

Rules Revision 2008

Consultation on Proposals

A number of changes to UKA Rules for Competition are currently under consideration for inclusion in the next edition to be published in April 2008. We are undertaking a consultation exercise in respect the proposals that follow, these notes identify the most significant changes. Any other changes that are introduced will be “cosmetic” and will not change the significance of any rule.

Please forward any opinions on the proposals to Cherry Alexander at UK Athletics by Monday January 7th 2008. Cherry’s contact details are at the end of this note.

Rule 2(2) – Affiliation: The addition of two conditions for affiliation to the National Associations:

- All affiliated organisations must comply with UKA Rules for Competition and policies for health and safety and welfare.
- Affiliated organisations must not use, in any capacity, a coach or technical official whose licence has been withdrawn by UK Athletics.

Rule 3(3) – Higher Competition: A proposal has been received from a club to amend the Higher Competition Athlete rule: once an athlete has been registered as a higher competition athlete then he/she should not have to re-register annually; the higher competition club would be required to resubmit their list annually removing athletes when appropriate. No further fee would be payable after the first registration with. In addition the registration fee should be reduced from £10 to £5. UK Athletics and England Athletics do not support this proposal as the effect would be to remove the responsibility to register away from the athlete.

Rule 3(3) – Higher Competition: Change the wording of the fee to be consistent with that in rule 5(6) “registration is subject to an annual charge as determined from time to time by the Board of UK Athletics”.

Rule 3(15) – Composite Clubs: Remove the word “multiple” and replace with “from two to five clubs” may combine to form a composite team.

Rule 9(2)(c) – County Qualification: Delete the sentence starting “Residential qualification in the case of anyone serving in the Royal Navy” as the sentence is unnecessary and its removal would not affect any athlete’s eligibility to represent his/her county.

Rule 10(1)(2)&(3) – Territorial Qualifications: It is suggested that this rule should be deleted. The three English territories have now been restructured as competition providers and, with the exception of counties, no other competition providers are defined within UKA Rules for Competition. In certain respects territories already implement their own competitions conditions; deletion of qualification definitions from the Rules would enable them to meet future changes in competition trends.

Rule 10 – National Representation Qualification: The rule book does not define representative qualifications for England, Northern Ireland, Wales or Scotland – should it?

The Commonwealth Games Federation states that all competitors must be citizens of the country that enters them. Additionally an athlete may represent “either the competitor’s Commonwealth Country of birth or the Commonwealth Country of birth of his or her father or mother ...”.

To achieve consistency, this leads to the following suggestion for inclusion in Rule 10, applying to one of the four home countries:

Qualification shall be acquired as follows:

- By birth in the country in question
- By birth of one or both parents in the country in question
- By two years residence in the country on question immediately prior to the date of representation. (If two years is deemed to be an appropriate qualification period and that this meets the citizenship requirement of the Commonwealth Games Federation)

Unnumbered New Rule – Track and Field Certification: It is proposed that with effect from April 1st 2009 all synthetic surfaced Track and Field facilities must be certified / graded by UK Athletics before any competitions can be promoted.

Rule 204(4)(iii) – Unattached Levy: Instead of charging an unattached levy to entrants who are not members of affiliated clubs, road race promoters will offer a minimum discount of £2 to entrants who are members of affiliated clubs who are registered with a National Association Registration / Membership scheme.

Unnumbered New Rule – Audio Equipment in Road Races: a proposal has been received from the UKA Road Running Management Group to the effect that audio equipment using earphones must not be used in road races and that any use of such equipment may result in disqualification.

Rule 209 – Race Numbers: Medical information must be provided by competitors, using a predetermined template, on the reverse of road race number cards.

Age Groups – consultations on possible changes are underway within the Competition Review. Any proposed changes to rules will be developed following completion of this consultation.

It is proposed that with effect from the 2008 rule book UK Athletics will not legislate for competition in the Under 11 age group (present) or Under 12 age Group (proposed) in any discipline. However this will not preclude sections of the sport (e.g. Road Running and Hill & Fell Running) setting their own guidelines for these lower age children.

We look forward to receiving your thoughts by January 7th. Please reply to: Cherry Alexander, UK Athletics, Central Boulevard, Blythe Valley Park, Solihull, B90 8AJ.
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