

2012 British Athletics Facts

ABAC Fact File 17. Supplement

Part 1. Results of ABAC's Clubs survey on YDL Proposals

Background.

ABAC has polled track and field clubs for their views on the proposed changes to young athletes' league competition. The results have been analysed and are published here to complement the 2012 participation information published as Fact File 17.

Survey results.

A total of 247 clubs were asked for their views on the Youth Development League (YDL) proposals. A total of 47 clubs have responded so far. 34 clubs opposed the YDL proposals, 9 supported the proposals, 4 clubs were undecided and the questionnaires sent to 2 clubs were returned as undeliverable. The largest opposition came from the North East Region where 11 clubs opposed the new proposals. The second largest opposition came from 7 South East clubs. The biggest support came from the Midlands region with 4 clubs voting in favour of change.

The lack of response from a large number of clubs may be interpreted as a measure of the ignorance and apathy surrounding the proposed changes. The registration closing date for the new YDL has been extended twice and it would seem that this confirms clubs are not rushing to sign up for the new League structure. Indeed it is becoming clear that several clubs are taking steps to opt out of the new YDL.

Part 2. Clubs start to opt out.

Regions start to go it alone.

On the 14th September, 14 North Eastern track and field clubs voted to set up their own area league for young athletes. It will be known as the NEYAL. A Constitution have been agreed and an application has been made to UKA Ltd for recognition. Approval is awaited. In the meantime Competition rules are being prepared.

In a rapidly developing situation it may be that other areas will follow the North East Region's pioneering initiative. ABAC will keep its member clubs and other interested parties informed of developments as they unfold.

EGM for the UKYAL has been called

On the 18th September the UKYAL gave notice of an EGM to be held on Sat 13th October at Alexander Stadium. Item 2 on the Agenda is to give an update on the new YDL. Item 3 states ***"The Management Group of UK Young Athletes League give notice of the formal closure of the Young Athletes League from 31st December 2012. Any monies remaining after all debts have been paid will be distributed evenly between the 199 clubs (England and Wales) that are affiliated to UKYAL for the competition year 2012."***

There is to be no vote on this topic. The die is cast!

September 21st 2012