

2015 Athletics Facts

ABAC Fact File 40

Senior Women Track and Field – Number of appearances and standard of performances.

Background. In Fact File 39 we counted every English woman aged 20 and over who competed in track and field in 2014. We identified the senior women members of every English track and field club and published numbers. A number of clubs have confirmed the accuracy of the FF 39 figures. Several clubs have pointed out that many athletes compete just once in the season and a number of the senior athletes used by clubs are of very poor standard. We asked Rob Whittingham to crank the numbers.

Number of Appearances. The number of times senior women athletes competed in 2014 are:

1 meeting -- 910 (24.33%)	2 meetings -- 538 (14.38%)	3 meetings -- 416 (11.12%)
4 meetings -- 354 (9.46%)	5 meetings -- 300 (8.02%)	6 meetings -- 200 (5.35%)
7 meetings -- 168 (4.49%)	8 meetings -- 139 (3.72%)	9 meetings -- 104 (2.78%)
10 meetings or more 612 (16.36%)		

The total number of senior women was 3,744 in FF39 survey but is 3,741 in this analysis. It was determined that 3 of the athletes previously recorded were not English. The most striking conclusions from this survey are:

- Almost a quarter of women competed only once.
- Almost 40 % competed once or twice
- Very nearly 50% competed 3 times or less.
- And very nearly 60% competed 4 times or less.

Performance levels. We looked at the lower levels of recorded performances in order to estimate the number of women who competed just to make up team numbers. We looked at just 4 events: 100m, 1500m, long jump and javelin and found-

- 130+ women had a season's best of more than 18.0 seconds in the 100m.
- 100+ women had a season's best of more than 7 minutes in the 1500m.
- 180+ women had a season's best of less than 3 metres in the long jump
- 100+ women had a season's best of less than 10m in the javelin

A cursory look at other events indicated similar levels of poor performances across the board.

End