of a League competition only, is a Higher Competition Member of the club he is representingand in both cases is eligible to compete for that club under the laws of UKA.
 - 15.2. that the athlete has not competed as a first claim member for any other club in any BAL competition in the current season.
 - 15.3. in League competitions the athlete must be registered in accordance with the BAL rules on registration.

NOTE In League competition there are no formal rules about use of under 17s. However F&GP issued a circular dated 28th April 2012 and amended following the 2013 AGM on the use of under 17's a copy of

which is annexed. For use of under 17s in the Cup (Club Super8) and Jo Smith Cup please see rule 129 and 145.

Eligibility

16. All athletes taking part in any BAL competition must comply with the Eligibility Criteria.

Limitation on Use of Non UK First claim Athletes

17. In BAL competition no team at any meeting shall use more than five non first claim UK athletes (as defined in these Rules) in total.

18. A Resident Foreign Athlete shall for the purposes of rule 17 be deemed to be a first claim UK athlete

Exclusion of First Claims of Closed Clubs

19. First claim membership of a club other than an open club shall be disregarded.

Failure To Complete A Match

20. In the event of failure to complete all events in a match, the result of the match will stand if at least 75% of the events have been completed. If not the whole match shall be re-arranged at a date and place determined by the F & G P Committee in default of agreement between the clubs taking part in that match.

Events abandoned

21. If an event at a match is not completed

21.1. If the event does not start, or in the case of a track event the race is abandoned before all competitors have finished or withdrawn and is not re-run or in the case of long and triple jump and the throws is abandoned before a full round is completed then no points will be awarded.

21.2. In the case of long and triple jumps and the throws where at least one full round of the competition has been completed before the competition is abandoned then the points will be awarded on the positions at the end of the last full completed round.

21.3. In the case of the high jump and (except when the pole vault in the Premiership is operating under Rule 27) the pole vault:

21.3.1. Any competitor who has taken part and been eliminated by the time the event is abandoned shall be credited with the height that he actually achieved;

21.3.2. If the circumstances allow, all those competitors remaining in the competition shall be invited to clear the height at which the competition was abandoned and all those who clear the bar at the first attempt shall be treated as sharing first place, those who clear it at the second attempt as sharing second place and those who clear it at third attempt as sharing third place and the whole match scored accordingly. The shared places shall not be adjusted for count back and there will be no jump off for first place.

21.3.3. If the circumstances do not allow competitors to attempt the height at which the competition is abandoned then the available points for all the competitors not eliminated shall be divided equally between them.

22. If no member of a club shall take part in a match then unless the club shall produce an explanation for such non-appearance acceptable to Finance & General Purposes Committee the club shall, if a member of the League be deemed to have resigned from the League with effect from the date of the match.

23. If a Club does not appear at a match with a team which covers at least half the events (“the Defaulting Club”) without an explanation acceptable to the Principal Officers (acting if necessary by a majority) the Defaulting Club concerned shall forfeit all match points at that match. If the Defaulting Club does not appear at a subsequent match in the same season with a team which covers at least half the events without an explanation acceptable to the Principal Officers (acting if necessary by a majority) the Defaulting Club shall be deemed to have resigned from the BAL at the date of the second match. If at the end of the season the Defaulting Club falls to be relegated from that division (or the BAL) it shall (if it is in the bottom two divisions) be relegated out of the BAL and shall not be eligible to compete in the Qualifying Match that year and if it is in any of the higher divisions it shall be relegated two divisions. In this rule A and B string competitions shall be considered as separate events. Where a club is relegated two divisions three clubs from the division into which it is relegated shall be promoted.

Drugs Testing

24. To be eligible for participation in athletic competitions organised by the British Athletics League, all the athletes must comply with the requirement of the UKA rules relating to drug testing in force from time to time. It is the responsibility of the meeting organisers to make the necessary arrangements to enable the relevant Sports Council Doping Control Sampling Team to carry out their functions.

Starting Heights

25. In the high jump the competition shall start at the lowest height requested by any competitor or the lowest height to which the stands will go (if higher). Unless the referee decides otherwise the second height shall be no lower than 1.50m (men) or 1.30m (women) The third height shall be no lower than 1.60m (men) or 1.40m (women)
26. In the pole vault the competition shall start at the lowest height requested by any competitor or the lowest height to which the apparatus will go (if higher). Unless the referee decides otherwise
the second height shall be no lower than 2.20m (men) or 1.90m (women)
the third height shall be no lower than 2.60m (men) or 2.10m (women)
the fourth height shall be no lower than 3.00m (men) or 2.30m (women)
and proceed at 20 cm increments up to 4.40m (men) and 2.90m (women). If at 4.40m (men) or 2.90m (women) there are still more than 5 competitors left in, then the competition will continue to progress in 20cm intervals until there 5 or fewer competitors remaining. Thereafter the increments shall be 10cm. If a single competitor is left the height may be raised as agreed with the referee.
27. Pole Vault competitions in the Premiership may be split into two separate pools at single fixtures. Pool A will have a minimum starting height of 4m40cm and any athlete can opt to compete in this pool. All other athletes will compete in Pool B. Pool B will compete first with the first to fourth heights as set out in Rule 27. It will progress in 20cm intervals until all the competitors in Pool B have been eliminated. Pool A will compete second with the progression in such increments as set out in rule 27. The results of both competitions will be collated and positions and points decided according to heights cleared, regardless of whether the performance is achieved in Pool A or B. Once an athlete has decided which pool he wishes to compete in, he may not change to the other pool at that match.
- 27.1. If a pole vault event in the premiership has to be abandoned then if it is abandoned before the start of the Pool A competition then any competitor who has taken part and been eliminated by the time the event is abandoned shall be credited with the height that he actually achieved. All the available points for all the competitors in both Pools A and B not eliminated shall be divided equally between them.

Electronic measuring equipment

28. If F&GP is satisfied that any device for measuring distance is satisfactory and accurate, it may resolve that distances measured using such a device shall be acceptable for results in BAL competitions. Until the device is approved by UKA, this is without prejudice to the right of any competitor to require at the

time that any measurement falls to be made that such measurement be taken or confirmed using a method or device approved by UKA at the time. In the event that there is a discrepancy between the measurement shown on the device and the measurement taken using a method or device approved by UKA, the measurement taken using a method or device approved by UKA shall prevail.

Team Declarations

29. Clubs shall declare their teams on the prescribed Team Declaration Form not later than 30 minutes before the start of the meeting. However, if the field events start more than 30 minutes before the track events a club may declare its team for those field events not later than the start of those events and the remainder of its team not later than 30 minutes after the scheduled start of the first field events. Late changes shall be advised to the Chief Recorder (or to the person designated to receive them by the Divisional Secretary) before the start of the event to which they relate. If a late change is not notified in accordance with this rule, then:

29.1. the offence may be noted and no further action taken; or

29.2. the team may be warned as to its future conduct; or

29.3. the change may be disallowed and the athletes concerned dealt with under Rule 30 (ringing).

NOTE 1 - Team managers should ensure that wherever possible the announcers are informed of changes (whether by the team concerned or the recorders) so that correct information is given to spectators

NOTE 2 - Team managers may be asked by the promoting club to provide an early indication of their teams to assist the recorders loading information into the results programmes in advance of the match. F&GP encourages teams to assist in this way. This does not prevent team managers changing their teams without formality up to the times set out above.

