

Competition Rules & Regulations Changes – Season 2021-2022

The following rule changes come into effect at the beginning of the 2021-2022 Summer Track & Field season and apply to all levels of competition from Centre to State. These rule changes are the approved changes from Little Athletics Australia (LAA) and Little Athletics Victoria (LAVic).

A Multi-Class rule update will be provided as a separate document. The Competition Rules and Regulations will also be updated to include Multi-Class.

Due to the ongoing COVID restrictions, changes to the rules and regulations might continue to be required as necessary.

Competition Rules:

Referees:

Clarify the number and allocation of Referees:

- Sufficient Referees shall be appointed to cover all event areas, including, but not limited to, Call rooms, Track events and Field events.

Judges:

Clarify the need for finishing posts for Judging and Hand timing.

- If place judges are used, then the following applies:
 - (a) – the same
 - (b) **Where hand timing and manual place judging is used, finishing posts should be painted white, be a minimum of 1.5m high and should be placed 20cm from the inside and outside edge of the track at the finish line.**

Start Process:

Clarify the start process, regarding the power of a Referee.

- The Starter has entire control of the athletes on their marks and is the sole judge of any event connected with the start. **Decisions made by the Starter can only be overruled by a Start Referee (or if one is not appointed, the relevant Track Referee).**

Simultaneous Entries

To improve the process of clashes, where the Organising body is supplying Clash Summary sheets, the rule is updated.

- For an athlete to be released from an event to compete in another event, a Clash Form must be submitted to the relevant Call Room(s) prior to the closing of the Call Room(s) for the relevant events. **However, if the Organising body has generated the Clash Summary Sheets, then these replace the Clash Forms, and the Centre is not required to submit any forms, for athletes listed on the Clash Summary Sheets.**
- **Clash Forms might still be required on the day, if circumstances arise which results in unforeseen clashes of events.**
- **The Call room(s) and relevant officials will manage the movement of athletes listed on the Clash Summary Sheets or Clash Forms.**
- **If an athlete is not listed on a Clash Form correctly submitted, or the Clash Summary Sheet,** then the athlete will not be allowed to continue to participate in the event once they have left the event site.

Spikes:

Clarify the communication regarding the dimension and type of spikes allowed at a venue, includes advising the athlete, as well as the Centre.

- The Organising body must notify all Centres **and athletes** prior to the competition, the dimensions and type of spikes allowed at the competition venue, as determined by the Venue Management.

Assistance to Athletes:

Clarify that athletes cannot receive communication from inside the competition area through devices such as smart watches etc.

- The possession or used by athletes of music devices, mobile phones or similar devices in the competition are shall not be permitted. This includes any device that can be used to communicate with any other person.

Protests:

On-Field Protests (Field Events only)

Clarify who can lodge an On-Field protest in the Field events, as there was some confusion at our State Championships. Does not include parents / guardians, coaches, or spectators.

- If an athlete or Centre Team Manager only, **(not parents/guardians, coaches, spectators)** in the U13-U16 age groups makes an immediate oral protest having an attempt judged as a failure, the Referee and/or Chief of the event may, at their discretion, order that the attempt be measured and the results

recorded, in order to preserve the rights of all concerned. At the end of the round the Referee will adjudicate on the protest.

Hurdles:

Clarify new definition in World Athletics, of an athlete's lead leg, regarding rules on disqualification for knocking down a hurdle.

- In addition, an athlete will be disqualified, if:
 - (a) – no change
 - (b) they knock down or displace any hurdle by hand, body or the **front side of the lead lower limb**; or
 - (c) – no change.

Commencement of Competition: Field Events

Clarify that under our rules for simultaneous entries, consecutive trials are not permitted, other than for High Jump. Remove the 2mins time limit for "Other Field Events" in the table.

Clarify when an athlete can join the competition, with or without a clash form in Field Events.

Add **Note:**

- **An athlete listed on a correctly submitted Clash Form, or listed on a Clash Summary Sheet, can join the competition at any time prior to the completion of Round 3. They are allowed the number of trials according to Rule 142.3 and Rule 180.4,5,6.**
- **An athlete not listed on a correctly submitted Clash Form or listed on the Clash Summary Sheet, can join the competition up to the commencement of the first trial, in the first round. After this, it is up to the discretion of the Referee, whether they allow an athlete to compete, due to exceptional circumstances. The Referee will consult with the Centre Team Manager to make their decision.**

Throwing Events:

Clarify under the validity of throws, the updated definition of a stationary position.

- In Throwing events from a circle:
 - a) An athlete must commence the throw from a stationary position.

Note: Stationary refers to both feet of the athlete, not the arms or hands or other parts of the athlete's body.

Shot Put:

Clarify the rule on entering the circle, compared to the preferred direction, which is used to teach the athletes at Centre level. Remove the reference to “preferably...”

- The athlete may enter the circle from any direction but must exit from the rear half of the circle.

Discus Throw:

Clarify the modification of the World Athletics rule on the validity of throws when the Discus hits the cage and lands inside the sector, depending on the side to the throwers arm. LAA have modified this rule and will continue to use the modification that any side of the cage will be accepted.

- **A throw will be measured and not considered a failure, if after release, it strikes the cage and lands completely within the inner edges of the landing sector, with no other rule being infringed.**

Clarify the rule on entering the circle, compared to the preferred direction, which is used to teach the athletes at Centre level. Remove the reference to “preferably...”

- The athlete may enter the circle from any direction but must exit from the rear half of the circle.

Combined Events:

Update the Age group table for events to revert to:

U9-U13 – 5 events, U14 – 6 events, U15-U16 – 7 events.

