

2015 Athletics Facts

ABAC Fact File 43

Dropout rates for 30 to 34 year old track and field athletes

Background. In Fact File 42 we looked primarily at the number of English veteran athletes who competed in 2014 and produced preliminary information on the dropout rates for 2015.

As part of that file we specifically looked at athletes (both men and women) who were 34 in 2014 and we checked how many had failed to perform in 2015. We wondered what the retention rates would be for younger athletes. As part of his ongoing study going down through the age groups Rob Whittingham cranked the numbers for the 30 to 34 year olds. Here is what he found.

Drop out rates for the 2014 track and field athletes.

Women

Age in 2014	Athletes in 2014	Not in 2015	Dropout rate
34	67	32	48%
33	68	32	47%
32	63	18	29%
31	74	37	50% *
30	81	34	42%

Men

Age in 2014	Athletes in 2014	Not in 2015	Dropout rate
34	151	65	43%
33	160	68	43%
32	144	52	36%
31	165	66	40%
30	161	63	39%

This analysis shows that for this 5 year age spread the overall dropout rate is 41.6%, comprising 40% for men and 43.2% for women.

There appears to be a 50% drop out rate for 31 year old women but only 29% for 32 year old women. The average for these 2 years is however back on trend.

This analysis does not take into account the number of athletes returning to the sport, or new to the sport in 2015. An analysis of the total net numbers for 2015 will be done early in 2016 to determine the overall participation levels.

End