Ringling

30. Any club may not use an athlete under the name of another. A club who does so may be:

30.1. warned as to its future conduct; or

30.2. have the athlete who is used under the name of another disqualified from the events in which the substitution took place.

Disqualification

31. Any athlete who is disqualified after he has completed the match should be scored as though he had not taken part.

Decisions and Appeals

32. The BAL representative shall be entitled to decide any question of breach of the BAL rules arising during the course of a meeting. He may adjourn his decision for a period not exceeding fourteen days in order for evidence to be obtained.

33. Any appeal shall be made in writing and received by the General Secretary of the BAL within fourteen days of the decision appealed against. The appeal shall contain all information on which the appellant relies in support of the appeal. The appeal shall be accompanied by a fee of £100 which shall be dealt with as the F & G P Committee shall direct. If the appeal is dismissed the F & G P Committee may order the appellant to pay all or some part of the costs incurred by the League in investigating the appeal or in the hearing of the appeal. If such sums are not paid within such period as the F & G P Committee may resolve, the F & G P Committee may suspend the appellant from further competition in the League until such time as such sums are paid.

34. Upon receipt of an appeal or complaint (other than in relation to poaching which is dealt with in rule 96 onwards), the General Secretary may refer it for investigation to a single member of the F & G P Committee who shall usually be the Promotions Officer unless he or his club is involved in or likely to be affected by the appeal or complaint. The single member shall make such enquiries into the facts as seem to him appropriate and shall report such facts to the F & G P Committee when it considers the appeal or complaint. Any such appeal or complaint shall be dealt with by the F & G P Committee. In any debate or vote on the matter in F & G P Committee any member of the club making the protest and who is a member of the Committee shall not take part.

NOTE: This rule relates only to the application of BAL Rules of Competition. Matters which fall to be dealt with under UKA's Rules of Competition must be dealt with in accordance with those rules. The BAL F & G P Committee cannot consider appeals properly belonging to UKA

35. A club against whom a complaint is made shall be entitled on their expense to make reasonable representations to the F & G P Committee.

NOTE: There is no formal appeal from a decision of the F & G P Committee but it is open to a club to put a motion before a General Meeting of the BAL to vary the decision.

36. In rule 32 'The BAL Representative' shall mean:

36.1. in the case of a League Match the Divisional Secretary or the person discharging the functions of the Divisional Secretary at that meeting

36.2. in the case of the Cup or Plate Final or the Jo Smith Cup the Cup Secretary

36.3. in the case of the Qualifying match the Promotions Officer

36.4. in the case of any other meeting under BAL rules at which an officer or a member of the F & G P Committee is in attendance such officer or member and, if more than one, the most senior in standing

36.5. if there is no BAL Representative present the appropriate referee may, if he is willing to do so, exercise the powers given by these rules to the BAL Representative but if he is not the matter shall be referred to F & G P Committee.

Conflicts of Sponsorships

37. Any club that is sponsored by an organisation that in the opinion of the F & G P Committee may conflict with the sponsorship of the League shall in relation to BAL competitions abide by such directions that the F & G P Committee consider to be reasonably necessary to secure a proper balance between the interests of the BAL, the club concerned and their respective sponsors

PART II: LEAGUE RULES

The League Structure and Meetings

38. The League shall consist of five Divisions the top four divisions each of eight clubs and the lowest division of six clubs..
39. The clubs in each division shall meet on four occasions each season, the dates and venues to be decided by the F & G P Committee.
40. Save as provided in the rules relating to resignation from the BAL, the bottom two clubs in each division other than the lowest division after the season's competition (or if there are only seven clubs in that division the bottom club and if there are six or fewer clubs no clubs) shall be relegated and the top clubs in the order in which they finished in the next lower division shall be promoted to bring the higher division up to eight clubs. The bottom two clubs in the lowest division (or if there are only five clubs in that division the bottom club and if there are four or fewer clubs in that division no clubs) shall cease to be members of the BAL subject to the provision of Rule 42. The clubs in the qualifying competition shall

be invited to fill the vacant places to bring Division 4 up to six clubs in the order in which they finished in the qualifying competition.

41. At each Annual General Meeting one of the Principal Officers shall report on the composition of division for the following season. Unless the AGM shall determine otherwise, the compositions of the divisions as so reported shall stand for the following season
42. The Qualifying Competition shall be held between not more than eight teams. Any club including the relegated BAL teams may apply to take part. Clubs to take part in the Qualifying Competition shall be chosen on the basis of their placings in a paper match carried out by one or more independent assessors. Only athletes who on the closing date for entries into the paper match are first claim members of the club applying for the qualifying match shall be included in the paper match. The Promotions Officer may decline to include a club in the paper match if he considers that on the performances supplied they will not qualify for the Qualifying Competition. He may also decline to accept the application if the club had in any of the previous three seasons been selected for the Qualifying Competition and had not appeared at the match or had appeared at the match with a team that did not complete more than half of the events and no explanation satisfactory to F&GP (or if they did not consider the matter, the Promotions Officer) had been produced for such absence or performance. The Promotions Officer may reject an entry to the Qualifying Competition if he is satisfied that the applicant would not be able to meet its obligations as a member of the BAL.
43. In the Qualifying Match only first claim members may compete

NOTE: This means that a club cannot use HCAs registered to it in the Qualifying Match

44. The teams from each club included in the paper match shall only include the performances in actual League competitions or cup competitions organised by the BAL or any National/Regional League by male athletes who under these rules would be eligible to compete for that club in the qualifying competition. The BAL Rules which relate to registration of athletes with the BAL shall not apply to the paper match or the qualifying competition.
45. The teams from each club included in the paper match may only include the performances from up to four foreign athletes registered with UKA under UKA rules. In the event that there are more than four foreign athletes included in the team for the paper meeting the assessors shall treat the events as being contested in the order in which they appear in the Qualifying Programme and disregard performances of all foreign athletes who would have competed for the first time after the fourth foreign athlete would have begun his first event.
46. No club shall be invited to the Qualifying Competition which is not eligible to compete in the BAL under Rule 7.
47. No club shall be entitled to enter the Qualifying Competition which is already a member of the BAL.

NOTE: This means no 'B' teams of existing members of the BAL can take part in the Qualifying Competition.

Events

48. In each competition, there will be the following events:-

100 metres; 200 metres; 400 metres; 800 metres; either 1500 metres or one mile; either 3000 metres or 5000 metres or 10,000 metres; 110m Hurdles; 400m Hurdles; 3000 Steeplechase; High Jump; Long Jump; Triple Jump; Shot Putt; Pole Vault; Discus Throw; Hammer Throw; Javelin Throw; 4 x 100m Relay; 4 x 400m Relay.

The Promotions Officer shall indicate before the start of the season in respect of each match whether there is to be (a) a 1500 metres or a mile event and (b) a 3000 metres or 5000 metres event. If he shall not give any such indication, the events shall be 1500 metres and 5000 metres.

