

# 2011 Athletics Facts

## ABAC Fact File 3.

### Participation 16-19 years old

#### Background

The Sport England Survey for this age range states that 233,000 people participate. It also states that 20.6% (48,000) have competed in organised competition in the last 4 weeks.

#### Competition 16-19 year olds.

To complete this survey we have tried to identify every athlete who has recorded at least one performance in the Under 20 age group in 2010. We have therefore details of almost every athlete in this age group who has competed in 2010.

To arrive at a figure for athletes competing regularly we have chosen two break points

#### Athletes with 4 recorded competitions

Age in year 2010	Men	Women	Total
16 years	1100	760	1860
17 years	800	550	1350
18 years	524	309	833
19 years	426	234	660

The 17 years figure is derived from Under 20 data and adjusted U17 rankings, the 16 years figure is from adjusted U17 rankings.

#### Athletes with 8 recorded competitions

Age in year 2010	Men	Women	Total
18 years	303	178	481
19 years	262	140	302

#### Age 19

These are the athletes who will move into the senior ranks in 2011.

For the easier criteria we have just 426 men and 234 women about to become senior.

For the level that most people would feel as appropriate for regular competition the numbers drop to 262 men and 140 women.

#### Drop Off

Sport England state that the drop off rate from 16 to 18 is 22%.

The figures above for athletes competing 4 times a year show a rate of 55% and analysis of athletes competing with any number of performances show a decline of 53%.

**This ABAC study shows that using the minimum criteria of 4 competitions in one year the total number of male and female athletes competing track and field in 2010 totalled 4703. This figure is less than 10% of the Sport England one and the Sports England definition of regular competition is much higher than 4 competitions.**

*Fact File 3 Jan 2011*

© Rob Whittingham