

TO: **Region & Centre Secretaries**
FROM: **Shane Bertrand – General Manager**
DATE: **Monday 4th July 2022**
SUBJECT: **U17 Events & Specifications**

With the inclusion of the U17 age group into the 2022-2023 LAVic Competition program, the Competition Rules and Regulations will be updated to include the events and specifications that are applicable to U17's. Little Athletics Australia's Standard Rules provides these details.

In terms of the Region and State events, U17's will have the same competition experience as our other age groups.

The number of U17 athletes / teams that qualify to State Championships is being reviewed, along with the U16's, to ensure the quality and length of the programs are maintained.

The following are the changes: **Boys – Hurdles, Shot Put & Discus, Girls – Hurdles only.**

Hurdles:

Boys 110mts – 10 flights @ 76cms. First Hurdle, 13.72mts, Spacing, 9.14mts, Finish line, 14.02mts.

Girls 100mts – 10 flights @ 76cms. Same as Boys U15 and U16.

For tracks that cannot accommodate the 110mts hurdles, at Centre level only, there is an adjustment to the 100mts, to use the same spacing between hurdles, but with 9 flights instead of 10. 9 flights @ 76cms. First Hurdles, 13.72mts, Spacing, 9.14mts, Finish Line 13.16mts.

Shot Put:

Boys – 5kg

Discus:

Boys – 1.5kg

No additional equipment is needed for the Hurdles.

To assist Centres that could have U17 registrations, there are 71 Centres that have current U16 registrations, LAVic has purchased 1 – Shot Put and 1 – Discus for each of these Centres, that will be distributed free of charge, a saving of over \$70 per Centre. We have purchased the

entire stock holding from Nordic Sport, with the next delivery due in September.

The stock was delivered into LAVic late last week. We will organise distribution of these prior to the new season. Centres can purchase additional stock as required.

In addition to the Centre stock, Region has 2 of each, and for State 3 of each.

The Summary of the Rule changes as approved by the National Technical Committee – NTC, will be released later this week, will also include an update to the Cross-Country distances for next season, that includes the U17's.

The introduction of U17s is a decision taken primarily with the interests of those athletes desiring to remain in the sport of athletics in mind. It is not expected that U17s will attract many – or maybe any – new athletes to Little Athletics, necessarily. It may, however, for some athletes, facilitate the transition from Little Aths to other forms of athletics, and thereby enable the continuation of their athletics careers indefinitely beyond Little Athletics.

For others, an additional season may simply provide more fun times with their friends.

Offering the U17s age group brings LAVic into line with almost all other Little Athletics State Member Associations who do likewise.

The LAVic team.