

2016 Athletics Facts

ABAC Fact File 49

Veteran Male athlete Numbers in 2014 and 2015

Background. As part of his continuing analysis of track and field athletes competing in England Rob Whittingham has turned the spotlight on veteran athletes again. We asked him what proportion of veteran male athletes are represented in the total population of over 20 year old competitors? He looked at the years 2014 and 2015. Here is what he found.

Number of veteran men. In Fact File 42 we looked at the number of appearances made by veteran athletes in 2014. Since that study Rob has uncovered a number of extra competitors and this report now represents a final analysis of veteran numbers.

In 2014 Power of 10 recorded profiles for 8,143 male athletes (FF 42 was 8058) for over 20 year old men with an English first claim club.

Of these, 8,143 athletes 3,939 (48.4%). (FF 42 number was 3827) were veterans born in 1979 or before.

The age breakdown of these 3,939 athletes is:-

| | | |
|---------|---------------------|--------------|
| 35 – 40 | Born 1975 to 1979 | 712 athletes |
| 41 - 45 | Born 1970 to 1974 | 771 athletes |
| 46 – 50 | Born 1965 to 1969 | 724 athletes |
| 51 – 55 | Born 1960 to 1964 | 700 athletes |
| 56 - 60 | Born 1955 to 1959 | 385 athletes |
| Over 60 | Born 1954 or before | 647 athletes |

Of these 3,939 athletes

1,370 (34.8%) did not compete in track and field in 2015
987 (25%) competed in fewer meetings in 2015 than in 2014
550 (14%) competed in the same number of meetings in 2015 as 2014
1,032 (26.2%) competed in more meetings in 2015 than 2014

Returning and new athletes in this age group

So, 1,370 veteran athletes who competed in 2014 failed to compete in 2015. This reduction was offset by athletes returning after missing 2014 and by athletes new to the sport. We found:-

258 returned to track and field from 2013
91 returned to track and field from 2012
126 returned to track and field from 2011 or before
698 veteran athletes competed in 2015 had no prior performances on Power of 10

The total returning and new athletes in 2015 is 1,173 giving a loss of 197 athletes (5%)

Number of performances of the returning and new veteran athletes.

Of the 1,173 returning and new athletes
592 (50.5%) competed in 1 meeting

230 (19.6%) competed in 2 meetings
142 (12.1%) competed in 3 meetings
86 (7.3%) competed in 4 meetings
123 (10.5%) competed in 5 or more meetings

For a simple comparison of veteran athletes one must add the 152 athletes born in 1980 to give 3,939 in 2014 and 3,894 in 2015.

Footnote

There was a rare occurrence in 2014, the Eastern Veterans League, which has run for several years had no fixtures in 2014. It is impossible to accurately assess exactly how this depressed figures in 2014. As an indication, 76 of the returning or new athletes in 2015 competed in this league, without these the reduction in veteran athlete numbers in 2015 would have been almost 7% compared to the 5% shown.

End