

Welsh Schools Athletics Association

Management Committee Meeting

10am Wednesday 6th November 2024

1. Apologies & Present

Apologies: Steve Jones (WSAA Vice Chair), Zane Maynard (WSAA International Secretary), Alex Donald (WA Competitions Endurance), Hannah Baulch (WA Head of Participation & Development).

Present: Jo Warner (WSAA Chair), Euan Coney (WA Competitions Track & Field), Andrew Jenkins (WA), Gareth Oldham (Powys), Gerald Davies (WSAA Immediate Past Chair) & Dai Williams (WSAA Treasurer).

2. Approval of minutes / matters arising from previous meeting held 04/09/2024

Minutes approved JW seconded by GO.

3. Actions arising from previous meeting (04/09/2024)

File sharing now up and running on Microsoft Teams, with AJ and WSAA officers having access. AJ has uploaded some files, WSAA officers to try and access and upload files too.

Team medals for the top 3 teams at NASUWT have been attempted to be distributed to the relevant schools, 4 schools not replied to messages from JW.

SIAB 2024 Track & Field invoices around whose responsibility to refund Home Countries on bus travel, accommodation and food have now been settled. Kay Cherrie SIAB Chair has sent a document clarifying whose responsibility it is to pay for what aspects of SIAB this will be discussed at the 16/11/24 SIAB meeting for further clarification with all home countries present.

2024 NASUWT Grant has been received as confirmed in the WSAA Trustees meeting. As a grant rather than sponsorship the grant can be used to support other aspects of the WSAA competition program if there is any surplus after all Cup & Plate expenditure has been accounted for.

Sportshall 2025 venue, after several changes back and forth between Cwmbran & Cardiff and a suggested change of date to 23rd March, it has been decided to stick to the original date and venue of Sunday 9th March 2025 at Cwmbran. WA & WSAA will look at changing to a partnership with and at Cardiff Met for the event delivery in 2026. The UK

Final is Stoke on Saturday 12th April 2025, in the Easter Holidays which makes fielding school teams in school holidays more challenging for team managers and teachers.

The UK Athletics & Home Countries specific Junior Age group changes scheduled for 1st April 2026 are still being fine-tuned. Further seminars on dates TBC are planned for schools, clubs and other interested parties. JW will message James Williams if any further information is available so this can be presented before the SIAB meeting at Glasgow on 16th November 2024.

4. WSAA & WA Finance & Charity Commission

DW is chasing up WA finance on competition income and expenditure in preparation for the WSAA AGM on 23rd November 2024 as assured in the WSAA Trustees meeting.

The WSAA Trustees meeting was also assured that all outstanding paperwork with relation to the Charity Commission is being actioned and updated, including registration for Gift Aid, current Constitution uploaded and annual reports since 2021.

[WELSH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION - 510848](#)

5. WSAA AGM 23/11/24

Notices of motion have only been received from Cardiff & the Vale. 7 confirmations of attendance received to date and 2 apologies. Attendees can login via Teams or be at Sport Wales face to face.

Nominations for awards received from Cardiff & the Vale, Powys & Dyfed, JW is compiling.

6. Fixtures Updates

6.1 16/11/24 Joint Welsh Inter Schools, Colleges & Regional Championships @ Newtown

27 pupils not in regional teams entered to date from 9 different schools/colleges. However there are several days to go until the closing date. Regional teams should be declaring all junior athletes in full time education in Wales to assist in boosting school pupil numbers. There was clarification needed for pupils representing both their region and school, if schools still had to pay an entry fee for a pupil already entered via their region. All logistical aspects of the day are in hand with WA Competitions department.

6.2 16/11/24 U16 & U18 Combined Events International @ Glasgow

Three full teams selected in U16M, U16W & U18M with three U18W competing. Travelling by coach. Management team & SIAB meeting representatives in place. All logistics are in hand with the WA Performance team. Match program has been received for proof reading.

6.3 19/02/25 WSAA Cross Country Championships @ Brecon

The date and venue are now confirmed. Logistics will commence in a few weeks time. Provisional dates and venues of seven of the 8 school districts qualifying fixtures are now confirmed, awaiting Dyfed. South East Wales has been and went successfully.

Provisional District Trial Dates:

- Cardiff & The Vale **Monday 13th January 2025 Girls** at YG Bro Morgannwg
- Cardiff & The Vale **Tuesday 14th January 2025 Boys** at YG Bro Morgannwg
- Afan Nedd Tawe **Tuesday 14th January 2025** at Margam Park.
- Dyfed **TBC** at Haverfordwest Racecourse.
- Eryri **Wednesday 5th February 2025** at Treborth Athletics Track, Bangor
- North East Wales **Thursday 12th December 2024** at Mold Alun School.
- Powys **Wednesday 15th January 2025** at Dolerw Park, Newtown.
- South East Wales **Wednesday 9th October 2024** at Caldicot School.
- Glamorgan Valleys **Thursday 16th January 2025** at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.

