

# Welsh Schools Athletics Association

## Management Committee Meeting

10am Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### 1. Apologies & Present

**Apologies:** Sharon Leech (WSAA Vice Chair) SL, Gareth Oldham (WSAA Treasurer & Powys), Steve Mitchell (WA National Talent Development Coordinator – Endurance), Steve Jones (WSAA Chair) & Bethan Davies (WA Performance Administrator).

**Present:** Rhys Williams (WA Performance Sprints & Hurdles), Gwilym Williams (WSAA President) GW, Jo Warner (WSAA Immediate Past Chair) JW, Andrew Jenkins (WA) AJ, Darran Williams (WA Competitions) DW, Rob Campion (WA Competitions On Track) and Marcus Meyrick (WA Competitions Off Track).

### 2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting held 11/04/2026

2.1 Minutes approved by JW, seconded by RC.

### 3. Actions arising from previous meeting (14/04/2026)

3.1 Irish Schools are awaiting clarification on WSAA Travel and accommodation logistics for the U17 Track & Field SIAB International on 18<sup>th</sup> July, specifically relating to if WSAA will require accommodation for the Saturday night too. Travel logistics are still to be actioned, but most likely will be buses and ferries replicating the previous logistics four years ago.

3.2 The Aberdare Pole Vault bed has been decommissioned. There are two options to resolve this in action, the stadium at Aberdare has ordered a new bed which is hoped will be delivered in time for 4<sup>th</sup> July. Secondly Cardiff has also ordered a new bed, the old one can be transported to Aberdare if the new bed doesn't arrive in time. A last resort would be booking the indoor track at Swansea for Pole Vault only.

### 4. Fixtures

#### 4.1 Saturday 4th July 2026 for the WSAA U14 U16 & U18 Track & Field Championships @ Aberdare

Will be a full event program with three age groups across U14, U16 & U18. For 2026 there will be no additional entry standards, there will be no developmental events due to the age group changes, and the challenge of accommodating three age groups in across a full event program. All track races will be time trials rather than heats and finals. At the WSAA AGM the vote was for 3 age groups for 2026 in this transitional year for the new age groups. We will review if this remains the best composition of age groups and number of pupils per event in the time we have available. Sourcing of officials and volunteers is well underway. Districts have all now confirmed their dates and venues for their qualification events, which are listed below. A timetable of events, team managers note and declaration details have been distributed to school districts previously, enabling them to select their

teams for the Championships. To date no districts have declared pupils, but with all but one district trial fixtures now concluded, declarations are expected imminently.

Age Groups: U14 = school years 7 & 8. U16 = school years 9 & 10. U18 School years 11 & 12.

- (Thursday 2nd October 2025), North East Wales @ Deeside
- Tuesday 28th April, Cardiff & the Vale, U16, U18 & U20 Girls @ Cardiff
- Thursday 30th April, Glamorgan Valleys, U16, U18 & U20 @ Aberdare
- Thursday 30th April, Cardiff & the Vale U16, U18 & U20 Boys @ Cardiff
- Wednesday 6th May, Afan Nedd Tawe @ Swansea
- Thursday 7th May, South East Wales @ Newport
- Friday 1st May, Eryri @ Bangor
- Thursday 7th May, Cardiff & the Vale U14B @ Cardiff
- Tuesday 19th May, Cardiff & the Vale U14G @ Cardiff
- Thursday 21st May, Glamorgan Valleys, U14 @ Aberdare
- Thursday 21st May, Powys Schools @ Brecon
- **Thursday 18th June 2026, Dyfed @ Carmarthen**

The new hurdle heights and spacings as well as throwing implement weights are shown in the tables at the end of these minutes.

#### **4.2 Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026 U14 & U16 Cup & Plate Finals @ Brecon**

Brecon is still the venue for the NASUWT track and field Cup & Plate Finals. The event format will be the same as last year, excluding Triple Jump and 300m for U14 Boys and Girls.

The throws cage has been repaired by Freedom Leisure. Steve Jones has booked the venue and first aid. Officials availability has commenced. Seven of the eight school districts have confirmed the qualifying dates and venues and these are listed below. Hawarden High School from North West Wales have already declared their teams.