NOTE F&GP has determined that if an event cannot be held outside but there are facilities for it to be held indoors, the

inside event should count as part of the BAL match and be scored accordingly. It was also agreed that if an event moved indoors after it started, it should be restarted and the scores whilst outside disregarded.

Timetables

49. F&GP shall from time to time approve a standard timetable for League matches which shall apply unless alternative arrangements as set out below are adopted.
50. F&GP may approve alternative timetables either for a specified match or matches, or for a specified division and may make any consequential changes to the rules as are necessary to accommodate such timetable.
51. The Promotions Officer may approve deviations from the standard timetable or any alternative timetable approved by F&GP if he is satisfied
 - 51.1. That such deviations are reasonably required to enable the match to be undertaken conveniently and safely; and
 - 51.2. That such deviations do not unreasonably favour or disadvantage any of the competing clubs; and
 - 51.3. That such deviations do not require any other amendment to the Rules of the BAL in order to work.

Teams

52. There will be 2 competitors per club in each individual event and one team per club in each relay.
53. An athlete may compete in a maximum of seven (7) events in both League and qualifier competitions - for this purpose competing in a relay is regarded as an event.

'A' & 'B' Strings

54. In events where there are separate competitions for 'A' and 'B' string competitors, the club shall in its team declaration nominate one competitor as the 'A' string and the other as the 'B' string.

NOTE: The attention of team managers is drawn to Rule 31 (Ringing) which may be broken by the unauthorised changing of 'A' and 'B' string runners.

55. All track events from and including 1500 metres upwards shall be run as one competition for both 'A' and 'B' string competitors..
56. If a separate competition is not held for 'A' and 'B' string competitors the club shall in its team declaration nominate one competitor as the 'A' string and the other as the 'B' string but for the purpose of the result the better placed of a club's representatives shall be considered the 'A' string.
57. An athlete cannot compete in the A and B string competitions of the same event at the same meeting. If he does he shall be disqualified from both competitions.
58. If a club uses an athlete who has not been registered with BAL in any event neither athlete from that club used in that event shall score. The event shall be scored as though they had not taken part. An athlete who is so treated who was registered shall be treated as though he were a guest.

NOTE: This rule applies to athletes who have not been registered with the BAL at all. Where an athlete has been registered but with qualifications (eg "CA") the other rules eg Rule 88 will apply.

59. Where separate competitions are held for 'A' and 'B' string competitors, clubs are expected to put in the 'A' string competition the athlete who is expected to produce the better performance. If the performance by the 'B' string competitor is better than that of the 'A' string competitor, the club may expect to have to explain their decision to the Divisional Secretary. The Divisional Secretary shall consider the matter and may :

58.1. be satisfied with the explanation offered by the club; or

58.2. Note the matter and take no further action; or

58.3. warn the club as to their future conduct; or

58.4. deduct from the match score of the club concerned the points advantage that they obtained by using the better performer in the B competition; or

58.5. Order the event to be rescored as though the better performer had taken part in the A competition; or

58.6. Direct that one or both athletes should not score in that event..

In considering whether an explanation is satisfactory, any previous warning given to the Club under this rule in the current or the two preceding seasons may be taken into account by those deciding the matter.

If the Divisional Secretary so decides he may refer the matter to F&GP who shall have the same powers as the Divisional Secretary in determining the issue

Event Scoring

60. The score for each event shall be:

In the Premiership and National 1 2 and 3

'A' strings and relays - 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4,

'B' strings 12, 10, 8, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1

In National 4

'A' strings and relays - 12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4

'B' strings - 8, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1

In the event of there being a tie, the total points for the places involved shall be shared between those tying.

NOTE: This means that for example if two competitors are placed third in the A event, they each receive 11 points (being the total of third and fourth places divided between them)

61. If there is a tie for first place in any of the vertical jumps there will not be a jump off and the points for the first and other places (as relevant) will be shared

62. At the conclusion of each League Meeting, points shall be allocated as follows:-

In the Premiership and National 1 2 and 3

1st team 8 points; 2nd team 7 points; 3rd team 6 points; 4th team 5 points; 5th team 4 points; 6th team 3 points; 7th team 2 points; 8th team 1 point

In National 4

1st team 6 points; 2nd team 5 points; 3rd team 4 points; 4th team 3 points; 5th team 2 points; 6th team 1 point

63. In the case of clubs tying any match, the total points for the places involved shall be shared.

NOTE: This means that if, for example, two clubs finish in third place they each receive 5.5 points (being the total of the third and fourth places added and divided between them).

64. The team with the highest number of points in each Division shall be deemed the winner of that Division at the end of the season.
65. In the event of Clubs tying on match points, the teams with the highest total team score calculated in accordance with Rule 60 will be the winner. In the event that Clubs are still tying then the placing shall be determined by the number of first places gained in the meetings and if there is still a tie the placing shall be determined by the number of second places and so on. If one of the teams tying is a Defaulting Team as defined by Rule 24 they shall be considered the lowest of those tied
66. Placings in the Qualifying Competition shall be by team score calculated in accordance with Rule 60. If there is a tie for any place it shall be determined by the number of first places gained in the meeting and if there is still a tie by the number of second places etc.

Registration of Athletes

General

67. No foreign athlete or higher competition athlete may take part in a League competition who is not registered or pre-registered in accordance with this Rule by 1st April in the year of competition
68. In exceptional circumstances the F & GP Committee may alter the dates in Rules 67 by giving not less than 28 days notice to the clubs affected.
69. Only athletes who are eligible to compete under Rule 15 may be registered.
70. A foreign athlete once registered may, subject to meeting the Eligibility criteria set out in Rule 15, have his registration transferred to another BAL club. For the avoidance of doubt a Higher Competition Athlete may not have his registration changed to another BAL club during the current season

Registration Procedure

71. It is the responsibility of each club to deliver to the Registration Officer a list of all athletes they wish to have registered with the BAL. The application shall be on the form supplied for that purpose by the Registration Officer or in such other form as the Registration Officer shall agree (in this rule called "the application form")
72. The application form shall include the full name, date of birth and date of election to the club for each athlete to be registered and their URN as provided under UKA Rules or procedures
73. If the athlete to be registered is a foreign athlete, the club shall indicate this on the application form.
74. If an athlete is to be registered as a Higher Competition Athlete the club shall indicate this on the application form
75. If a club delivers details of an athlete for registration and does not at the same time notify the Registration Officer that the athlete is a Foreign Athlete or a Higher Competition Athlete he shall not be registered
76. The Registration Officer shall mark the registration of Transient Foreign Athletes as TFA, shall mark the registration of Resident Foreign Athletes as RFA and shall mark the registration of a Higher Competition Athlete HCA
77. If a UK Athlete shall cease to be a UK Athlete as defined in Rule 9 during the course of a season, his club shall immediately notify the Registration Officer if the athlete will thereupon become a Foreign Athlete. The Registration Officer shall thereupon accept the registration to record the fact that the athlete has become a Foreign Athlete. From the date of such amendment, the athlete shall be treated for the remainder of that season in all respects as though his registration had been made in the amended form prior to 1st April in that year.

