

Welsh Schools Athletics Association

Management Committee Meeting

10am Wednesday 10th September 2025

1. Apologies & Present

Apologies: Gwilym Williams (WSAA President), Steve Mitchell (WA National Talent Development Coordinator – Endurance), Bethan Davies (WA Performance Coordinator) and Chris Anthony (WA Head of Development).

Present: Steve Jones (WSAA Chair) SJ, Jo Warner (WSAA Immediate Past Chair) JW, Andrew Jenkins (WA) AJ, Darran Williams (WA Competitions Officer) DW, Gareth Oldham (WSAA Treasurer & Powys) GO, Sharon Leech (WSAA Vice Chair) SL, Rhys Williams (WA Performance) RW and Alex Donald (WA Endurance Competitions Manager) AD.

2. Approval of minutes / matters arising from previous meeting held 12/06/2025

Minutes approved by JW, seconded by DW.

3. Actions arising from previous meeting (12/06/2025)

3.1 The SIAB meeting at Derby on 19/07/25 English & Irish Schools both voted against accepting the new age group changes from April 2026. Scottish & Welsh Schools voted for the new age groups. English Schools were in the chair and therefore had the casting vote. This now presents several logistical, financial and licensing challenges to be overcome making the future viability of SIAB events more problematic.

4. Fixtures

4.1 22/10/25 Welsh U14 U16 U18 & U20 Inter Schools & Colleges Cross Country @ Brecon

AD facility booked with school site manager and Freedom Leisure, First Aid, Risk Assessment in place, entry details, course map and timetable distributed to all schools contacts by AJ and posted on WA & WSAA website & social media pages. Rob Campion sourcing volunteers and officials.

DW demonstrated the new entry form and how the embedded online payment links function, to help ease administration burden for school bursars and Welsh Athletics finance department.

SL will the separating of the Inter Schools and Inter Regional be reviewed, following the event, based on the number of unattached athletes running and the number of entries?
. SJ – Yes.

4.2 06/12/25 Combined Events U16 & U18 International @ Glasgow

RW We are awaiting details from the Scottish Schools Athletics Association. Its likely buses rather than flights will be the mode of transport again this year. A separate meeting with Bethan Davies will be scheduled to discuss travel logistics. The selection meeting is scheduled for 10am Tuesday 23rd September. AJ to remind districts they may have a representative present.

4.3 25/02/26 Welsh Schools Cross Country Championships @ Brecon

AD facility booked with school site manager and Freedom Leisure, First Aid, Risk Assessment in place, entry details, course map and timetable will be unchanged.

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

4.4 21/03/26 SIAB U15 & U17 Cross Country International @ Faenol Estate North Wales

AD – 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. All agreed that it is great to have an International in North Wales. SJ & AD will arrange a final site visit and course recce.

AJ – selection policy on WA website needs to be updated, as the one currently posted is last year's.

5. 2026 Age Group Changes Update

Discussed under 3.1

6. Dates Of Summer Events

The dates were set as Saturday 4th July for the Track & Field championships and Wednesday 8th July for the U14 & U16 Cup & Plate Finals.

Potential venues of Brecon, Aberdare and Cardiff were all discussed, there are different advantages to hosting at all three venues in relation to pricing, infrastructure, staff support, spectators, and travel time.

SJ will contact all three venues, to check availability and costings and pass findings to Euan Coney for a final decision.

AJ – we need to advise the 8 school districts what age groups and events will be in the 4th July 2026 Championships, due to new age groups being implemented. This allows districts to amend their school district match programs and timetables well in advance.

9. School Districts Updates

All eight school districts have different management, governance and delivery models and all are run by volunteers, we are very grateful for their invaluable support. These volunteers are becoming harder to find and retain especially from current PE staff whose workloads don't allow the flexibility that they may have had ten to twenty years ago. They are expected to deliver district championships and to select teams and manage at Welsh Schools finals, as well as all the administrative tasks such as organising the associated event licencing, risk assessment and compiling of results. There is growing concern about the sustainability of all eight districts, not only from a volunteer perspective, but also a financial one. This is due to the escalating costs of facility hire, buses, kit, officials' expenses and other ancillary items, which their individual school affiliation fees do not cover.

A working group will be established to look at the different structures of the current districts and solutions to the challenges listed. Initially terms of reference will be established, followed by invitations to individuals who can make a positive and constructive contribution to the working group.

SL it may be worth linking with Welsh Colleges, as their BTEC Sport students may wish to gain practical experience at event management.

8. Teachers Education

AJ – Friday 13th June we had 17 PE teachers from the three districts of Afan Nedd Tawe, Dyfed & Glamorgan Valleys attend the secondary teachers' workshop at Swansea University. The workshop has been put on free of charge in an effort to upskill and train more new and existing PE staff in the delivery of athletics as well as enabling senior leadership team staff to release PE teachers without putting further pressure on school budgets.

The workshop was well received, and the accompanying app is an excellent resource for continued ongoing support for PE staff established and new practical delivery of lessons.

A request has been submitted for the 2025/26 academic year if WA budgets allow to deliver at least two more free courses, one in North Wales and one in East Wales to give PE staff from the other 5 districts the opportunity to attend at a venue closer to their place of work or residence.

9. AOB including date of next meetings

Date of next WSAA Management meeting (Virtual) 10am Wednesday 12th November 2025.

Date of WSAA AGM 10am Saturday 29th November 2025, this year it will be virtual only due to the clash with Inter Regional Cross Country and Wales V South Africa rugby International making travel and parking at Sport Wales even more challenging than usual. Advance notice has been made in September's schools mailshot well within the two months' notice period as required by the WSAA Constitution. Notices of motion must be made by no later than Thursday 30th October, which is 30 days prior to the AGM. The agenda must be distributed no later than November 7th, 2025.

GO has received an invoice from English Schools for £5,096 for dinner bed and breakfast accommodation for athletes, team managers, SIAB delegates, meeting room hire and packed lunches at Derby on 19th July. SJ – invoice needs to be forwarded to Chris Type (Head of Performance) as it comes under his budget.

Meeting closed at 11.22am.