

2017 Athletic Facts

Fact File 60

Improving Performance Targets

Background. In FF59 we identified England Athletics false claims regarding recent Commonwealth Games medals. In Fact File 60 we examine the future targets for improved performance which are made in England Athletics' Strategic Plan for 2017 and beyond. Ref.

<http://www.englandathletics.org/about-england-athletics/england-athletics-mission-and-values> .

We recommend the reader downloads the Strategic Plan from this Home Page. Page 20 of the strategic plan includes this objective.

3. Increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.*

P10 Performance targets. We noted In Fact File 46 that over recent years there has been a lowering of some Top 100 Targets on Power of 10. So in reality performance targets have been reduced in advance of funding requests which aim to increase them at an annual rate of 1% going forward. We asked Rob Whittingham to quantify the events where performance targets have been lowered. He looked at 2014 and 2015. Here is a summary.

All Men

<u>Reduced twice in 2 years.</u>	.Javelin
<u>Reduced once in 2 years.</u>	400, 800, 1500, 3000 Steeplechase, 110 Hurdles, 400 Hurdles, High Jump, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot, Discus, Hammer.
<u>Unchanged in 2 years.</u>	200, 5000
<u>Increased once in 2 years</u>	100, 10000

That is: 2 events have had their performance targets increased but 14 have had them reduced.

Under 20 Men

<u>Reduced once in 2 years.</u>	1500, 5000, 2000 Steeplechase, 400 Hurdles, High Jump, Pole Vault, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot, Discus, hammer, Javelin.
<u>Unchanged in 2 years.</u>	400, 110 Hurdles. 200 (raised and then lowered)
<u>Increased once in 2 years</u>	100, 800.

That is: 2 events have had their performance targets increased but 12 have had them reduced.

All Women

<u>Reduced twice in 2 years.</u>	Discus, Javelin.
<u>Reduced once in 2 years.</u>	400, 800, 400 Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Shot, Hammer
<u>Increased once in 2 years</u>	100, 200, 1500, 5000, 100 Hurdles, Pole Vault.

That is: 6 events have had their performance targets increased but 10 have had them reduced.

Under 20 Women

<u>Reduced twice in 2 years.</u>	Shot.
<u>Reduced once in 2 years.</u>	100, 800, 1500, 3000, 400 Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Discus, Hammer, Javelin.
<u>Unchanged in 2 years.</u>	400, Pole Vault, Triple Jump.

Increased once in 2 years 200, 100 Hurdles.

That is: 2 events have had their performance targets increased but 11 have had them reduced.

Concluding remarks. From one four year funding cycle to the next Key Performance Indicators have seldom been met by British Athletics and England Athletics. Reduced achievements have not resulted in funding cuts. Rather, by reducing achievements the bar is effectively lowered for the next round of funding requests.

In the case of Performance levels, this study of 4 Age Groups concludes that:

In the last 2 years Performance target levels have been reduced for 47 events.

No mention of this is made in England Athletics plans for 2017 and beyond.

End. Feb 1 2017