78. A Club may register a Foreign Athlete before his arrival in the United Kingdom provided it is done before 1st April in the year of Competition.
79. If the Registration Officer is satisfied that the athlete may be registered he shall register the athlete and shall record the date of registration and of eligibility (if different). A copy of the registration list shall be supplied to anyone who reasonably requires it.
80. If the Registration Officer is satisfied that an athlete may be properly registered subject only to obtaining clearance from the UKA (or one of its area associations) the Registration Officer shall register such athlete but shall mark such registration CA until such time as the clearance is produced to him. The athlete may compete once he has obtained clearance but until such time as the notation CA is removed from the register he shall on demand produce to the BAL the clearance certificate or failing that, within seven days after the meeting deliver by recorded delivery post a photocopy of such clearance certificate to the Registration Officer. If he does not do so he shall be disqualified from taking part in that meeting and if he has already competed shall lose all the points scored. The match shall be rescored as if he had not taken part.
81. The Registration Officer or the club applying may at any time until the athlete has been registered refer any application for registration to be determined by F & GP Committee whose decision is final.

NOTE: F & GP only expect Clubs to refer applications to F & GP if there is a genuine problem or issue of principle that needs to be dealt with or if they are dissatisfied with the decision of the Registration Officer on substantial grounds. Clubs who make frivolous referrals may expect to have their applications turned down.

82. After giving the athlete and the club concerned a reasonable opportunity of answering the allegation, F&GP may direct that a club shall not use in any match organised by the BAL for such period as they may decide to be fair a named athlete on the grounds that

- 82.1. he should have been registered as a foreign athlete and was not so registered or
- 82.2. he should have been registered as a higher competition athlete and was not so registered or
- 82.3. he is an under 17 athlete whose use by his club is considered an abuse of the practice approved by BAL for under 17s

and may further direct that any matches in which that athlete had competed that season should be rescored as though such athlete had not taken part.

NOTE It is the policy of F & GP to direct the cancellation of the registration of any athlete who should have been registered as a foreign athlete but was not or of a resident foreign athlete who should have been registered as transient or of an athlete who should have been registered as a Higher Competition Athlete but was not. Such cancellation would normally be backdated to the start of the season

Splitting of BAL Member Club

83. If a BAL club shall split, then if the two resulting clubs shall agree on which of them shall continue with the BAL membership, such club shall continue the BAL membership of the old unsplit club. If the two resulting clubs cannot agree on which of them shall continue with the BAL membership, F&GP may determine which (if either) shall continue or if F&GP is not satisfied that either of the resulting clubs represents substantially the BAL interest of the old unsplit club may treat the split as termination of the membership of the BAL of the original unsplit club and of the resulting clubs. Nothing in such a decision shall prevent either of the resulting clubs from entering the Qualifying competition

Amalgamation of BAL Clubs

84. If two or more BAL Clubs shall amalgamate, the amalgamated Club shall be entitled to continue as a member of the BAL in the position of the higher of the constituent clubs. The lower placed of the constituent clubs shall, for the purposes of these Rules, be deemed to have resigned from the League on the date of the amalgamation.
85. If a BAL club shall amalgamate with a non-BAL Club this shall not affect its BAL membership.

Poaching

86. No BAL Club shall recruit or attempt to recruit a male athlete registered as a member of another club affiliated to UKAthletics by the offer of a material inducement. Material inducement shall include any gift, loan, fee, reward, consideration or advantage.
87. Any complaint under Rule 96 will be referred to the F & G P Committee who shall appoint an Independent Investigating Officer. All these appointments shall be of independent people as defined in Rule 102
88. The Independent Investigating Officer shall conduct a preliminary review of the complaint and if the complaint is not withdrawn refer the complaint to the Appeal Committee.
89. Any complaint referred to the Appeal Committee under Rule 98 will be heard by that Committee who shall, if satisfied that the club has breached Rule 97 subject to a negative vote at a General Meeting either:
- 89.1. note the offence and take no further action; or
 - 89.2. warn the club as to its future conduct and take no further action; or
 - 89.3. nullify all the points scored by the athlete the subject of the complaint in either the League or the Cup or both in the year of competition; or
 - 89.4. cancel the registration of the athlete the subject of the complaint for such number of seasons as the Appeal Committee think just; or
 - 89.5. deduct such number of event points under Rule 59 for that year as the Appeal Committee think just; or
 - 89.6. nullify all the points scored by the offending club in the League competition for that year and/or disqualify the offending club from the Cup Competition for that year.
90. The Appeal Committee shall consist of three independent people appointed by the F & G P Committee. One member of the Appeal Committee shall, if he is independent as defined in this rule, be the Legal Adviser and if he is not independent be another legally qualified person.
91. A person shall be considered independent for the purpose of this rule who:
- 91.1. does not belong to the club against whom the complaint is made or the club making the complaint; and
 - 91.2. does not belong to a club in the same division as the club against whom the complaint is made; and
 - 91.3. does not belong to a club whose position may be affected by the outcome of the appeal.
92. The Appeal Committee shall, at a reasonable time and place and upon reasonable notice to all concerned (being not less than seven days unless otherwise agreed by all concerned) hear any appeals under this rule

93. The club shall be entitled to be present at the hearing of the case and to be heard and to give evidence. The Appeals Committee shall be entitled to hear or call such other evidence as they consider to be relevant
94. The Appeal Committee shall decide matters referred to it by a majority.
95. The parties before it may be legally represented if they wish provided they have sought permission to do so in writing from the Chairman of the Appeal Committee.

NOTE: The General Committee of the League adopted a set of Procedural Rules for such appeals to which reference should be made for details. A copy can be obtained from the General Secretary on request.

Equalisation of costs

96. The purpose of Rules 96 to 108 is within the limits set out in those rules to endeavour to ensure that all cost to all the Clubs in the BAL of taking part in the League competition is equal.
97. Each season by 1st April (or 14 days after the Half Yearly Meeting in that year if later) the Finance Officer shall prepare an Equalisation Budget. That Budget shall be calculated on the basis of:
 - 97.1. The venues in the form that they exist at the end of the Half Yearly meeting;
 - 97.2. The Equalisation Tariff as defined in Rule 106 as in force at that time;
98. The Finance Officer shall divide the total costs of all the League Clubs calculated in accordance with the Equalisation Budget by the number of clubs in the League and the figure so produced shall be called the Mean Cost.
99. Any Club whose costs as shown on the Equalisation Budget are less than the Mean Cost shall be liable to pay the difference between its costs as shown on the Equalisation Budget and the Mean Cost to the BAL accordance with this rule subject to any cap included in the Tariff.
100. The BAL shall subject to these rules and any provisions in the Tariff pay to any club whose costs as shown on the Equalisation Budget as being more than the Mean Cost the difference between its costs as shown on the Equalisation Budget and the Mean Cost in accordance with this rule.
101. The Finance Officer shall send a copy of the Equalisation Budget to each club in the BAL
102. If the Equalisation Budget shows that a club is liable to pay money to the BAL then
 - 102.1. If the amount due to the BAL is less than £1,000, the Club shall make such payment in full not less than seven days before the first match (or such other date as F&GP shall decide);
 - 102.2. If the amount due to the BAL is £1,000 or more, the Club may divide the amount due by four and pay one quarter of the amount due not less than seven days before each match
103. If the Equalisation Budget shows that a club is liable to receive money from the BAL then
 - 103.1. If the amount due from the BAL is £1,000 or more the BAL shall pay one quarter of the amount due within 10 days after each match;
 - 103.2. If the amount due from the BAL is less than £1,000 the BAL shall make such payment within 10 days of the last match of the season.
104. Notwithstanding Rule 103, the BAL shall not be liable to make any payment under those rules if it has not received sufficient funds under Rule 102 to cover that payment. In the event that the BAL has received insufficient funds from clubs liable to make payments under Rule 102 to meet the full payments due under Rule 103, the payments due under Rule 103 shall be reduced in proportion.