- **TBC May, South East Wales @ TBC**
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May North East Wales @ Deeside
- Wednesday 10th June Cardiff & the Vale, Preliminary Match 1 @ Cardiff
- Tuesday 16th June, Glamorgan Valleys Groups C&D @ Aberdare
- Wednesday 17th June, Glamorgan Valleys Groups A&B @ Aberdare
- Thursday 18th June Cardiff & the Vale, Preliminary Match 2 @ Cardiff
- Monday 22nd June Girls, Afan Nedd Tawe @ Neath
- Tuesday 23rd June, Powys @ Newtown
- Tuesday 23rd June, Glamorgan Valleys Finals @ Aberdare
- Tuesday 23rd June Eryri @ Bangor
- Wednesday 24th June Cardiff & the Vale Finals @ Cardiff
- Thursday 25th June Boys, Afan Nedd Tawe @ Neath
- Thursday 25th June, Dyfed @ Carmarthen

The new hurdle heights and spacings as well as throwing implement weights are shown in the tables at the end of these minutes.

#### **4.3 Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2026 SIAB International @ Belfast**

Details of logistics to be actioned was raised under matters arising. The age group which is included in the Schools International were decided at the SIAB meeting on Saturday 21st March at Faenol. Where it was confirmed that it will be U17 (School years 10 & 11). This has caused significant challenges in

formulating a selection policy with Welsh Schools abiding by the new UK Athletics even age group rules that applies to all other competitions.

English Schools are continuing to use odd age groups until 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026, Scottish Schools using 1<sup>st</sup> January 2 year age group bands.

Welsh Athletics Performance Department and WSAA Officers have composed the SIAB selection policy of how we can now best select a team for 2026, whilst ensuring that the WSAA Championships are meaningful by having incentive for pupils to participate to progress to SIAB. The policy can be viewed here [Competing for Wales](#) Unusually the policy starts with an apology, as particular challenges have been caused for athletes having to train and compete at different sprint hurdle heights and spacings, steeplechase barrier heights and throwing implement weights from all other club based league, cup and championships competitions. A notice of motion has been submitted for the Belfast SIAB Meeting "We propose that as from September 1st 2026 SIAB competition will adopt the new UKA age groupings. This will mean that the Track & Field competition will involve Under 18 athletes and Cross Country will include both Under 18 and Under 16."

Following the selection meeting RW will endeavour to schedule a training day for the 4 x 100m and 4 x 300m relay teams, to finalise team composition and running orders prior to Belfast, as time is restricted at the SIAB weekend to determine this.

Joint team lead Mr Maynard (Morrison Comprehensive) is in the process of pulling together the management team, coaches and SIAB delegates for Belfast. To date the team comprises of himself, Andrew Jenkins, Jo Warner, Gareth Oldham, Graham Thomas, Leah Bown, John Messum, Carol Jones, Phil Warwicker, Lauren Evans and Ffion Price, with two more volunteer positions to be filled.

#### **4.4 Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026 Joint Welsh Schools & Welsh Athletics U14 U16 & U18 Combined Events Championships @ Carmarthen.**

With a new date scheduled outside of the school holidays to encourage a larger entry. Officials availability has commenced. Site challenges of the number of throwing circles and jumping pits & beds needs to be considered and adapted to. A draft timetable/order of events has been prepared and will be made public along with an entry link before the end of the academic year for distribution to schools. The athlete notes will clarify and explain the two year age groupings to match those in the schools combined events indoor international at Glasgow. WA Performance team will update and amended the selection policy accordingly. It has been pleasing to have PE staff ask for dates and entry details for unattached pupils.

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.

#### **4.5 Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2026 Welsh Inter Schools Cross Country Championships @ Brecon.**

MM will now commence all logistics for hosting the Championships is the same format as 2025 in the new age groups of U14, U16, U18 & U20.

#### **4.6 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2027 Welsh Schools U14 U16 U18 & U20 National Cross Championships @ Brecon.**

MM will now commence all logistics for hosting the Championships is the same format as 2025 in the new age groups of U14, U16, U18 & U20.

## 5. Teachers Education & Initiatives.

5.1 A WA budget has been approved for the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 financial year focussing on three areas of work:

5.1.1 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 9<sup>th</sup> September 10am Teaching Primary School Athletics Run Jump Throw Workshop

[Teaching Primary School Athletics Workshop](#)

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 10am Teaching Secondary School Athletics Run Jump Throw Workshop

[Teaching Secondary School Athletics Workshop](#)

5.1.2 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 must be submitted no later than 31 July 2026. For more details and to apply click this link [News](#)

5.1.3 The first meeting with Sportshall 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 was held back on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Whilst all eight districts engage with cross country, track & field championships and track & field cup fixtures, this does not happen with SportsHall Athletics.

