

Welsh Schools Athletics Association

Management Committee Meeting

10am Friday 4th September 2026

1. Apologies & Present

Apologies: Steve Mitchell (WA National Talent Development Coordinator – Endurance) SM, Bethan Davies (WA Performance Administrator) BD, Gwilym Williams (WSAA President) GW, Jo Warner (WSAA Immediate Past Chair) JWa, James Williams (CEO WA), JWi and Darran Williams (WA Competitions) DW.

Present: Steve Jones (WSAA Chair) SJ, Rhys Williams (WA Performance Sprints & Hurdles) RW, Andrew Jenkins (WA) AJ, Rob Champion (WA Competitions On Track) RC, Marcus Meyrick (WA Competitions Off Track) MM, Sharon Leech (WSAA Vice Chair) SL and Gareth Oldham (WSAA Treasurer & Powys) GO.

Before the meeting, the committee formally thanked Steve Mitchell, in his absence, for his significant contribution to Welsh Schools. His meticulous work behind the scenes, particularly in preparing for selection meetings and matches, has been greatly valued. The committee wished him well as he moves on to new opportunities.

2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting held 12/06/2026

Minutes approved by RC, seconded by MM.

3. Actions arising from previous meeting 12/06/2026

No matters arising from 12/06/2026.

4. Fixtures

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

There were 83 entries at the time of the meeting, with six days remaining before entries closed.

[Home | WA Combined Events U14-U16-U18 2026](#)

Event details have been emailed to all schools contacts and promoted on WA & WSAA social media accounts.

An additional high jump bed has been sourced from Swansea University. A second indoor shot circle will be used in the throws cage for categories requiring two pools of athletes.

The competition will use calendar-year rather than academic-year age groups, aligning it with the schools international age groups for the Glasgow event on Saturday 14 November 2026.

Dr Hedydd Davies MBE and WSAA Life Member has kindly offered a personal donation to the costs of hosting the championships, which has been gratefully accepted. We thank him for his generous donation.

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

Event details have been distributed to school contacts and will also be shared through the WA and WSAA social media accounts. All logistics are in hand except for an amendment to the course map to reflect the new perimeter fence on the playing fields. The championships will incorporate the Welsh Colleges Championships, from which athletes progress to the British Colleges Championships. Full event details are available at [49th Welsh Inter-Schools Cross Country Championships](#).

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

The selection policy can be found here [Competing for Wales](#)

Team travel will be by bus, departing on Friday 13th November. Scottish Schools have provided accommodation. After the final event on Saturday 14th November, the team will travel for approximately four hours before staying overnight in Lancaster and completing the journey home Sunday 15th.

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

The event date has been made public to all schools, the facility is booked, all other logistics relating to the championships will commence in late September. The process has begun in trying to establish the eight school district qualifying fixtures listed below.

District Trial Dates:

- South East Wales 4pm 14th October 2026 at Caldicot School.
- North East Wales TBC December 2026 at Myddelton College.
- Glamorgan Valleys TBC January 2027 at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.
- Cardiff & The Vale TBC January 2027 Girls at YG Bro Morgannwg
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- 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 TBC 2027 at Treborth Athletics Track, Bangor

The Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 17th February 2027, will also act as the main selection event for the SIAB Schools U16 & U18 international hosted by English Schools at Leeds Grammar School on Saturday 20th March 2027.

5. Teacher education, participation initiatives and communications

5.1 Periodical mailshots will again be disseminated through the academic year underpinned by promotion on WSAA & WA Social media accounts and websites where relevant. A WA budget has been approved for the 1st April 2026 financial year focussing on three areas of work:

5.11 scheduling of additional discounted teachers education workshops annually, consisting of a blend of Primary and Secondary Workshops. The first two workshops are now scheduled and available to book at Pontypool Active Living Centre

Wednesday 9th September 10am to 4pm Teaching Primary School Athletics Run Jump Throw Workshop [Teaching Primary School Athletics Workshop](#)

Wednesday 16th September 10am to 4pm Teaching Secondary School Athletics Run Jump Throw Workshop [Teaching Secondary School Athletics Workshop](#)

5.12 The reintroduction of schools to clubs grassroots coaching days funding. For clubs that wish to engage an application process has been made public that must demonstrate exit routes to clubs. Format of the days will be at the discretion of each club for the events to be delivered, schools and pupils they wish to target. The project must be completed by no later than 31 July 2027. Grant Applications had to have been submitted no later than 31 July 2026. Very few applications were made, a second round of funding applications will open late September or early October. For more details and to apply click this link [News](#)

5.13 Three meetings have been held with Sports hall Athletics and participating districts of ideas of how to get engagement across all eight school districts with Sports Hall athletics, and what competition pathway and format would best suit this. Whilst all eight districts engage with cross country, track & field championships and track & field cup fixtures, this does not happen with Sports Hall Athletics. The Welsh Sports Hall Final will be held at Cowbridge Leisure Centre on Sunday 21st February 2027. Grants of £500 per district are available towards any costs associated with putting on school district events that progress to the final at Cowbridge, with the aim in this academic year of growing participation at district level. North West Wales representatives emphasised the challenges on cost of buses as well as travel time to South Wales every year.

5.2 The WSAA Social media channels followers continue has now grown to over 3000 followers. The Welsh Schools Athletics Association can be followed on:

- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WelshSchoolsAA> followers have risen from 714 to 812 since last meeting.
- X https://twitter.com/welsh_aa followers have risen from 571 to 575 since last meeting.
- Instagram https://www.instagram.com/welshschools_athletics/ followers have risen from 1217 to 1708 since last meeting.

6. Any other business

6.1 Correspondence was received from a school requesting a transfer to another school district because of logistical and financial challenges. The Committee acknowledged the school's circumstances but agreed that the request should be declined. Approval would set a precedent and conflict with the Association's constitution, which permits schools to affiliate only with the district in whose boundaries they are located. The WSAA Chair, SJ, will confirm the decision and its rationale in writing.

6.2 Correspondence was received from a North Wales school seeking information about the assistance available from WA in addressing financial and logistical challenges. The school identified the costs of hiring facilities and buses, travel to WSAA finals in South Wales, and insufficient volunteer capacity to organise district events or manage teams at the relevant WSAA finals. The WSAA Chair, SJ, will respond in writing to set out the support available from WSAA and WA.

6.3 Wales host the U18 Track & Field SIAB in July 2028, RC has started the process of sourcing a suitable venue with accommodation for all competitors on one site.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held at 10am on Tuesday 3rd November 2026.

Meeting closed at 10.59am.