105. Any club liable to make a payment to the BAL under Rule 102 who has not done so by the due date without an explanation approved by F&GP may be disqualified by F&GP from taking part in any further League matches that season until all sums due have been paid.
106. From time to time in general meeting the BAL shall approve the Equalisation Tariff which shall establish the amount to be taken into the Equalisation Budget for the various matters set out in the Tariff. A Tariff shall remain in force until it is amended in General Meeting
107. If it appears to F&GP that the application of the Tariff or the dates for payment of sums due to or by the BAL are working an injustice, they may make such alterations to the application of the Tariff or the dates for payment of sums due to or by the BAL as seem to them reasonable to avoid such injustice. F&GP shall report such alterations to the next General Meeting of the BAL which may by a simple majority resolve to set aside such alteration.
108. Clubs must take proper steps to ensure that home meeting costs are kept under proper control and use their best endeavours to secure for the BAL matches the best prices reasonably obtainable for the service. If after giving the club the opportunity to justify the charge F&GP considers that an actual charge is unreasonable they may substitute for such charge the sum that they consider reasonable.

Resignation from the League

109. If a Club shall by notice in writing to the General Secretary resign from the League or shall be deemed under Rules to have resigned from the League then
- 109.1. if such resignation shall occur between 1st March and the end of the season, all future matches shall be scored in the normal manner. Matches prior to the resignation shall not be re-scored to exclude the club that resigned and at the end of the season, one club from the division to which the club that resigned belonged and all lower divisions shall be relegated but two clubs shall be promoted and only one club shall leave the League.
- NOTE** This means that in that division there will be a large number of unused scores.
- 109.2. If such resignation shall take place between the end of the season and 31st December following, one further club shall be promoted from the division immediately beneath the division in which the resignation took place and so on in lower divisions. The League shall invite the next highest club in the Qualifier who had not been offered membership to join the League and if they decline the next highest and so on until either one of the clubs in the Qualifier has accepted or all the clubs in the Qualifier have rejected the invitation. In the latter case, Division 4 will consist of five clubs.
- 109.3. if such resignation shall take place between 1st January and the last day of February in any year, one further club shall be promoted from the division immediately beneath the division in which the resignation took place and so on in lower divisions.. After consultation with the Area League concerned, and subject to the approval of F&GP (or if it is not reasonably possible to convene a meeting of F&GP within the time available, with the approval of all the Principal Officers) the League shall invite the next highest club in the Qualifier who had not been offered membership to join Division 4 of the League and if they decline the next highest and so on until either one of the clubs in the Qualifier has accepted or all the clubs in the Qualifier have rejected the invitation. In the latter case, Division 4 will consist of less than five clubs.

PART III: CLUB CUP RULES ^c

120. Subject to the provisions of these Rules, any club in the United Kingdom complying with Rule 7 may upon payment of the fee(s) fixed by the F & GP Committee apply to enter the BAL Club Cup Competitions.
121. There will be separate competitions for men and women. The BAL may at its discretion award a trophy at the final to the club whose mens and womens teams achieve the highest aggregated score.
122. The Cup Secretary may fix the maximum number of clubs that can enter the Club Cup Competitions
123. The Cup Secretary may decline any entry or accept any entry subject to conditions.

Venues

124. The Cup Secretary shall determine the venues and dates of the Club Cup competitions.

Prize Money:

125. The BAL may at its discretion award prize money to the winning men's and women's clubs in both the Cup and Plate finals. Subject to the Cup Secretary's discretion, such sum shall not exceed the total amount of the entry fees paid by the competing clubs in the final.

NOTE: This means that if there were 8 competing clubs in each final and there were 4 finals (Cup and Plate for Men and Women) and the entry fee per team for the finals was £50.00, the prize pot would be £1,600.00 split across the full finals.

Events for the Club Cup Competition

126. The events in the Men's Club Cup shall be:

Seven events selected from 100 metres, 110 metres Hurdles, 200 metres, 400 Metres, 400 metres hurdles , 800 metres 1500 metres 3000 metres, 5000 metres and 3000 metres steeplechase

Five events selected from Long Jump Triple Jump High Jump Pole Vault Shot Putt Javelin Throw Discus Throw Hammer Throw

And in each case 1200 metres relay (200m, 200m 400m 400m in that order)

NOTE: 1. The first two legs should be run in lanes from the 400m start lines.

2. See also the note to Rule 48 (events moved inside)

127. The events in the Women's Club Cup shall be:

Seven events selected from 100 metres 100 metres Hurdles 200 metres 400 Metres 400 metres hurdles 800 metres 1500 metres 3000 metres and 2000 metres steeplechase

Five events selected from Long Jump Triple Jump High Jump Pole Vault Shot Putt Javelin Throw Discus Throw Hammer Throw

And in each case 1200 metres relay (200m, 200m 400m 400m in that order)

^c This section was approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 1st March 2014 acting under powers delegated by the AGM in November 2013 However at the AGM in November 2016 it was agreed that there would not be a Club Cup Competition in 2017

NOTE: 1. The first two legs should be run in lanes from the 400m start lines.

2. See also the note to Rule 48 (events moved inside)

128. The selection of events shall be made by the Cup Secretary. In any round of the competition, the events shall be the same at all venues unless the Cup Secretary decides that exceptional circumstances dictate an alteration.

Eligibility of athletes in Club Cup Competition

129. Only athletes who are first claim members of the club for whom they are competing and who are either

129.1. Seniors, or

129.2. Juniors; or

129.3. under 17 athletes subject to a maximum of 4 athletes per team and subject to the BAL guidance on under 17 athletes.

can compete in the Club Cup competition.

Higher Competition Athletes may not compete in the Club Cup for their higher competition club, only for their first claim club.

Teams

130. In the Club Cup competitions there will be one competitor per club per individual event, and one team per club in the relay.

131. An athlete may compete in a maximum of two (2) events plus a relay in the Club Cup competition.

NOTE This would mean, that an athlete could compete in a maximum of 3 events including the relay.

Number of trials

132. In the javelin discus hammer and shot all competitors shall have four trials. In the long and triple jumps all competitors shall have four trials. In the high jump and pole vault all competitors shall have a maximum of eight trials in total but no more than three trials shall be at the same height. If a competitor shall fail three times at a given height he shall be eliminated from the competition.

Having failed to achieve a height, a competitor in the high jump or pole vault may not require the bar to be lowered.

Progression from Round to Round

133. The Cup Secretary shall specify how many clubs shall progress from each round and the basis for the draw for each round. Clubs will not be seeded into this competition.

Paper Matches

134. All rounds of the competition save for the finals shall be paper matches.

135. Each paper match within a round of the Club Cup shall, within the Cup Secretary's discretion, be arranged on a regional basis.

