

## 2016 British Athletics Facts

### ABAC Fact File 53

#### Fewer under 19 year old athletes now attend School Championships.

**Background.** In recent years several counties have stopped holding Schools Championships for Senior Boys and Senior Girls (Under 19). We asked Rob Whittingham to analyse participation in the 2011 and 2016 Championships. He counted only those athletes who achieved *topsinathletics* Under 20 rankings standards.

**Results.** For the 43 counties which held their 2016 Championships on 11/12 June the total number of athletes reaching the standards was 662. For the same competition in 2011 the total number was 750. The decline in numbers from 750 to 662 represented a 12% fall over a 5 year period. The women only declined by 2%, whereas the men experienced a more severe drop off at 17.5%. It is noted that:-

- 7 counties had no U19 championships in 2011.
- 8 counties had no U19 championships in 2016.
- 5 Counties now have fewer than 5 male or female U19 athletes.
- A further 13 Counties have fewer than 10 male or female U19 men or women

**County breakdown.** The County by County numbers for 2011 and 2016 are as follows.

	2011 SB	2011 SG	2016 SB	2016 SG
Avon	11	4	8	5
Beds	0	0	0	0
Berks	36	13	19	14
Bucks	0	0	0	0
Cambridge	1	1	1	2
Ches	15	10	6	7
Cleveland	2	2	3	0
Cornwall	3	2	6	5
Cumbria	8	6	5	3
Derbs	8	5	14	7
Devon	16	7	17	17
Dorset	14	10	23	14
Durham	10	7	12	7
Essex	0	0	0	0
Gloucs	13	9	7	7
Gtr Man	15	12	16	12
Hamps	17	11	13	10
Here & Worc	13	8	14	10
Herts	0	0	0	0
Humber	10	7	5	3
Kent	5	0	1	1
Lancs	20	19	15	18
Leics	14	4	20	5
Lincs	10	7	6	3
London	6	11	0	0
Mersey	10	12	3	10
Middlesex	0	0	2	0
Norfolk	12	4	8	7
Northants	1	0	0	0

Northumberland	6	9	7	2
N Yorks	8	7	6	2
Notts	0	0	0	0
Oxford	8	2	2	8
Shrops	9	6	8	12
Somerset	32	15	33	18
S Yorks	15	10	14	7
Staffs	8	4	6	1
Surrey	37	16	27	20
Sussex	42	15	32	22
Warks	11	7	4	6
West Mid	0	0	0	0
W Yorks	13	13	10	8
Wilts	6	10	10	6

Levels for tops U20 rankings can be found at  
<http://www.topsinathletics.info>

**Comment.** We note that 7 Counties do not hold U19 Championships. It would appear to be only a matter of time before more counties stop holding U19 championships as this decline continues.

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