

## 2016 Athletics Facts

### ABAC Fact File 48

#### **From April England Athletics will strictly enforce Athlete Registration. There may be troubles ahead.**

**Background** . From April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 new registration rules apply to English athletes. The new rules state that all athletes aged 11 and over who compete must be registered with England Athletics and must have paid an individual registration fee. At the same time individual fees will be raised to £13 per annum. Many clubs have stated that this will place an unbearable workload on membership secretaries as athletes are tardy in paying both club and EA fees.

There is a question as to how the rules will be policed and enforced. It has been claimed that only athletes who are paid up will have their performances recorded on P10. Non registered athletes will have competition points deducted from club results, either on the day or retrospectively. There will be numerous occasions when athletes who are not up to date with fees will be disqualified from competitions permitted by UKA. In an attempt to quantify the upcoming difficulties ABAC asked Rob Whittingham if he could determine how many athletes competed in 2015 who were not registered with UKA. Here is what he did and what he deduced.

**Basis of the study.** The study is based on U17 men and women track and field athletes. The premise used is that the athletes on P10 with dates of birth (DoB) recorded are already registered with UKA and those without are not registered. *(See Footnote for justification of this approach).*

**The numbers.** The following tables show the number of U17 athletes recorded on P10 together with those with no DOB shown. The percentage of “unregistered athletes” is listed per event

**Table 1. U17 men.**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>No DoB</b>	
100	760	139	18.29%
200	679	101	14.87%
400	530	82	15.47%
800	516	98	18.99%
1500	539	88	16.33%
3000	304	51	16.78%
1500SC	91	20	21.98%
100H	229	45	19.65%
400H	107	15	14.02%
HJ	323	71	21.98%
PV	102	15	14.71%
LJ	483	99	20.50%
TJ	363	114	31.40%
SP	349	131	37.54%
DT	371	106	28.57%
HT	160	37	23.13%
JT	290	92	31.72%
Oct	70	10	14.29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6266</b>	<b>1314</b>	<b>20.97%</b>

The above figures would indicate that approx 21% of U17 men are unregistered with the highest number being in the technical events. (37.5% in the shot).

**Table 2. U17 women.**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>No DoB</b>	
100	482	39	8.09%
200	517	49	9.48%
300	535	75	14.02%
800	447	79	17.67%
1500	385	80	20.78%
3000	251	52	20.72%
1500SC	136	29	21.32%
80H	314	50	15.92%
300H	166	22	13.25%
HJ	344	47	13.66%
PV	104	6	5.77%
LJ	435	52	11.95%
TJ	396	103	26.01%
SP	460	102	22.17%
DT	267	69	25.84%
HT	215	32	14.88%
JT	272	79	29.04%
Hep	133	20	15.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5859</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>16.81%</b>

Fewer U17 women would appear to be unregistered averaging 16.8% across all disciplines. Again it is in the technical events where the highest percentage of unregistered athletes occur. (29% for the javelin.)

**Comments.** There are 2299 athletes in the 2015 U17 age group who appear to be unregistered. Should these same athletes remain outside the system in 2016 then team results across the country will be decimated. An explanation for high numbers of unregistered throwers may be that they are imports from other sports used to make up teams and as such may not wish to commit fully to athletics and all that entails.

There is also the question of Home Country athletes competing for English clubs in England. Not all Welsh and Scottish athletes are paid up and registered in their own countries. Furthermore Northern Ireland presents a particular problem, since it does not have a registration system at all. We can imagine on open meeting in England where an English athlete has their performance not allowed on the UK ranking system but an athlete from Northern Ireland competing in the same meeting has his performance recorded.

### **There may be troubles ahead**

**Footnote.** We accept that the hypothesis that athletes shown on P10 without a DoB are unregistered may not be 100% accurate. However we assert that most of the personal data is obtained from EA registrations and meeting age group results. Individuals can of course request age information not to be published but this is rare.

*On the topsinathletics.info website just 56 athletes have requested their dates of birth be hidden from a total of 97,471 athletes recorded over the last 6 years*

End March20 2016