

# National Junior Athletic League

## **RULES OF COMPETITION**

Revised and authorised at the 2008 AGM of the League

### **1 GENERAL**

- 1.1 All competitions will be held under UK Athletics rules.
- 1.2 The Management Committee shall be empowered to investigate any allegation of a team being in breach of UKA or League rules.
- 1.3. All clubs MUST be covered by third party insurance.

### **2 ELEGIBILITY OF ATHLETES**

- 2.1 Competitors can either be first claim members of their club or secondary first claim (2<sup>nd</sup> claim) members whose first claim club is not a member of the league. The maximum number of 2<sup>nd</sup> claim athletes is restricted to 4 male and 4 female per club per match.
- 2.2. Any club competing in a Premier Division or having gained promotion to a Premier Division shall not be permitted to form or become a composite team.
- 2.3 Composite teams, as recognised by UKA, may be accepted as members of the League, subject to scrutiny and approval by Management Committee and are entitled to promotion, but having gained promotion cannot add additional new clubs to its composition. 2<sup>nd</sup> claim members are not permitted to compete for composite clubs.
- 2.4. 2<sup>nd</sup> claim athletes are only allowed to compete for one club in any one season.
- 2.5 Any athlete who has recently changed clubs and is serving a ban MUST NOT compete as either a first claim member or secondary first claim, but may compete as a non-scoring athlete.
- 2.6 Only athletes who have a previous record of competition, in the current or previous season, in the League for their club are permitted to compete in the National Final or Regional Promotion matches. Breach of this rule will result in deduction of the points scored by the athlete concerned –including relays.

### **3 CLUB COLOURS**

- 3.1 Club Vests MUST be worn by all competitors. Composite clubs must compete in the club colours that are registered with UKA. All relay teams must compete in the same vests.

### **4 COMPETITION NUMBERS**

- 4.1. The League will supply competition numbers for all competing clubs with the exception of non-scoring athletes.
- 4.2. Numbers for non-scoring athletes (90 and above) are to be provided by the host club.
- 4.3. Clubs must supply safety pins for their own athletes.

### **5. TRACKS AND FIXTURES**

- 5.1. All fixtures shall be held on synthetic surfaced tracks. Premier Division fixtures will have first option on 8 lane tracks.
- 5.2. Matches will be arranged to minimise travel for competing clubs whenever possible
- 5.3. Clubs must host a match when requested. The track used should be the nearest suitable one available. All clubs will be expected to host at least once every two seasons, unless the Management Committee agrees otherwise.
- 5.4. Host clubs shall inform all competing clubs of travel directions with map and a contact telephone number, which must be available on the day of the fixture

#### 5.5 FAILURE TO ATTEND A FIXTURE.

If a club proposes not to attend a fixture, it must notify the host club at least 48 hours prior to the fixture and notify the General Secretary in writing. The General Secretary will then notify the Chairman and relevant Regional representative(s) who will have the authority to accept the reasons given, or impose a penalty.

### **6. CONDUCT OF FIXTURES**

- 6.1. Clubs should, where possible, arrive at the venue of the match at least 30 minutes before the first event.
- 6.2. An athlete failing to wear a club vest may not compete.
- 6.3. Non-scoring athletes from member clubs may compete and must be included in the appropriate team declaration sheet. Non-scoring athletes may compete in spare lanes or in separate races as appropriate, or in preferred field events at the discretion of the appropriate referee. Non-scoring athletes may not progress for three further trials should that lead to the exclusion of scoring athletes .N.B. Rule 6.4. (1-4) applies to non-scoring athletes as well as scoring athletes.

- 6.4. (1) The competition is primarily for Juniors, who may compete in a maximum of 5 events including any relays.  
 (1) Under 17 year age group athletes may compete in a maximum of 4 events, one of which must be a relay. U15s are not classed as u17s  
 (2) Under 17 year age group athletes may only compete in two events at 800 metres or above.  
 (3) In the event of any athlete exceeding the restrictions imposed in rule 6.5(1), 6.5(2), and 6.5(3) the extra points gained will be deducted. In addition, the points scored by the athlete in their highest scoring event will also be deducted.
- 6.5. The use of personal audio equipment and mobile phones is banned within the competition areas.