136. Each event in the paper match will be scored on the basis of club athlete's Power of 10 Performance for that season and the preceding season only.

NOTE This would mean that in the 2014 Club Cup, the athlete's best Power of 10 Performance for the 2014 season to date and the previous year 2013 could count.

137. Teams chosen to compete in any round of the Club Cup shall provide to the Cup Secretary their named list of athletes by a date to be specified by the Cup Secretary together with that athlete's relevant Power of 10 performance.

138. The date of the paper match will be set by the Cup Secretary.

NOTE This would mean that, if the closing date for providing team declarations and Power of 10 Performances was Monday 7th July 2014, clubs would be notified of their qualification for the finals by 28th July 2014.

Plate Competition

139. There shall be a plate final open to the eight best clubs not in the BAL or the UKWL (as appropriate) selected on the basis of their performance in the previous round

Scoring

140. In each event the winner shall score 10 points, the second 8, the third 6, the fourth 5, the fifth 4, the sixth 3, the seventh 2 and the eighth 1 point. If there are fewer than eight competitors it shall not affect the points scored. If at the end of the meeting there is a tie on points the club with the most event wins shall be higher placed. If the tie remains the most second places shall be counted and if the tie still remains the most third places shall be counted etc. If when all the places have been worked through there is still a tie, the club that has the highest combined scores in the relay shall be declared to have the higher position. If there is still a tie, then the positions shall be decided by lot.

For the avoidance of doubt mens and womens competitions are scored separately.

Times and distances in jumps to be used in the paper matches:

141. Only legal times in sprints and jumps can be used.

142. Where there are manual and electronic times, if the times are equal, they will be treated as such.

Scoring – Jokers

143. Use of 'Jokers'. Each team competing in the finals only (not paper matches) can choose one track event OR one field event in which the competing athletes score will be doubled. These will be known as 'jokers'. There will be one joker per team. Each team must declare their 'jokers' 10 minutes prior to the commencement of their chosen event.

NOTE: This means that if a team chose the 100 metres as their joker events and the competing athletes came second in the event, their score would be doubled from 8 points to 16 points for that event.

Alterations to Club Cup Rules

144. The Cup Secretary may make such alterations or additions to the rules of the Club Cup competition as he thinks fit provided

144.1. all such alterations or additions for the forthcoming season shall be made no later than the last day of March in the relevant year; and

144.2. a full set of the Club Cup rules so altered or added to shall be put on the BAL website no later than 31st March prior to the start of the relevant season.

Appeals

145. Where in Part III of these rules (the Club Cup competition) power is given to the Cup Secretary to decide any matter, any club aggrieved by his decision may appeal to F&GP in accordance with Rule 34.

146. *Not used*

PART IV THE JO SMITH CUP COMPETITION^d

Clubs who may enter the Jo Smith Cup

147. Subject to the provisions of this Rule, any club in the United Kingdom complying with Rule 7 may upon compliance with any requirement of and upon payment of any fee fixed by the F & GP Committee apply to enter the Jo Smith Cup Competition.

148. F & GP Committee may fix the maximum number of clubs that can enter the Club Competitions. If there are more clubs wishing to take part in the Jo Smith Cup Competition than the maximum fixed by F&GP Committee, the clubs to take part in the Jo Smith Cup Competition shall be chosen on the basis of their placings in a paper match carried out by one or more independent assessors.

149. F & GP may decline any entry or accept any entry subject to conditions.

Venues

150. The F & G P Committee shall determine the venue and date of the Jo Smith Cup competitions.

Prize Money:

151. The BAL may at its discretion award prize money to the top three clubs, such sums shall not exceed the total amount of the entry fees paid by the competing clubs.

NOTE: This means that if there were 8 competing clubs and the entry fee per club was £250.00, the winning club could receive £1,000.00, second place could receive £800.00 and third place could receive £500.00.

^d *This section was approved by Finance & General Purposes Committee on 1st March 2014 acting under powers delegated by the AGM in November 2013 However at the AGM in November 2016 it was agreed that there would not be a Jo Smith Competition in 2017*

Events for the Jo Smith Cup Competition

152. The events for Men in the Jo Smith Cup shall be:

100 metres, 110 metres Hurdles, 200 metres, 400 Metres, 400 metres Hurdles, 800 metres 1500 metres 3000 metres team event 3000 metres steeplechase Long Jump High Jump Triple Jump Pole Vault Shot Putt Discus Throw Hammer Throw Javelin Throw 4 x 100 metres relay 4 x 400 metres relay

The events for Women in the Jo Smith Cup shall be:

100 metres 100 metres Hurdles 200 metres 400 Metres 400 metres Hurdles 800 metres 1500 metres 3000 metres team event 2000 metres steeplechase Long Jump High Jump Triple Jump Pole Vault Shot Putt Discus Throw Hammer Throw Javelin Throw 4 x 100 metres relay 4 x 400 metres relay

NOTE See note to rule 48 (events held inside)

Eligibility of athletes in Jo Smith Cup competition

153. Only

153.1. Seniors, and

153.2. Juniors; and

153.3. under 17 athletes subject to a maximum of 4 athletes per team and subject to the BAL guidance on under 17 athletes.

154. Any athlete who has competed in the British Athletics League as a HCA is allowed to compete and score for their first claim club in the Jo Smith Cup, but cannot compete for their HCA club in the Jo Smith Cup.

Teams

155. In the Jo Smith Cup competitions except as provided in rule 156 there will be one competitor per club per individual event, and one team per club in each relay.

156. In the 3000 metre team events for men and women each club shall field two competitors

157. An athlete may compete in a maximum of five (5) events in the Jo Smith Cup competition - for this purpose competing in a relay and the 3000 metre team event is regarded as an event.

Number of trials

158. In field events (other than the pole vault and the high jump) all competitors shall have three trials. The top half of the pool shall have three further trials. If in dividing the number in the pool into two, a fraction results, the number having three further trials shall be rounded up to the next whole number.

Scoring

159. In each event the winner shall score 10 points, the second 8, the third 6, the fourth 5, the fifth 4, the sixth 3, the seventh 2 and the eighth 1 point. If there are fewer than eight competitors it shall not affect

the points scored. If at the end of the meeting there is a tie on points the club with the most event wins shall be higher placed. If the tie remains the most second places shall be counted and if the tie still remains the most third places shall be counted etc. If when all the places have been worked through there is still a tie, the club that has the highest combined scores in the mens and womens 4x400m relay shall be declared to have the higher position. If there is still a tie, then the club that has the highest combined scores in the mens and womens 4x100 metre relay shall be declared to have the higher position. If there is still a tie, then the positions shall be decided by lot.

160. In the 3000 metre team events, the times of both members of the team shall be added together and the team with the fastest aggregate total shall be declared first and so forth. In the event that either a club does not field two members of the team or one of the team does not finish, the member finishing shall be ranked immediately after the last team of two to finish and if there is more than one club who does not finish two members they shall be ranked between themselves on the times that the only member to finish achieves.

