

WADAC JUNIOR SECTION
TRACK AND FIELD SELECTION POLICY

Unlike cross country, where there is usually no limit to the number of competitors, track and field events have a restriction on the number of competitors in each event. Usually restricted to 2 scoring athletes and a number of non-scoring athletes per age group. Because of the recent growth in the number of junior WADAC members, it may not be possible to offer events to everyone, and athletes may not be able to compete in their first-choice events. We will do our best to cater for all but, to avoid any doubt, we have set out below our selection policy for the main league events. In all cases, it is the Team Manager's responsibility to select the team, taking in to account the various criteria below.

Coaches are encouraged to speak with their athletes about their individual competition plans so they are aware what competitions and events to enter. Team managers will assume when an athlete responds with availability and what events they wish to enter that this has been agreed between the relevant athlete and the coach.

Our club policy expects athletes to take part in at least 5 league competitions over the course of a year which would include the competitions under this policy, and other league competitions such as cross country and sportshall.

Southern Athletics League ("SAL")

This will be one of the main competitive focuses for the club for our older athletes and so we will endeavour to select the strongest team.

The rules provide that the following athletes are eligible to compete:

"First Claim members of clubs who are at least 15 on 31st August in the year of competition may compete. Second Claim members (up to a maximum of 5 per team per match) may also compete provided that their First Claim Club does not compete in the SAL."

Selection for SAL will be made by the head coaches based on Power of 10 performances.

The Head Coaches will ask for availability at least 2 weeks before each match and aim to confirm selection at least 1 week before the match. The head coaches will select athletes after talking to the other coaches to discuss form, fitness and any competition plan, and reviewing the latest Power of 10 results. Team selection is then made and everyone competing is sent an email.

WADAC can select a maximum of two athletes per event, as A and B string, and these will be the strongest available athletes in these events based on Power of 10 performances. There are limited non-scoring events and those not selected for A or B string will be non-scorers, unless the number wanting to compete in the event exceeds the number allowed.

On the day of competition, if there are any event gaps that need to be filled, these will be offered to any athlete attending on the day. That way, we gain maximum points to secure the highest place in the league.

UK Youth Development League (YDL)

There are two leagues: the lower for u13s and u15s and the upper for u17s and u20s.

For the upper league, we have a composite team with Portsmouth. Selection for the upper league will be made by the joint team managers based on Power of 10 performances.

The rest of this section relates to the lower league.

This will be the main competitive focus for the club, at the junior level, and so we will endeavour to select the strongest team. The Team Manager will ask for availability at least 2 weeks before each match and aim to confirm selection at least 1 week before the match. The Team Manager will select athletes after talking to the coaches to discuss form, fitness and any competition plan, and reviewing the latest Power of 10 results. Team selection is then made and everyone competing is sent an email.

WADAC can select a maximum of two athletes per event, as A and B string and these will be the strongest available athletes in these events. There are limited non-scoring events in the YDL and those not selected for A or B strings will be non-scorers, unless the number wanting to compete in the event exceeds the number allowed.

On the day of competition, if there are any event gaps that need to be filled, these will be offered to any athlete attending on the day. That way, we gain maximum points to secure the highest place in the league.

Wessex Young Athletes League (U13, U15 & U17)

We will use the Wessex League to provide valuable competition to all of our junior athletes. This is a competitive league although the standard is sometimes lower than the YDL. We will aim to cover as many events as possible and it is a great chance to try new events.

The aim of the Wessex League for WADAC is to offer the opportunity for as many athletes as possible to compete. This is facilitated by the running track events allowing for two scorers in each age group and five "non-scorers", i.e. athletes that can compete and record a time but where the result does not count towards the team score. In the field events, two athletes may compete for each age group plus one non-scorer.

At least two weeks before a match, the Team Managers advertise the match by email, and on the website, to invite athletes to sign up via email. The Team Manager will select athletes after talking to the coaches to discuss form, fitness and any competition plan, and reviewing the latest Power of 10 results. Team selection is then made and everyone competing is sent an email.

The strongest available athletes will be selected for the A and B strings. Those not selected for A or B strings will be non-scorers, unless the number wanting to compete in the event exceeds the number allowed.

Quadkids

Quadkids is a unique format for Years 4 and 5 and takes place within the Wessex League matches. The number of athletes allowed to compete is limited to 10 girls and 10 boys per team. In the event that we have too many athletes wishing to compete, selection will be at the discretion of the Team Manager. We will endeavour to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to compete in at least one match and, if necessary, we will prioritise Y5 over Y4 as this is their last year in this competition.

June 2021 - PC