## **7. DECLARATIONS**

- 7.1. Team declarations must be made on the official sheets provided by the League. Please note, 2<sup>nd</sup> claim declaration sheets MUST be completed for each athlete at each fixture
- 7.2. Team declarations should be made 30 minutes before the commencement of the match. Changes due to injury should be notified at once and in any case prior to the start of the event.
- 7.3. Declarations should be fully completed giving full name, age group and 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> claim competitor.
- 7.4. Any declaration sheet failing to give the age group of a competitor, will then be taken as U17.
- 7.5. In the event of an athlete competing without been declared on the official sheet, all points gained will be deducted,

## **8. TIMETABLE**

- 8.1. The order of events as shown in the League timetable must be adhered to by the host club although any necessary changes to field events due to the layout of the arena will require all visiting clubs being notified in advance of the meeting.
- 8.2. In the Long Jump, Triple Jump and all Throwing events, each competitor will be allowed 3 trials after which the leading 6 scoring competitors, provided each one shall have achieved the required standard, is entitled to have a further 3 trials.
- 8.3. Any athlete who misses a round in the field event shall forfeit that round.
- 8.4. Track events shall be run as separate 'A' and 'B' string races with the exception of the 1500m, 3000m and 1500m/2000m steeplechase. If, due to the number of competitors, and at the discretion of the Track Referee races up to and including 800m may be run as a combined race but the athletes must be informed that it will be scored as separate 'A' and 'B' races.

## **9. POLEVAULT**

- 9.1. The minimum starting height, with or without extensions, shall be 2.00 metres for men and 1.70 metres for women.
- 9.2. The bar will be raised at intervals of 15 cm until 3 competitors remain. After this, height intervals will be at the discretion of the field referee.
- 9.3. There will be no jump-off. Points will be shared for any athletes tying.

## **10 HIGH JUMP**

- 10.1 The minimum starting height shall be 1.50 metres for men and 1.30 metres for women.
- 10.2 The bar will be raised at intervals of 5 cm until 3 competitors remain. After this, height intervals will be at the discretion of the field referee.
- 10.3 There will be no jump-off. Points will be shared for athletes tying.

## **11 SCORING**

- 11.1 Match points in all divisions of the League will be allotted as follows:

'A' strings and relays	11- 9 – 8 – 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3	with the winner receiving 11 points.
'B' strings	9 - 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 - 1	with the winner receiving 9 points.

- 11.2 In events held as separate 'A' and 'B strings; the superior performer should be nominated for the 'A' string race. In other events the better-placed competitor at the finish line will be deemed the 'A' string.

"A" & "B" string athletes are given the same order on track and field.

- 11.3. League points in all divisions of the League will be allotted as follows:

8 – 7 – 6 – 5 – 4 – 3 – 2 – 1 with the winning club receiving 8 points

## **12 RESULTS**

- 12.1 The host club is responsible for the provision of recorders for each fixture. It is desirable that the recorders be experienced in the recording and collating of results.
- 12.1 The host club should circulate copies of the match results to all competing clubs within 7 days.

- 12.2 The host club is responsible for contacting the athletic press either by telephone, email or fax on the evening of the fixture with the match results. All individual results, which meet Athletics Weekly standards, should be included.
- 12.3 The original match result sheets, declaration sheets, non-scoring sheets, track results and field cards should be sent in the addressed envelope provided by the League within 48 hours of the match.

### **13 CANCELLED EVENTS**

- 13.1 If, in the opinion of the appropriate referee an event requires cancelling on safety grounds, a meeting of all team managers shall be held to inform them of his/her findings. The referees' decision is final.
- 13.2 After the commencement of the meeting an event which is cancelled for any reason, the total points which would have been allotted had the event taken place shall be divided equally between those athletes who, at the time of the cancellation, have been declared as competitors and available to compete.