NOTE

This means that if the result is as follows the event would be scored Arthur A AC 8m 10 Bert B AC 8m 12 Charlie C AC 8m 14 Donald B AC 8m 20 Eddie D AC 8m 30 Ferdie D AC 8m 40

Points 1 B AC (Bert + Donald) 16m 32 10 pts 2 D AC (Eddie + Ferdie) 17m 10 8 pts 3 A AC (Arthur) 8m 10 6 pts 4 C AC (Charlie) 8m 14 5 pts

161. The Jo Smith Cup shall be a combined mens and womens team event.

Scoring – Jokers

162. Use of 'Jokers'. Each team can choose one track event and one field event in which the competing athlete's score will be doubled. These will be known as 'jokers'. There will be two jokers per combined mens and womens team. Each team must declare their 'jokers' 10 minutes prior to the commencement of their chosen event. For the avoidance of doubt, the relay will count as a track event

NOTE: This means that if a team chose the men's 100 metres and women's javelin as their joker events and the competing athletes came second in each event, their scores would be doubled from 8 points to 16 points in each event.

Appeals

163. Where in Part IV of these rules (the Jo Smith competition) power is given to the Cup Secretary to decide any matter, any club aggrieved by his decision may appeal to F&GP in accordance with Rule 34.

PART V : CHANGES TO RULES ETC.

Changes to Rules

164. The Rules of Competition may be altered at any time by a vote at a General Meeting at which two thirds of those voting approve or by F&GP in respect of any matter in relation to the rules which have been delegated to it by a General Meeting at which two thirds of those voting approved of such delegation. When acting under such delegated powers, no alteration to the Rules shall be made unless two thirds of those voting at F&GP approve..

Safety

165. The BAL recognises that the organisation responsible for setting safety standards at athletics meetings is UKA. Accordingly the BAL requires all its meetings to be conducted in accordance with the safety standards laid down from time to time by UKA. It is the responsibility of the organising club at any BAL match to ensure that this is done.

Power of F&GP Committee to Delegate

166. Where in these Rules a matter is to be determined by the F & G P Committee other than any matter relating to the rules delegated to F&GP by a general meeting pursuant to Rule 164 the F & G P Committee may delegate that determination to one or more of its members. Any Club aggrieved by a decision of any such delegated authority may refer the matter to the full F & G P Committee for consideration.

Data Protection

167. The BAL obtains data in respect of all those athletes who are registered with it in order to compete in BAL competition. The data sought is the minimum that is required for the BAL to be satisfied that the athlete is eligible for registration and to identify the athlete and avoid confusion with other athletes with, for example, similar names. The data is shared with the officers of the BAL for the proper management of the BAL and with the teams in the division in which the athlete is competing to enable any objections to the athlete's eligibility to be raised within the time limits set down in the BAL rules. It may also be shared with other athletic organisations for the purposes of athletic competition or the sport in general. The data is kept for as long as the athlete is registered and thereafter until the end of the current season and, if for any reason at that point, the athlete is under investigation, until those investigations have been completed. Data in the public domain (such as records) will be kept indefinitely.

GUESTS AND NON-SCORING EVENTS 2017

There have been substantial changes to the arrangements for guests and non-scoring events for 2017 which are summarised as follows:

GUESTS

Anyone who meets the performance criteria set out below can apply to be a guest at a BAL match. Athletes who are members of BAL clubs must apply through their BAL team manager. Athletes who belong to non-BAL clubs must apply using the application form on the website. Whichever route is applicable, requests must be received by the Promotions Officer, Steve Garrett, (steven@stevengarrett.co.uk) by noon on the Sunday before the match. The Promotions Officer will then decide who is to be invited and will advise the team managers (for athletes in BAL clubs) and the athlete directly by email as soon as possible thereafter. The names of those invited will be put on the BAL website and notified to the meeting organisers. In making his decision the Promotions Officer will pay particular attention to the performances of those seeking places.

Only athletes whose name is on that list will be able to take part as a guest.

If an athlete from a BAL club is invited as a guest he will not be allowed to take part in the scoring match in that event unless he has notified the Promotions Officer that he is not guesting by 23:59 on the Thursday before the match.

Whilst the BAL will try and accommodate as many guests as it can who meet the performance criteria it does not undertake to invite as guests everyone who applies. Track athletes in laned events will appreciate that the BAL must assume that all eight clubs at an eight club fixture will have both A and B string competitors in all laned events.

NON-SCORING EVENTS

Non-scoring events are open ONLY to members of BAL clubs competing at that meeting.

In 2016 there will be up to four 100m non-scoring events and one 200m non-scoring event and one 400m non-scoring event at all matches. The 100m will be before the start of the programme and the 200m and 400m will be immediately after the last scoring 200m and 400m respectively.

Competing clubs may nominate as of right up to four 100m competitors and one each 200m and 400m competitor for the non-scoring races. If they have further athletes who want to compete in the 200m and 400m non-scoring races, they may be put on a waiting list which will close at the start of the track timetable and the divisional secretary or the meeting manager will use that list to fill up any vacant spaces fairly. It will not necessarily be on a first come first served basis.

Divisional Secretaries and meeting organisers are asked to check how many athletes apply for the non-scoring events so we can be certain that they are meeting a need.

STANDARDS FOR GUESTS

Event	Premiership	Division One	Division Two	Division Three	Division Four
100	10.73	10.75	10.94	10.98	11.10
200	21.63	21.73	21.85	22.34	22.45
400	47.89	48.45	48.88	49.98	50.42
800	1.53.63	1.54.34	1.55.22	1.56.22	1.57.23
1500	3.52.89	3.59.92	4:00.94	4.05.00	4.11.47
3000	8.32.59	8.32.83	8.46.45	8.51.65	8.55.19
5000	14.54.23	14.58.77	15.21.85	15:34.93	16.08.70
3000s/c	9.26.65	9.53.00	10.04.90	10.17.80	10.28.77
110h	14.43	15.13	15.58	15.73	16.72
400h	53.54	54.22	55.70	55.95	59.38
Long jump	6.96	6.84	6.51	6.35	6.35
Triple Jump	14.22	13.92	13.14	13.03	12.54
Pole Vault	4.80	4.40	3.63	3.63	3.23
High Jump	2.10	1.95	1.83	1.83	1.80
Shot	16.67	13.26	12.63	12.37	11.61
Discus	52.73	42.18	40.96	39.75	37.04
Hammer	66.13	52.00	49.61	40.83	39.70
Javelin	62.90	54.14	52.34	52.34	51.29

NOTE:

- A. This protocol does not apply where the BAL has incorporated another event in its own event at a BAL meeting (for instance an area championship) when admission to the event will be agreed with the promoters of the other event or where the BAL includes an extra event in its timetable outside the BAL competition.
- B. Where there is a cut in the course of the event, the cut should be made based on the performances of the BAL athletes only. If the guest's performance is equal to or above the performance of the lowest placed BAL competitor who makes the cut, the guest will be allowed further trials.
- C. At its meeting on January 13th 2008 Finance & General Purposes Committee adopted the following principles about additional races :
 - 1. If a promoting club wanted to include an additional race in the timetable it must give notice to all the other clubs in the division plus the Divisional Secretary, the Promotions Officer and the Officials Secretary at least two weeks before the match. Members of all the clubs in the division are eligible to take part in such an event. The list of competitors closes one week before the match. In the event that the list is oversubscribed, the Promotions Officer shall determine who can take part.
 - 2. Visiting clubs cannot promote additional races at away venues although they can ask the promoting club to do so.
 - 3. For completeness the meeting confirmed that these rules did not apply to the two non-scoring 100m races. In the case of those races, the position remained unchanged. Each club could put down names, and were entitled as of right to two places. If not all the spaces were filled 20 minutes before the race, the Divisional Secretary would allot the vacant spaces fairly between those wanting to take part. This did not necessarily mean that such places would be allocated on a first come first served basis.
 - 4. The meeting confirmed that there were to be no more than two non scoring 100m races at single meetings or meetings joint with UKWL and four at double BAL fixtures.
 - 5. A promoting club that wished to include events for athletes outside the BAL (eg for schools or disability groups) must give notice to the Divisional Secretary the Promotions Officer and the Officials Secretary at least two weeks before the match. Participation in such events do not have to be offered to members of other clubs in the division but the promoting club may do so if they so wish.

