

**Meeting of Track & Field Committee,
Wednesday 22nd August 2022, Teams Conference Call.**

6:00pm



WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

1. Present

Joyce Tomala (JT), Lynette Harries (LH), Lynne Brier (LB), Adrian Palmer (AP), Crispin Backsall (CB), Alan Currie (AC), Fyn Corcoran (FC), Carl Williams (CW)

2. Apologies:

RLP, DW, JM, SH, BAM

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

No declarations of conflict of interest.

4. WA Updates:

a. Competition Update (RLP)

i. Senior /U15 Championships – debrief meeting

RLP shared her report from the debrief meeting via email. The meeting was held straight after the championships.

ii. Junior U13/U17/U20 Championships – date of debrief meeting

No debrief meeting has taken place yet. RLP has suggested either Wednesday 21st September or Friday 7th October.

JT has requested that copies of all official's reports, not just a summaries are shared in the debrief meetings.

LH reminded the committee that the meeting director usually requests the official's reports, from which he / she normally produces a report.

Action – JT to contact SH to set a date for the debrief meeting for this championship.

iii. Welsh Under 20 International

No debrief meeting has taken place yet. The committee made the following observations:

- LH felt that the junior championship and the international were too close together for both athletes and officials. This may have caused issues for both athletes and officials. Information was disseminated late to officials.
- AP is concerned that Welsh Athletics is currently the only home nation to be offering an international match, rotated with the Manchester International, and it is Welsh Athletics officials being called upon every time.
- CB expressed concern that the events to be included were quite late being announced.
- LH felt that the match went well in Swansea and the venue was used efficiently and effectively. However, the call room was situated too far away in the indoor area.
- JT was concerned that parking would be an issue if a full international was offered at Swansea next year. It was agreed that if this match goes ahead in Swansea next year, a date must be in place

soon so that arrangements can be put in place e.g. accommodation for teams and officials.

- JT asked who had been involved in deciding which events were to be included in the match. It was decided that all event leads be invited to future meetings to discuss and explain their roles and decide how the committee can be involved in decisions of this nature.

AP replied that a meeting has been arranged for 5th October to discuss the timetable for next year. He suggested that one of the remits for this meeting could be to discuss how the event leads can support the track and field committee moving forward and how the timetable can be more closely linked to the athlete development pathway.

Action: Rhys Williams and Ryan Spencer to be invited to the next meeting

Action: A member of the Track and Field committee to attend the meeting on October 5th.

b. Welsh Junior Development League update (JT)

JT said that she has resigned from the role of co-ordinator for this league.

She expressed her concern that clubs appear to want local, small competitions with parents and coaches carrying out the officiating, but questioned whether consideration had been given to insurance, duty of care and responsibility in the event of an accident occurring.

JT asked if any events had gone ahead.

AC said that the meeting went ahead in Neath on August 21st. All other matches that he has made himself available for were had been called off, sometimes with no official notification of this decision.

CB said that two events have taken place in North Wales, hosted by Menai and both matches were well attended. There were qualified officials in attendance at both matches, alongside some parent volunteers.

LH felt that this league is important as a developmental league for young athletes and it is regrettable that a number of clubs haven't involved themselves.

c. Commonwealth Games report (AP)

AP shared the following:

- The camp was very successful in the Vale Hotel. The athletes did not attend the opening ceremony night took place in the Vale, but the athletes celebrated the in the Vale Hotel.
- Marathon athletes went to Birmingham first. The supporters corner was well used and the drinks stations were well manned by community coaches.
- The Commonwealth Games has moved on and it is now a world class event, functioning at a very high standard.
- All athletes performed either at or around that the level that was expected of them.
- Three medals came from from para-athletes.
- The Board will shortly produce an independent report on the games.
- Short turn around to Victoria 2026 with 2025 being the selection year to achieve the standards.

- The Commonwealth Youth Games will go ahead in Trinidad in 2023.
- JT pointed out that Welsh athletes have had a superb summer, with selections for World Championships, Commonwealth Games and European Championships.

5. DISCUSSION

a. Code of Conduct (CW)

CW (Safeguarding Lead) was invited to the meeting to offer advice on what can be done in the case of officials being abused during athletics matches.

