

## 2013 British Athletics Facts

### ABAC Fact File 20

#### Coach numbers have halved in the last 4 years - Official

**Background.** For the last four years The Association of GB Athletic Clubs (ABAC) has been collecting information on the numbers of coaches licensed to practise unsupervised. The accurate data held by UKA Ltd and Sport England has hitherto remained elusive but a number of FOI requests followed by a recent appeal for an independent review has now produced the definitive coach numbers from 2008 to 2013.

There has been a 50% decline in licensed coaches since 2008.

**Definitive coach numbers.** *(See Footnote for definition of Coach and information on the UKA Coaching structure)*

All the following information has been supplied by Sport England.

#### 2008.

UKA's 4 year funding plan for 2008-2012 to Sport England contained the target of **increasing** level 3 coach numbers by **3000** and **increasing** level 4 by **400**.

In 2008 the official number of licensed coaches with grades 2, 3 and 4 was **5104**.

Therefore the **target number** of coaches for the Olympic year of 2012 was **8504**.

According to the UKA 2008-2012 funding plan "***This is where our investment in coach education and coach development will be focussed***"

#### 2013.

Sport England reported in March 2013 that the number of level 2, 3 and 4 coaches who had renewed their licences in the preceding three years and are currently licensed to coach unsupervised is **2496**.

In the last 3 years the new coaching scheme has created **449** new coaches.

Therefore the **actual number** of coaches in 2013 is **2945**

**Concluding remarks.** UKA received Lottery funding for coach related projects over the period April 2009 to March 2013 totalling more than £16 million. During this period coach numbers were targetted to rise to 8504. Instead they have fallen to 2945.

In the last four years level 2, 3 and 4 coach numbers have reduced by 2159 (5104-2945). That is an annual reduction of 540. The number of new coaches created during the same period was 449 or 112 per annum. Therefore the **number of coaches is reducing at a rate of 428 each year**. If this trend continues unchecked there will be no old style coaches operating in 6 years time and the total number of new scheme coaches in 6 years will total just **672** (Provided there are no drop outs and all renew their licences after 3 years.)

Put another way the present number of coaches is just **34%** of UKA's funding target which it promised in 2008.

All this leads to the inevitable questions. Why has Sport England contrived with UKA to keep this major operating failure secret?. And why has Sport England continued to fund a failed sport when other sports have been penalised financially for less abject failures?

#### **Footnote**

##### **Coaching Definitions and structure.**

**A coach is a person licensed by UKA (following CRB clearance) who can coach one or more track and field disciplines unsupervised. All other coaching grades such as Assistant coaches must be supervised by a licensed coach. Without coaches the supporting grades cannot practice. Coach numbers therefore reflect the sports ability to develop its athletic talent.**

**Up to Jan 2010 the UKA Coaching structure recognised 3 grades of coach- namely levels 2, 3 and 4. In January 2010 UKA scrapped the traditional coaching qualification scheme and introduced a new scheme in which there is only one grade of Coach who can work unsupervised. The new grade of coach is claimed to be equal to the old level 3 qualification.**

**Coaching licences are valid for 3 years and can be renewed following further CRB (VBS) checks.**

End