Welsh Schools Athletics Association

Management Committee Meeting

10am Wednesday 12th November 2025

1. Apologies & Present

Apologies: Sharon Leech (WSAA Vice Chair) SL, Darran Williams (WA Competitions) and Alex Donald (WA Endurance Competitions Manager) AD.

Present: Steve Jones (WSAA Chair) SJ, Jo Warner (WSAA Immediate Past Chair) JW, Andrew Jenkins (WA) AJ, Euan Coney (WA Competitions Officer) EC, Gareth Oldham (WSAA Treasurer & Powys) GO, Rhys Williams (WA Performance) RW, Gwilym Williams (WSAA President) GW and Steve Mitchell (WA National Talent Development Coordinator – Endurance) SM.

2. Approval of minutes / matters arising from previous meeting held 10/09/2025

2.1 Minutes approved by GO, seconded by JW.

2.2 The Welsh Inter Schools & Colleges stand alone championships held on Wednesday 22nd October were a resounding success. There were 1,700+ entries with 1,400+ finishers on the day, these figures would have been even higher if a number of schools had not missed the closing date. No one anticipated how popular the event would be, it was the largest ever turnout in the history of the event, justifying the decision to revert to a stand alone fixture. Our thanks to the competitions department at Welsh Athletics for organising and administering such a great event, to all the volunteers who contributed on the event day and for such prompt and accurate team scores.

3. Actions arising from previous meeting (10/09/2025)

3.1 Steve Jones is yet to contact Cardiff, Brecon and Aberdare tracks to establish availability and costings for our national championships and cup & plate finals in July 2026.

Potential venues of Brecon, Aberdare and Cardiff were all discussed last meeting, there are different advantages to hosting at all three venues in relation to pricing, infrastructure, staff support, spectators, and travel time. SJ will pass findings to Euan Coney for a final decision.

SM note that Saturday 4th July cashes with the GB&NI trials for the U20 World Athletics Championships, this will affect availability of a small number of pupils in school years 13&14.

3.2 A working group is yet to be established to look at the different structures of the current districts and solutions to the challenges of volunteer personnel and financial sustainability of all eight districts. Initially terms of reference will be established, followed by invitations to individuals who can make a positive and constructive contribution to the working group.

3.3 The date of the WSAA AGM has been rescheduled to 13/12/25 from 29/11/25 due to several WSAA officers being unavailable for the original date. This has been communicated to school districts at the end of October.

4. Fixtures

4.1 06/12/25 Combined Events U16 & U18 International @ Glasgow

RW The team has been selected and consists of 11 pupils and 4 staff. Logistics are in hand with travel by coach, the only difference this year will be departing the venue and travelling for a few hours after the event conclusion to Saturday night accommodation, therefore shortening the return journey on the Sunday and a more reasonable hour of getting home.

4.2 25/02/26 Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships @ Brecon

An update was emailed by Alex Donald, reconfirming as communicated in the last meeting the facility is booked with school site manager and Freedom Leisure, First Aid, Risk Assessment in place, entry details, course map and timetable will be unchanged from 2025.

Darran Williams will not be present for processing results as he will be on annual leave, Euan Coney will lead processing of results on the day.

AJ school district provisional trial dates and venues for progressing to Brecon received to date are:

- South East Wales Wednesday 8th October 2025 at Risca School.
- North East Wales Thursday 4th December 2025 at Myddelton College.
- Glamorgan Valleys Monday 12th January 2026 at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.
- Cardiff & The Vale Monday 12th January 2026 Girls at YG Bro Morgannwg
- Cardiff & The Vale Tuesday 13th January 2026 Boys at YG Bro Morgannwg
- Powys Wednesday 14th January 2026 at Dolerw Park, Newtown.
- Dyfed Tuesday 27th January 2026 at Haverfordwest Racecourse.
- Afan Nedd Tawe Wednesday 28th January 2026 at Margam Park.
- Eryri Thursday 5th February 2026 at Treborth Athletics Track, Bangor

4.3 21/03/26 SIAB U15 & U17 Cross Country International @ Faenol Estate North Wales

An update was emailed by Alex Donald, reconfirming the Faenol Estate will be the race venue with all teams able to be accommodated at the Conwy Centre at a cost of £56pp which included dinner, breakfast and a packed lunch. SIAB delegates will be accommodated at a nearby hotel. A provisional course map and timetable have been compiled. A formal invite along with the event plan will be sent to the other Nations in mid-January 2026. Amy Edwards WA North Wales Competition Officer will be supporting event delivery.

4.4 Saturday 4th July for the Track & Field championships and Wednesday 8th July for the U14 & U16 Cup & Plate Finals @ TBC.

As discussed in Matters Arising.