5.2 The WSAA Social media channels followers continue to grow slowly but surely

The Welsh Schools Athletics Association can be followed on:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WelshSchoolsAA> followers have risen from 680 to 714 since last meeting.

X [https://twitter.com/welsh\\_aa](https://twitter.com/welsh_aa) followers have risen from 568 to 571 since last meeting.

Instagram [https://www.instagram.com/welshschools\\_athletics/](https://www.instagram.com/welshschools_athletics/) followers have risen from 1176 to 1217 since last meeting.

5.3 Glasgow Summer of Fun Sports Day Resource. A free resource that has been distributed to schools in previous years, has been updated to reflect the Glasgow Commonwealth Games compiled by a collaboration of various staff members at Welsh Athletics. The guide helps staff organise and run a great sports day and is available in English and Welsh, downloadable here [Glasgow 2026 Summer of Fun](#) The resource supports teachers to deliver cross curricular activity celebrating the sport of Athletics and to get children excited to support our Welsh Athletes heading to the Games.

**5.4** Following a request from one school district to see if we could assist finding UKA qualified officials to help at school district fixtures, a Microsoft forms document was compiled including all available provisional dates and venues of all eight districts school fixtures. This was disseminated to all officials on WA databases. Only six officials responded, nevertheless it was felt that we would try again in 2027, as having a core of experienced officials at schools events to support and mentor staff would only help on the day delivery.

## 6. AOB including date of next meeting

**6.3** GW Thanked everyone for their continued support of all aspects of schools athletics in Wales. He queried if all PE staff and district officers can be distributed minutes. AJ – yes and all WSAA Management Meeting Minutes are made public and available for scrutiny here [Meetings & Minutes](#) AJ on next schools mailshot will include meeting minutes, details on initiatives & fixtures, plus reminder on SIAB selection limits on attendees.

**6.2** Date of next meeting 10am Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

Meeting closed at 10.35am.

### Throwing Implement Weights

Shot	Weight	Discus	Weight	Javelin	Weight	Hammer	Weight
U20B	6.00kg	U20B	1.75kg	U20B	800g	U20B	6kg
U18B	5.00kg	U18B	1.50kg	U18B	700g	U18B	5kg
U16B	4.00kg	U16B	1.25kg	U16B	600g	U16B	4kg
U14B	3.00kg	U14B	1.00kg	U14B	500g	U14B	3kg
U20G	4.00kg	U20G	1.00kg	U20G	600g	U20G	4kg
U18G	3.00kg	U18G	1.00kg	U18G	500g	U18G	3kg
U16G	3.00kg	U16G	1.00kg	U16G	500g	U16G	3kg
U14G	2.72kg	U14G	0.75kg	U14G	400g	U14G	2kg

### Hurdles Heights and Spacings

Age Group	Event	Hurdle Height	Number of Hurdles Per Race	Colour Marking on the Track	Distance to First Hurdle	Distance Between Hurdles	Distance from Last Hurdle to Finish Line	Weight for Hurdles
U20B	110H	99.1cm	10	Blue	13.72m	9.14m	14.02m	3.6kg
	400H	91.4cm	10	Green	45m	35m	40m	3.6kg
U18B	110H	91.4cm	10	Blue	13.72m	9.14m	14.02m	3.6kg
	400H	84.0cm	10	Green	45m	35m	40m	3.6kg

U16B	100H	84.0cm	10	Yellow	13m	8.5m	10.5m	2.7kg
	300mH	76.2cm	7	Green	50m	35m	40m	2.7kg
U14B	80H	76.2cm	8	Black	12m	8m	12m	2.7kg
U20G	100H	84.0cm	10	Yellow	13m	8.5m	10.5m	3.6kg
	400H	76.2cm	10	Green	45m	35m	40m	3.6kg
U18G	100H	76.2cm	10	Yellow	13m	8.5m	10.5m	3.6kg
	400H	76.2cm	10	Green	45m	35m	40m	3.6kg
U16G	80H	76.2cm	8	Black	12m	8m	12m	2.7kg
	300H	76.2cm	7	Green	50m	35m	40m	2.7kg
U14G	75H	68.5cm	8	Orange	11.5m	7.5m	11m	2.7kg