

NOTICE OF MOTION

Welsh Athletics Annual General Meeting 2023

Proposal To amend the eligibility criteria to include Grandparents
Proposed by The Board of Welsh Athletics

Background to Proposal

Eligibility to compete for Wales is currently through residence (3 years continuous residence), birth or parentage.

Commonwealth Games Federation attempted to get parity across the sports and Nations in the lead up to the 2022 Games, and requested we change the parentage rule to grandparents. This would also bring Welsh Athletics in line with World Athletics, who apply the same rule to its member federations.

Given the proximity to the 2022 Games, a decision was made not to change the eligibility as it would have required major changes to the selection policy which had already been published.

The same request is expected in the lead up to the 2026 Games, and therefore it is being proposed that a change to the eligibility criteria should be made in advance of the creation of any future Commonwealth Games policy.

Proposal

To amend Byelaw 16.1 by addition sub-clause c, the new byelaw would read as follows;

16.1 Eligibility to represent Wales at international & representative fixtures

16.1.1 To be eligible, an athlete must have at least ONE of the following qualifications:

- a) **Birth:** the athlete having been born in Wales or the mother being domiciled in Wales at the time of the birth.
- b) **Parentage:** one or both parents born in Wales.
- c) **Grandparents:** one or both grandparents born in Wales.
- d) **Residence:** the athlete having resided continuously in Wales for a minimum of three years immediately prior to the event. Any athlete claiming eligibility to compete for Wales under this qualification must supply documentation details to the office at Welsh Athletics Ltd in order to be processed before being accepted.

The change in eligibility would enable Welsh Athletics to have parity with World Athletics rule book, as well as the other Home Countries (with the exception of Scotland who are also proposing the same amendment).

Athletes who choose to access the eligibility criteria following the change would be requested to do so via the existing method, with the same level of scrutiny being applied.