5. 2026 Age Group Changes Update

SJ The age group change is a rule change for the sport in the UK, from odd to even age groups commencing on 1st April 2026. This is not a policy change by Welsh Athletics, or an initiative, it is a formal UK Athletics rule change. The rules are updated on an annual basis and formally updated every two years. The rules are to be under-pinned by the competition license applications and the subsequent insurance. There have been several opportunities to engage with this process over the past 2 years, Welsh Athletics have held multiple webinars and always been available to discuss any specific queries.

The WSAA AGM will include a notice of motion to realign our Summer Track & Field and Winter Cross Country National Championships to these new UK Athletics age groups. The track & field cup and plate fixtures, combined events championships and Inter Schools and Colleges all already operate under the new even age groups.

A notice of motion will also be submitted that the track & field summer championships will be held for the U16, U18 & U20 age groups. With the cup remaining as U14 & U16. This does not prevent districts from hosting U14 Championships should they choose to do so, it just does not enable U14 to progress to Welsh Schools.

The July 2026 SIAB will be held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, we are awaiting confirmation on what age groups will be included in the Schools International.

GO now the consultation period has concluded, formal notification of the new age groups and technical changes especially in relation to hurdles and throws needs to be made by Welsh Athletics to schools sooner rather than later so districts can amend their competition programs accordingly.

SJ agreed, ideally this will be combined with a notification to all clubs and other competition providers in Wales.

6. Teachers Education

A request had been submitted to the senior leadership team in Welsh Athletics and was approved for the 2025/26 academic year if WA budgets allow to deliver at least two more discounted courses, one in North Wales and one in East Wales. This gives PE staff from the other 5 districts away from the West course last year the opportunity to attend at a venue closer to their place of work or residence. A course has been confirmed and been advertised for Thursday 15th January 2026 at Hawarden High School, Deeside, we are very grateful to the school for allowing us to host a course midweek. Sourcing a venue in the South East Wales school district is proving more challenging.

A Primary Teachers Run Jump Throw Workshop with Carmarthenshire County Council is scheduled for Tuesday 10th February 2026 at Amman Valley Comprehensive School.

7. AOB including date of next meeting

7.1 Date of next WSAA Management meeting (Virtual)10am Tuesday 13th January 2026.

7.2 GO Sports Hall Athletics Welsh Final is scheduled for Sunday 22nd March 2026 at Cwmbran Leisure Centre. This is the day after the Schools Cross Country International at Faenol North Wales. Whilst the clash will not affect the pupils, it will affect the team managers from three of the competing districts and several key volunteers too. Action AJ to contact Sports Hall to see if there is any room to move the date or start later in the day.

AJ Sports Hall district fixtures received to date are:

- Cardiff & the Vale
  Wednesday 28th January 2026 U15 girls (years 9 & 10) at Ysgol Glantaf (start 3.30 pm)
  Thursday 29th January 2026 U15 boys (years 9 & 10) at Ysgol Glantaf (start 3.30 pm)
  Wednesday 4th February 2026 U13 girls (years 7 & 8) at Whitchurch Lower (start 3.30 pm)
  Thursday 5th February 2026 U13 boys (years 7 & 8) at Whitchurch Lower (start 3.30 pm)
- Dyfed U13 Friday 28th November 2025 at Llanelli Leisure Centre.
- Dyfed U15 Tuesday 21st October 2025 at Llanelli Leisure Centre.
- Powys Wednesday 21st January 2026 at Maldwyn Leisure Centre, Newtown.
- Eryri at TBC.
- North East Wales at TBC.
- South East Wales at TBC.
- Afan Nedd Tawe TBC.
- Glamorgan Valleys at TBC.

7.3 AJ Association Awards – what is the timeline for distribution? SJ recipients of our July 2025 Championships have been decided. Recipients of our award winners covering the whole academic year will be decided in the rescheduled WSAA AGM on Saturday 13th December 2025. SJ will then place an order for all awards with Direct Source and the arrange to distribute and present them as early as possible in the new year. EC confirmed the invoice will go to WA competitions department.

Awards List:
WSAA July Track & Field Championships Awards:

- Best Male Field Performance
- Best Male Track Performance
- Best Female Field Performance
- Best Female Track Performance
- Best Middle Distance Performance (Boy or Girl)
- Best Hurdles Performance (Boy or Girl)

Association Awards to be decided at WSAA AGM:

- JDB Williams award for the outstanding field performance by a boy or girl
- Jack O'Connell Award for the outstanding track performance by a boy or girl
- Rae Evans award for the outstanding girls cross country performance
- Denys Gumbley award for the outstanding boys cross country performance

7.4 GW Thanked all WA staff and WSAA Volunteers in attendance and those not present for their continued support of all aspects of schools athletics in Wales.

Meeting closed at 10.48am.