

## 2016 Athletics Facts

### ABAC Fact File 47

#### **Power of 10 reduces top 100 targets for U20 women as well.**

**1. Background.** The mission statement for P10 is prominently displayed on its home page. The first paragraph reads.

***“The sport of Athletics has a mission to strengthen the depth for every event, in every age group across every nation and region of the UK.”***

In Fact File 46 we quantified the reductions in targets for U20 men in technical events and concluded that the resulting comparison for athlete numbers in 2010 and 2015 using these targets overestimated equivalent 2015 numbers by nearly 20%. We asked Rob Whittingham to review the comparable situation for U 20 women’s technical events. Here is what he found.

**2. P10 numbers for U20 women.** The following table shows the number of female athletes in the U20 rankings in technical events that made P 10’s top 100 target for 2010 and 2015

	2010	2015	
100H	81	90	
400H	87	82	
HJ	68	98	
PV	37	45	
LJ	42	99	
TJ	47	77	
SP	58	90	
DT	47	78	
HT	76	89	
JT	45	83	
U20 Total	588	831	Increase = 41.33%

So, based on P10’s top hundred targets it would appear that there has been a remarkable gain in U 20 women athletes in these events. However, this is a misrepresentation of the true picture.

**3. The lowering of 100 targets from 2010 to 2015.** As in Fact File 46 we discovered P10 has been lowering the U 20 women top 100 targets since 2010. The new targets are as follows.

400H lowered from 70.70 to 72.0 in 2015  
LJ lowered from 5.30 to 5.10 in 2015  
DT lowered from 29.80 to 27.00 in 2014  
JT lowered from 32.50 to 29.00 in 2014

HJ lowered from 1.59 to 1.55 in 2015  
SP lowered from 10.00 to 9.30 in 2015  
HT lowered from 29.50 to 27.00 in 2014

In contrast the 100H was raised from 16.60 to 16.50 in 2014

In all, 7 of the 11 events with top 100 targets have been lowered. Events such as the decathlon do not have 100 athletes.

**Correcting the 2015 figures.** We have recalculated the above table using the top 100 target standards of 2010.

	2010	2015
100H	81	95
400H	87	64

HJ	68	62	
PV	37	45	
LJ	42	50	
TJ	47	77	
SP	58	56	
DT	47	51	
HT	76	82	
JT	45	48	
<b>U20 Women Total</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>Increase = 7.14%</b>

*So, whereas P10 figures show that there were 233 more athletes (831-588) achieving top 100 rankings in 2015 compared to 2010, if the 2010 standards are applied there were just 42 more athletes (630-588) achieving the 2010 standards in 2015.*

**ABAC comments.** By correcting the 2015 numbers using 2010 ranking targets what appears to be a 41.3% increase becomes just a 7.14% increase which is mainly down to many more U 20 women taking up the triple jump.

It is strange that Top 100 targets were adjusted, because without adjustment there would still have been a modest increase in athlete numbers achieving target. It is clear however that by using the 2015 standards P10 overstates the number achieving standards compared to 2010 by 201 athletes (831-630). This is an overstatement of 34.1 % ( $201/588 \times 100$ ) which is a much larger overstatement than the U 20 men numbers ( 19.5%) shown in Fact File 46.

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