



AGE GROUP WORKING PARTY



OBJECTIVES

- Provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure the smooth transition of age group changes to all stakeholders
- Make recommendations to the Little Athletics Australia Board of Directors
- Address any items raised by any of the stakeholders pertaining to the age group changes
- Present a draft transition plan to the Little Athletics Australia Board of Directors in July 2017

MAJOR DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Australian Little Athletics Championships
- National U15 Camp
- State Conducted Tours and Camps
- Service Awards
- Registration Data Bases
- Tiny Tots
- Skill Development
- Communication

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- **Eligibility for athletes who progress from U12 in 2017-18 to U14 in 2018-19**
 - **Athletes born between October and December 2005 who progress from U12 in 2017-18 to U14 in 2018-19 will be eligible for selection in the U13 State Team to compete at the Australian Little Athletics Championships in April 2019**
 - **All athletes selected will compete as an U13 athlete competing with U13 event specifications for these Championships**
 - **The team size will be increased from 26 athletes to 32 athletes for the 2019 Championships and revert to 26 athletes for the succeeding years**
 - **The number of athletes selected per event will increase from two to three athletes for the 2019 Championships and revert to two athletes per event for the succeeding years**

- **Eligibility for athletes who progress from U14 in 2017-18 to U16 in 2018-19**
 - Athletes born between October and December 2003 who progress from U14 in 2017-18 to U16 in 2018-19 will be eligible for selection in the U15 State Team to compete at the Australian Little Athletics Championships in April 2019
 - All athletes selected will compete as an U15 athlete competing with U15 event specifications for these Championships
 - The team size will be increased from 3 girls and 3 boys to 4 girls and 4 boys for the 2019 Championships and revert to 3 girls and 3 boys for the succeeding years
 - Note: The LAA BOD (Representatives from each State) agreed that the management of the team selection for both age groups be left up to each state to administer.
- **How to deal with the affected athletes from the two states that do not conduct the Little Athletics beyond the U15 age group.**
 - The affected states have advised the LAA Board that they propose to amend their rules for the 2018-19 season only, so that the affected athletes are given the opportunity to compete for selection in the U15 State Team

- **How to deal with different implement weights specifications between U13 and U14 age groups**
 - The only throwing event with a weight specification difference between U13 and U14 is the girl's discus, where the implement weight increases from 750g in U13 to 1kg in U14.
 - All girls selected for discus will compete as an U13 athlete throwing the 750g discus for these Championships
- **How to deal with different hurdle specifications between U13 and U14 age groups**
 - The hurdle events with a specification difference between U13 and U14 is the boy's hurdles, which progress from 80M hurdles in U13 to 90M hurdles in U14 and the 200M hurdles for girls and boys which increase in height from 68cm in U13 to 76cm in U14.
 - All boys selected for sprint hurdles will compete as an U13 athlete running the 80M hurdles for these Championships
 - All girls and boys selected for 200M hurdles will compete as an U13 athlete running the event at the 68cm height for these Championships

NATIONAL U15 CAMP

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- Eligibility for athletes to attend the 2018 camp who progress from U14 in 2017-18 to U16 in 2018-19
 - Athletes born between October and December 2003 who progress from U14 in 2017-18 to U16 in 2018-19 will be eligible for selection to attend the 2018 National Under 15 Camp
- Eligibility for athletes to attend the 2019 camp who progress from U13 in 2017-18 to U15 in 2018-19
 - Athletes born between October and December 2004 who progress from U13 in 2017-18 to U15 in 2018-19 will be eligible for selection to attend the 2019 National Under 15 Camp
- How to deal with the affected athletes from two states that do not conduct Little Athletics beyond the U15 age group.
 - The affected states have advised the LAA BOM that they propose to amend their rules for the 2018-19 season only so that the affected athletes are eligible for selection to attend the 2018 National Under 15 Camp

- **Qualifying standards for affected athletes competing in a higher age group with different implement weight and hurdle specifications**
 - **Little Athletics Australia will set additional Qualifying Standards for the affected athletes, based on higher implement weights and hurdle distances**
- **Additional camp attendees for the 2019 camp only**
 - **The number of athletes eligible to attend the camp will be increased by 25% for 2019**

STATE CONDUCTED TOURS AND CAMPS

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- **States to provide a list of age group specific tours and camps to the Age Group Working Party**
- **The Board of Directors will put out a statement to each of the state associations covering the key items for consideration and advising the states that they are to manage the logistics of these tours and camps internally**

SERVICE AWARDS

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- **State Associations and Centres issue service awards for longer term athletes, particularly ten year awards**
 - **The Age Group Working party recommends that these awards be presented to the affected athletes anyway who would otherwise have achieved the service milestones**
 - **State Associations will manage the logistics of this proposal**
 - **State Associations will manage the final transition year for their athletes**

REGISTRATION DATA BASES

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- State Associations and Centres use various software packages to manage their registrations, including assignment of age groups
- A generic communication letter will be drafted by Little Athletics Australia for State Associations and Centres to present to their service provider to ensure that the registration program is updated prior to the commencement of the 2018-19 season

TINY TOTS

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- The age at which athletes are eligible to commence Tiny Tots will be clarified, and the age group at which athletes progress from Tiny Tots to Under 6 will also be clarified
- The following motion will be put to the October 2017 Annual Conference to tidy up the wording in relation to Tiny Tots to be effective from the commencement of the 2018-19 season

Clause 25.1 of the Constitution in relation to Tiny Tots currently reads:

“Age groups shall be based on being under the specific age (with the exception of Tiny Tots) at 31 December in the calendar year in which the Little Athletics summer season commences.

- Tiny Tots (3-4 years of age) to participate in approved activities for the development of gross motor skills,”

Suggested amendment of this clause to tidy up the wording of the age group criteria for Tiny Tots:

“Age groups shall be based on being under the specific age (with the exception of Tiny Tots) at 31 December in the calendar year in which the Little Athletics summer season commences.

- Tiny Tots (children who have turned 3 years of age and who will be less than 5 years of age at 31 December in the calendar year in which the Little Athletics summer season commences) to participate in approved activities for the development of gross motor skills,”**

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- One of the issues identified, particularly by the coaching fraternity, is the skills gap for athletes progressing two age groups in the transition year
- The most affected athletes are those who will progress from U10 to U12 and miss out on the U11 year and be under-skilled compared to other U12 athletes
 - These athletes miss out on
 - First year of Triple Jump
 - First year of Javelin
 - First year of Flop High Jump
 - First year of transition from mat to board on horizontal jumps
 - First year of using starting blocks

- **The Age Group Working Party has acknowledged this skill gap and has proposed the following recommendations**
- **Centres can start transitioning the athletes at Training/Coaching sessions as from this season. Associations to assist in communicating this and that it will be only for this coming season**

COMMUNICATON

Recommendations endorsed by the Board of Directors at the July 2017 Board Meeting

- **State Associations will manage the communication of the Age Group changes to their Clubs, Centres, parents and athletes**
- **Little Athletics Australia will publish the changes on the LAA website and Facebook page**
- **The Age Group Working Party will complete a Transition Plan for presentation to the LAA Board which will provide detail for each of the areas impacted by the change**

All age group enquiries should be made through State Associations.