### **14 EQUAL POINTS**

- 14.1 If the match points in a particular fixture are equal, the League points for that fixture shall be shared
- 14.2 In the event of teams being equal on League points at the end of the season, total match points will decide positions.
- 14.3 In the event of a tied match score in the National Final or either Regional Promotion Fixture, the greatest number of 'A' string first places will decide the finishing order. If this does not resolve the matter, then it will be decided on the greatest number of 'B' string first places. If still unresolved then 'A' string second places, 'B' string second places and so on, until a decisive result is achieved.

### **15. OFFICIALS**

- 15.1 Host clubs shall be responsible for the provision of adequate officials to run the meeting.
- 15.2 The host club shall be responsible for the provision of:  
A Starter, Marksman, Track Referee, Field Referee, Chief Timekeeper, Recorder(s), and Announcer.
- 15.3 All participating clubs, including the host club shall provide:  
One Track Judge, One Timekeeper and a Field Judging team.
- 15.4 All Officials where possible should be qualified. At least one Field Judge MUST be graded.
- 15.5 Clubs providing the requisite number of Officials will be awarded points as follows:
- |                          |                 |              |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Track Judge              | 10 points       |              |                  |
| Timekeeper               | 10 points       |              |                  |
| Field Judge Team (min 3) | 15 points (max) | <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>35 POINTS</b> |
- 15.6 In the event of a team failing to attend a fixture without athletes but the Officials are in attendance, and providing they carry out their required duties, they will then be awarded match points but will forfeit League points

### **16 EQUIPMENT**

- 16.1 Host clubs are to make all arrangements for the provision of the appropriate athletic equipment for the match, together with all the materials needed for the results, recording and public address. This does not apply to vaulting poles.
- 16.2 All equipment specified under UK Athletics rules for junior age group will be used.
- 16.3 All equipment must be in a safe condition.

### **17 SAFETY**

- 17.1 Full regard to the safety of athletes, officials, spectators and the general public must be given high priority at all fixtures, as per UKA code of practice/risk assessment.
- 17.2 All athletes, team managers and officials must abide by the Leagues safety requirements.
- 17.3 Host clubs MUST provide adequate First Aid cover.
- 17.4. No fixture should take place without a qualified first aider present.

### **18. COURTESY**

- 18.1 In respect of all fixtures promoted by the League, athletes, team officers and club officials have a duty to be courteous.

### **19 DISCIPLINE**

- 19.1 Any competitor (or other person) interfering or attempting to interfere with the decision of an event Official or who is guilty of unfair practice or misbehaviour, including the use of offensive or abusive language, shall, at the discretion of the referee, be excluded from the competition and reported to the Management Committee.
- 19.2.1. Any Athlete or Official, whose conduct, in the opinion of the Management Committee, may bring discredit to the sport of athletics or to the League, shall be reported under the terms of UKA Rules.

19.3 Any athlete (or other person) causing wilful damage shall be reported to the Meeting Manager/Secretary, who shall report the matter to the Management Committee. The Management Committee shall investigate the complaint and shall have the power to order restitution by the club(s) of the offender(s) and /or suspend the club(s) from League competition for one year. Any such suspension must be approved by the AGM of the League following the incident.

**19 DISPUTES**

20.1 Any athlete (or other person) with a dispute concerning the conduct of that fixture shall through their team manager lodge a complaint to the Meeting Manager/Secretary. The Meeting Manager/Secretary, with the appropriate Referee and Officials shall, where possible resolve the situation in the interest of all concerned. If the dispute is not resolved then the situation shall be reported to the Management Committee.

20.2 Video recordings made by clubs at any National Junior Athletic League meeting(s) shall not be accepted as evidence to dispute decisions made by Officials and Referees at that meeting