CW shared a slide that pointed out what can be done in incidents where parents are abusive towards officials.

CW advised that if an incident is causing harassment, alarm or distress, particularly bad language, the victim has the right to call the police. He advised that stadium staff be alerted, contact the athletics club that the parents belong to, contact UKA if it's a coach who has been abusive. CW pointed out that the Codes of Conduct cover all groups of people within athletics. CW suggested that he is copied into emails that refer to the unacceptable conduct of individuals within the sport so that he can offer his support.

CW said that he is producing a safeguarding newsletter on a three-monthly basis and holding regular meetings with regional welfare officers where conduct is discussed.

JT requested that secretaries and chairs of clubs and regions receive a copy of the newsletters.

b. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – not already covered:

i. Records for mixed events (AC)

- AC suggested that one of Jake Heywood's indoor records (one mile record set in Seattle on January 29th) cannot be accepted on the basis that it was set on a track where the circumference of the track is greater than 200m.
- AC suggested that Jenny Nesbit's allcomers record for 3,000m (NIAC on December 19th) cannot accept because it was in a mixed gender race where she was the only female.
- AC suggested that the committee accept the Under 13 indoor record for 1500m set by Bryony Boyce in a mixed race as a best performance as there is a tendency to combine athletes from this age group at championships.
- AC originally suggested that Olivia Scrimshaw's Under 13 long jump record (set in Manchester on 25th September 2021) was not accepted because there was no wind-reading. However, further investigation revealed that there was a wind-reading of 0.

The committee agreed with all these suggestions.

ii. Evidence for change in U15 triple jump (FC)

Fyn Corcoran attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of changing the run up for Under 15 athletes from the current model of 10 metres to a full run up. FC shared the Athlete Development Model for triple jump to support this and requested that the 10 metre rule be removed in Wales, based on the fact that it didn't allow for enough strides.

JT stated that the initial decision to shorten the run up was made because of concerns surrounding the impact on young bones.

AP expressed concern that some coaches would not be knowledgeable enough at the moment to coach this adequately and safely with limited risk of injury.

AP asked what rules the other home nations were following and FC replied that all home nations had abolished the 10 metre rule and were currently working on the full run up model.

JT expressed her concerns about team managers pushing athletes into triple jump for points, thus causing injuries.

CB suggested that athletes need to be quite experienced and prove their capability in the event before being allowed to compete at competitions and championships etc in Wales.

JT reminded the committee of the right of the official to withdraw athletes who is danger of hurting themselves and not performing safely within the event.

AP suggested that the committee support FC with his request but monitor and review it very closely in competitions to ensure that athletes are working safely. He requested that a reminder goes all officials of their right and responsibility to remove athletes from any event if they are demonstrating unsafe practice.

LH reminded the committee that regular newsletters are circulated to all officials, which could be used as a tool to keep them informed on their right to pull an athlete out of an event, as well as inform them of the new run up rules for triple jump.

The request to change the rule for run up in triple jump was accepted by the committee on the understanding that it be closely monitored, records kept, information kept and reviewed at the end of the outdoor track and field season 2023.

JT thanked FC for his attendance and the following actions were formulated:

Action: AC to share this discussion at the officials committee meeting.

Action: AP and FC to communicate this discussion to Welsh Schools with the intention of ensuring that teachers refrain from allowing athletes to compete in events that they are not physically prepared for e.g. triple jump and other technical events.

Action: FC to be invited back in the new year to share his views on other jumps events that he leads on.

Action: This information to be shared with Zoe Holloway for sharing with officials.

iii. **Imperfect Parent (ZB)**

ZB to be invited to the October meeting.

6. **REPORTS:**

a. **Regional Issues**

Inter-Regional Championships (JT)

JT said that this was a very successful championship which was won by the East region for the first time.

b. **Officials Committee (SH)**

AC reported that there are no upper-age group restrictions on officials and lower age group restrictions seem to be sixteen years of age. However, it can be assumed that if they are old enough to be registered, they are old enough to be officials.

7. Any Other Business.

The committee was updated on the health of Ben Gregory and they expressed their concern and best wishes for his recovery.

a. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 12th October 2022

b. Dates of Future Meetings: (all meetings commence @ 6pm)

Wednesday 7th December 2022