EQUALISATION TARIFF 2017

TRAVEL

Ordinary travel from the clubs HQ to the venue and back per mile	£1.50
Where a single journey exceeds 200 miles but does not exceed 400 miles an additional payment of	£500.00
Where a single journey exceeds 400 miles an additional payment of	£750.00
Where the journey is between the Channel Islands and the mainland, in respect of the section between the Gatwick airport and the Channel Islands and in lieu of any mileage payment for that part of the journey. The normal mileage payments will apply between Gatwick and the other end of the mainland journey.	£875.00

HOME MEETING COSTS

Hire of track, changing rooms First aid attendance attendance of physio for all competitors Officials lunches etc	£450.00
Hire of photo finish and EDM when approved by F&GP. This payment will only be made at those venues which the Promotions Officer and the Officials Secretary confirm did not have their own photo-finish.	£500.00

NOTE:

1. Where the clubs HQ is less than 25 miles from the venue no travel costs will be included in the Equalisation Budget
2. Where a club shares a track with the host club no travel costs will be included.

CAPPING

No club shall pay more than the average of the payments by paying clubs on the uncapped tariff rounded to the nearest £10 above.

When capping has been applied, the amount that the receiving clubs shall receive shall be that percentage of the amount that they would have received uncapped that the actual sums receivable from the paying clubs bears to the sums that would have been received had capping not applied.

NOTE

If the meeting was not promoted as a home meeting by a BAL club (for instance because it was being promoted by UKWL) BAL would pay £300 towards the promotion costs.

PROCEDURE

The equalisation figures will be calculated after the Half Yearly Meeting on the basis of the fixtures at that date. They will then be sent to clubs and any queries must be received so that they can be dealt with by F&GP in April 2009. In the event that a fixture has to be changed late in the season F&GP will deal with any significant extra expenses under Rule 118

Normally the mileage will be taken from the club headquarters to the venue. If a club does not have a headquarters mileage will be taken from the point defined by the computer programme used for the town or area in which the club is based.

Exceptionally, Cardiff Athletics Stadium shall be considered as being on the junction of Leckwith Road and the A4232

UNDER 17 ATHLETES
Circular of 28th April 2012 as amended following 2013 AGM

During the winter UKA have reviewed the position of under 17s in senior competition and working with UKA BAL is accordingly amending its position to reflect that review.

Members will recall that under current BAL rules, u17s can only be used in Club Super8 and the Jo Smith if they meet current AAA Senior Grade 3 standards a copy of which is attached to this note. That position is likely to change with the new format for Club Super8.

So far as the League is concerned, the rules traditionally included a note as follows:

NOTE In League competition there are no formal rules about use of under 17s. However, team managers should expect to justify their inclusion of under 17s in their team who are outclassed or who find the competition embarrassing

That has generally been taken to mean that an u17 who is competing in a BAL match should be capable of coming in the top third of the A string of that event or have the current AAA senior Grade 3 standard for that event. That broadly remains the position.

F&GP wish to repeat that the arrangements for u17s to take part in BAL matches is designed to allow teams to use u17s of **exceptional talent** who cannot get proper competition elsewhere. It must not be used as a method of filling out senior teams.

The Registration Officer is being asked to highlight all u17s that are registered. Clubs are accordingly asked to indicate on their registration applications all athletes under 17 whom they are applying to register.

In principle and subject to the qualifications set out below u17s should only take part in the event(s) for which they can come within the top third of the A competition plus in either case possibly a relay. The AAA Senior Grade 3 standard would in most divisions be a useful indicator of the u17's ability to achieve such a position. It is recognised that in the Premiership a rigid application of the Senior Grade 3 standard may not be high enough and in the bottom divisions it may be too high.

Where events are run as separate A and B events, the Divisional Secretary should challenge why an u17 is taking part in the B event and satisfy himself that the u17 would meet the standard set out above..

Divisional Secretaries are asked to review the use of all u17 athletes and to report to the Promotions Officer the performance of any u17 where the performance of an u17 athlete is outside the top third of the A string and which falls outside the AAA Senior Grade 3 standard for the event r and for which no explanation that the Divisional Secretary finds satisfactory is forthcoming.

The Promotions Officer will report to F&GP as appropriate.

F&GP will also not expect u17s to do events above 1500m, nor throw senior weights or do senior high hurdles.

A team that wants an u17 to do any such event must obtain clearance well in advance and will be expected to demonstrate that this is a wholly exceptional case and that it is in the athlete's interest that he should be allowed to compete. Initially such a request should be made to the Promotions Officer who may consult the other Principal Officers or refer the request to F&GP. It must be supported with evidence of the athlete's performance in the event concerned to show consistency, support from the athlete's coach and from his parents.

Such requests will be looked into with great care by the BAL and clubs must not expect a favourable response to be given quickly.

If before the match an u17 is an established multi-eventer then he can do up to three events plus (if he wishes) the relay. A team manager asserting that an u17 is an established multi eventer must be prepared to satisfy the Promotions Officer that the athlete has completed at least one multi-event in the 12 months prior to the BAL match.

Whilst competing at BAL will give an u17 experience of competing at a higher level in his own event, it is not intended that it should be used as a method of giving an u17 experience of new events. That is properly the role of his own age group competition.

F&GP will not allow u17s to be used to bolster an otherwise weak team.

If the use of u17s is abused in any way, F&GP will use the power given to them to call up and cancel the registration of the athletes concerned.

AAA GRADE 3 SENIOR STANDARDS 2015-2016

Event

100 metres 11.1 sec
200 metres 22.4 sec
400 metres 50.5 sec
800 metres 1 min 56.4 sec
1,500 metres 4 min 00.7 sec
3,000 metres 8 min 45.0 sec
5,000 metres 15 min 15.5 sec
10,000metres 31m 55.5sec
110 metres Hurdles 15.3 sec
400 metres Hurdles 56.5 sec
3000 metres Steeplechase 9 min 52.0 sec

High Jump 1.90 metres
Pole Vault 4.00 metres
Long Jump 6.40 metres
Triple Jump 13.05 metres
Shot 12.45 metres
Discus 37.50 metres
Javelin 47.35 metres
Hammer 43.15 metres

END OF RULES