The draft timetable is being confirmed, which will advise the days each age group will compete and for the U14-U16 age groups, which event on each day.

Multi-Class will remain at the same 4 events, scoring will be adjusted to be best 3 events. The draft timetable will confirm day of competition.

Cross-Country:

Add note, that the maximum distance that U16 athletes can compete in a Cross-Country race is 4km, however, Region and State events will remain at 3km.

Victorian Best Performances:

Remove reference to U14 & U16 athletes due to COVID restrictions, not being eligible for overall points score VBP, as they didn't have the full number of events available.

Competition Regulations:

Changes to the Competition Regulations will continue to occur due to the COVID-19 restrictions being adjusted. The following are the current changes.

State & Region Competitions:

Confirm, Region Relays Carnivals have been cancelled, details on the State Relays Championships to be advised. The structure, timetable, and events to be conducted will be confirmed.

Participation Requirements for Region & State Competitions:

Update the membership requirements for Relays to be the same as other events, which wasn't the case previously.

Confirm that Trial athletes, must be financial prior to the close of entries to be eligible.

Update the State Track & Field Championships section to clarify the requirement is to enter Region Track & Field Carnivals, and then qualify for State Track & Field Championships.

Confirm the participation requirement to be eligible for the Region Track & Field Carnivals, will remain at **one** week of LAVic approved competition, prior to the close of entries for the Region T&F Carnival.

Confirm the entry cap on registrations for the State Combined Events Championships will remain. Further details below.

Confirm, that due to the changes to the participation requirements, no appeals will be considered for entry into the Region Track & Field Carnivals, if the participation requirements have not been met.

Entries into Region & State Competitions:

Track & Field Competitions

Confirm the maximum number of events that an athlete can compete in, increases to 5 events.

Multi-Class increases to a maximum of 5 events, with the addition of Discus, to the list of events.

Relay Competitions

Team entries, number of Event Types to be conducted and submission of Team Summary Forms, will be confirmed.

Events Conducted at State Championships:

Combined Events:

Maximum field size for Combined Events

U9-U12 = 72 each, U13 = 54 each, U14-U15 = 36 each, U16 = 20 each. Multi-Class will remain unlimited.

Multi-Class Track & Field

Add Discus to all age groups and genders.

Call Rooms, Check In & Scratch Forms at State Championships

Clarify that if Call Rooms are used, athletes will need to be at the Call Rooms according to the times listed. If Call Rooms are not being used, athletes will need to be at the confirmed Marshal Points at the times listed, unless advised by the official announcements.

At the State Combined Events Championships, Track Call Rooms will be used, Field Call Rooms will not be used.

At the State Track & Field Championships, Track Call Rooms will be used, Field Call Rooms will not be used.

At Region Track & Field Carnivals, Field Call Rooms will be optional.

Remove the requirement for U15 and U16 athletes to Check in.

Update the submission of Scratch Forms to remove reference to U15 and U16 athletes.

Draws and Qualifications in Track Events:

Clarify that all events at Region and State for Track & Field and Relays, are either a Final or Timed Finals.

Relay Teams:

Clarify that, Team entries, number of Event Types to be conducted and submission of Team Summary Forms, will be confirmed.

Clarify that the Team Composition will remain as per season 2020-2021.

Clarify that the Medley will be the Swedish Medley – 100m,300m,200m,400m.

Update the membership requirements for Relays to be the same as other events.

- The athletes must be financial registered competitive members by the closing date and time of entries for the competition, not the submission of the Team Summary Form.

Once the structure for State Relays is confirmed, the regulations will be updated.

Age Group Promotions:

Update the age group promotion for Multi-Class athletes, to allow for greater flexibility when forming teams, due to the lower number of available athletes.

Athletes can be promoted as follows:

- Multi-Class athletes can be promoted into all available age group types.

Region Teams:

Update the Region Teams, age group promotion to be the same for Multi-Class athletes.

Athletes can be promoted as follows:

- Multi-Class athletes can be promoted into all available age group types.

Cross-Country Relay Teams:

Update the age group promotion for Multi-Class athletes, to allow for greater flexibility when forming teams, due to the lower number of available athletes.

Athletes can be promoted as follows:

- Multi-Class athletes can be promoted into all available age group types.

Call Room:

Update process of where and when a Clash Form is submitted if a Field Call Room is not being used.

The Clash Form will be submitted to the Field Event, prior to the Final entry time, or final announcement for the athletes to assemble at the marshal point.

Times to be used for athletes to assemble at the confirmed Marshal points for the Field Events, are as follows.

- First entry time / announcement – 25 minutes prior to the scheduled event start time.
- Final entry time / announcement – 20 minutes prior to the scheduled event start time.

Regions can adjust the times as required.

Update the reference for where athletes need to be.

- Athletes are to be at the Marshal point, no later than the Final entry time, unless advised by the official announcements.

Update the reference to leaving the Call Room, prior to the Call Room Departure Time unless all athletes are present, to include; unless covered under a Clash Summary Sheet, or correctly submitted Clash Form.

Update the rules on departing the Call Room, is dependent upon if Call Rooms are being used, and is also subject to Competition Rule 142.

Update the rule, once athletes/teams have departed the Call Room, no further athletes/teams will be allowed to participate, to include; unless covered under a Clash Summary Sheet, or correctly submitted Clash Form.

Centre Level Standard Event Table:

Affiliated Centres are required to conduct events listed on the Centre Level Standard Events Table, which is updated each year according to the changes approved by LAA. This table lists the maximum distance, height, weight for each event in each age group and gender.

Please ensure your Centre is reviewing the Centre Level Standard Events Table to check your competition program contains the correct events and specifications.