6.4 09/03/25 Welsh U13 & U15 Sportshall final @ Cwmbran

We are anticipating 4 of the 8 school district entering teams again this academic year. A strategy needs to be implemented to get the other 4 districts reengaged with Sportshall.

Provisional District Trial Dates:

Powys and Cardiff & the Vale dates and venues are set. Dyfed U15 has been held, U13 to follow in November too, Afan Nedd Tawe date and venue to be set.

- Afan Nedd Tawe TBC at TBC
- Cardiff & the Vale

Wednesday 22nd January 2025 U13 girls (years 7 & 8) at Whitchurch Lower (start 3.30 pm)

Wednesday 29th January 2025 U15 girls (years 9 & 10) at Ysgol Glantaf (start 3.30 pm)

Wednesday 5th February 2025 U13 boys (years 7 & 8) at Whitchurch Lower (start 3.30 pm)

Wednesday 12th February 2025 U15 boys (years 9 & 10) at Ysgol Glantaf (start 3.30 pm)

- Dyfed U13 Tuesday 26th November 2024 at Llanelli Leisure Centre.
- Dyfed U15 Thursday 24th October 2024 at Llanelli Leisure Centre.
- Eryri at TBC at TBC
- North East Wales at TBC
- Powys Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at Maldwyn Leisure Centre, Newtown.
- South East Wales at TBC
- Glamorgan Valleys at TBC

6.5 22/03/25 SIAB U15 & U17 Cross Country International @ Falkirk

Now confirmed as Falkirk. Concerns about finding accommodation, will be discussed at SIAB meeting in Glasgow as well as logistics. Selection policy is live [Competing for Wales](#)

6.6 05/07/25 Welsh Schools U15 U17 & U20 Championships @ TBC

Venue still TBC due to unavailability of Cardiff, due to the Oasis concert. There are additional challenges with facility charges increasing, facility availability, and that all venues able to offer a full set of events with surrounding infrastructure for parking, administration and spectators. Brecon, Cardiff, Aberdare and Carmarthen were all discussed as potential hosts, with Carmarthen our preferred choice at this point in time, with Aberdare as back up.

6.7 09 or 16/07/25 Welsh Schools U14 & U16 Cup & Plate Finals @ Brecon

Clarification sought on if WA or WSAA will be the meeting organiser. Fixture date still TBC but 9th is the preference for WSAA. The final week of term schools have numerous other enrichment activities and trips scheduled.

Important that all event information for finals is distributed much earlier than 2024.

Brecon is still the preferred venue despite expensive facility hire costs. Brecon is central as it gets for schools on a school day, using an alternative venue adds considerable travel time and bus hire costs especially for North Wales schools.

6.8 March 2026 Wales turn to host SIAB Cross Country International

Hasn't been discussed in detail at WA yet, WSAA Officers preference is still for a venue in North Wales as that is most accessible for all home countries by ferry, flight and car, the venue should have enough appropriate accommodation nearby. WSAA Officers want to be able to confirm the venue by the SIAB March 2025 meeting so home countries can start planning.

7. WSAA Social Media accounts growth & engagement.

Administered by volunteer Nathan Jones our sincere thanks again for his hard work and continued support. With the accounts being live for around one year the number of followers and engagement is growing slowly but surely. AJ to add to district emails to include that our Instagram, Facebook and X accounts are now live to raise awareness further.

www.facebook.com/WelshSchoolsAA 348 followers

[Welsh Schools Athletics Association \(@welsh_aa\) / X](https://www.instagram.com/welshschools_athletics/) 491 followers

www.instagram.com/welshschools_athletics/ 653 followers

8. Teachers Education & Initiatives

Friday 18th January a Primary Workshop is scheduled for Carmarthenshire County Council. We hope to run both Primary & Secondary Workshops open courses in early 2025. Costs have been reduced to £500 a course for group bookings, with school and unitary authority budgets getting tighter harder to put courses on, despite enthusiasm from staff.

9. AOB including date of next meeting

Schools WA Articles on websites and social media, must be proof read before going live, with school names, school districts often spelt incorrectly, and imagery needs to be of school or district vests not clubs, this request has been asked more than once but still

hasn't happened for every article. WSAA Officers are here and happy to help to proof read.

Date of next meeting 10am Thursday 23rd January 2025.

Meeting closed at 11.25am.