Welsh Schools Athletics Association

Management Committee Meeting

10am Tuesday 3rd November 2026

1. Apologies & Present

Apologies: Jo Warner (WSAA Immediate Past Chair) JWa; James Williams (CEO WA) Jwi; Sharon Leech (WSAA Vice Chair) SL; Rob Campion (WA Competitions On Track) RC; Rhys Williams (WA Performance Sprints & Hurdles) RW.

Present: Steve Jones (WSAA Chair) SJ; Andrew Jenkins (WA) AJ; Marcus Meyrick (WA Competitions Off Track) MM; Gareth Oldham (WSAA Treasurer & Powys) GO; Gwilym Williams (WSAA President) GW and Darran Williams (WA Competitions) DW.

2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting held 04/09/2026

The minutes were approved by GO and seconded by DW.

3. Actions arising from previous meeting 04/09/2026

DW encouraged school districts to apply for WA competition licences to obtain the additional public liability insurance provided by UKA for events.

4. Fixtures

4.1 Saturday 19th September Joint WA & WSAA Combined Events Championships at Carmarthen Review

The championships received 96 entries, an increase on 2024. Results are available at Home | WA Combined Events U14-U16-U18 2026. The committee thanked all volunteers and the WA competitions team for delivering a successful championship. Particular thanks were extended to the parents who assisted qualified field event officials, enabling the events to proceed. Scheduling the championships during term time rather than the summer holidays was considered justified. The provisional format for 2027 is a two-day event on 17 and 18 April at a venue to be confirmed. Pupils will compete in the relevant age-group pentathlons, heptathlons and octathlons, with qualification for the Glasgow pentathlons determined by adjusting scores to exclude disciplines not included in the indoor championships.

4.2 Wednesday 21st October Welsh Inter Schools U14 U16 U18 & U20 Cross Country Championships at Brecon Review.

The championships attracted 1,700 entries, with 1,300 pupils competing on the day. Full results are available at 49th Welsh Inter-Schools Cross Country Championships. The high number of entries created challenges in recording finish positions and times, particularly in the U14 races. Subject to budget availability, chip timing will be introduced in 2027 to address these issues. Race timing must be retained, as PE staff require evidence for GCSE moderation for many participants. Some team medals remain to be distributed to schools that left before learning they had achieved a top-three placing. Parking difficulties arose from the increase in spectators compared with 2025, rather than from the number of school buses and coaches.

Thank you to Welsh Athletics competitions team for organising a fantastic championship, and to all the volunteers who helped on the day. We are also grateful to Freedom Leisure and Brecon High School for providing the excellent venue and support.

4.3 Saturday 14th November Scottish Schools U16 & U18 Combined Events International at Glasgow

The selection policy is available at Competing for Wales. A team of 13 athletes has been selected. Exact timings for travel are awaited. The team will travel by bus, departing on Friday 13 November. Scottish Schools have provided accommodation details and costs. Following the final event on Saturday 14 November, the team will travel for approximately four hours before staying overnight in Lancaster and completing the journey home on Sunday 15 November.

4.4 Wednesday 17th February 2027 Welsh Schools U14 U16 U18 & U20 National Cross Championships at Brecon.

The event date has been communicated to all schools, and the facility is booked. The remaining championship logistics will be finalised after the Cardiff Cross Challenge. Qualifying fixtures for all eight school districts have been confirmed and are listed below.

District Trial Dates:

- South East Wales Wednesday 14th October 2026 at Caldicot School.
- North East Wales Wednesday 2nd December 2026 at Myddelton College.
- Glamorgan Valleys Monday 11th January 2027 at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.
- Cardiff & The Vale Monday 11th January 2027 Girls at YG Bro Morgannwg
- Cardiff & The Vale Tuesday 12th January 2027 Boys at YG Bro Morgannwg
- Powys Wednesday 13th January 2027 at Dolerw Park, Newtown.
- Dyfed Tuesday 26th January 2027 at Carew Airfield.
- Afan Nedd Tawe Wednesday 27th January 2027 at Margam Park.
- Eryri Thursday 28th January 2027 at Treborth Athletics Track, Bangor

Team sizes at Brecon will remain at 12. The U18 and U20 races will be combined, with team and individual medals scored separately for each age group. This will shorten the programme and provide more competitive races through larger fields.

MM will align the U16 and U18 race distances as closely as practicable with the SIAB distances, using the same course map as the Inter Schools Cross Country Championships held in October. English Schools have confirmed the following SIAB race distances:

U18M 5,455m.
U18W 4,320m
U16B 4,320m
U16G 3,740m
The Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 17 February 2027 will also serve as the main selection event for the SIAB Schools U16 & U18 international, hosted by English Schools at Leeds Grammar School on Saturday 20 March 2027. The request to update and publish the selection policy remains outstanding. English Schools have provided accommodation details and costs.

4.5 Saturday 3rd July Welsh Schools U14, U16 & U18 National Championships at TBC

The date was confirmed as Saturday 3 July, with Brecon as the preferred venue. The Tour de France is scheduled to pass through both Brecon and Aberdare on Sunday 4 July. The anticipated road closures are not expected to affect either track on the Saturday.

4.6 Wednesday 7th July NASUWT U14 & U16 Cup & Plate finals at TBC

The date was confirmed as Wednesday 7 July, with Brecon as the preferred venue.

5. Teacher education, participation initiatives and communications

5.1 Regular mailshots will continue throughout the academic year, supported by promotion through WSAA and WA social media accounts and websites, where relevant. A WA budget has been approved for the financial year beginning 1 April 2026, focusing on three areas of work:

5.1.1 Additional discounted teacher education workshops will be scheduled annually, covering both primary and secondary education. Two successful workshops, one primary and one secondary, were held at Pontypool Active Living Centre in September. An open secondary workshop will be scheduled for March at Swansea University indoor track. On-demand group bookings are promoted quarterly by email and through the WSAA social media pages.

5.1.2 Funding for schools-to-clubs grassroots coaching days has been reintroduced. The application process was publicised, with applicants required to demonstrate progression routes into clubs. Each club may determine the format, events, schools and pupils it wishes to target. Projects must be completed by 31 July 2027. The deadline for grant applications was 31 July 2026; very few applications were received. Further details are available at News.

5.1.3 Three meetings have been held with Sports Hall Athletics and participating districts to explore engagement across all eight school districts and identify the most suitable competition pathway and format. All eight districts participate in cross country, track & field championships and track & field cup fixtures, but participation in Sports Hall Athletics is not yet consistent across all districts. The Welsh Sports Hall Final will be held at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Sunday 21 February 2027. Grants of £500 per district are available towards the costs of school district events that provide a pathway to the final at Cowbridge. The aim for this academic year is to increase participation at district level. North West Wales representatives highlighted the cost of buses and the travel time involved in attending events in South Wales each year.

5.2 The combined followers across WSAA social media channels has grown to 3,198, despite a slight decrease in X followers. The Welsh Schools Athletics Association can be followed on the following platforms:

- Facebook *https://www.facebook.com/WelshSchoolsAA* followers have risen from 812 to 845 since the previous meeting.
- X *https://twitter.com/welsh_aa* followers have dropped from 575 to 573 since the previous meeting.
- Instagram *https://www.instagram.com/welshschools_athletics/* followers have risen from 1708 to 1780 since the previous meeting.

6. Any other business

6.1 DW: Open Track entry platforms. Declarations for the 2027 U14 & U16 NASUWT Cup & Plate finals will be submitted through Open Track rather than Excel. All school districts now have the option to use the platform to administer trials for track & field, cross country and Sports Hall Athletics. DW can guide district event organisers through the process if they wish to use Open Track as an alternative to their current arrangements.

6.2 Finance: James Williams correspondence by email had requested that additional funding options be explored, particularly in view of the significant costs of taking WSAA teams to SIAB and Combined Events Internationals. WSAA social media pages have highlighted opportunities for supporters and followers to support the schools athletics pathway. Budget review is outside this committee's remit and will be referred to the WSAA Trustees meeting, to be scheduled before the WSAA AGM.

6.3 GW: The WSAA's 80th anniversary falls in 2027. It was proposed that this be recognised, potentially through a printed programme for the July 2027 Championships.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10am on Tuesday 12th January 2027.

Meeting closed at 11.09am.