



Track and Field Review

Briefing for our community

Board – Athletics Wellington

August 2019

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The context of our review

- **The running community is strong in Wellington – there is a wide range of event options and many events are well supported**
- Larger clubs affiliated to AW are **maintaining their membership**
- Our winter Cross Country and Road interclub events are well attended
- Our children's track and field interclub events are well attended
- **BUT** there has been relatively low participation in senior track and field meets for several years and there is a declining number of officials available to support T&F



What you have told us in feedback:

- We should focus on **increasing participation**, rather than trying to offer a large number of meets that are poorly attended
- Regular T&F meets through the season are **vital** to help you build towards major competitions
- You support “open entry” meets at the beginning of the season to **encourage new people to try out T&F events before joining a club**
- The **Wellington Centre Championships are important**, and the timing in early February is appropriate

Other findings -promotion

- We need to promote our interclub events more effectively and encourage clubs to hold their own club nights
- We need to regularly **promote the health and well-being benefits of track and field events** as **enjoyable** opportunities for high intensity exercise in competitions, for athletes of all ages
- In particular, we need to promote the value **of tracking individual performances over time** against reliable measurement of race times, heights and distances, and make use of age-adjusted achievement scores
- We need to celebrate individual events as they happen, **provide results to participants** with minimum delay, and provide photographic and video records where possible

Findings - officials and helpers

- Our sport **relies upon volunteers** - a “full programme” T&F meet requires at least 20 officials/helpers
- We have lost many of our most experienced officials/helpers and many of our **remaining officials are over 70**
- We need to **significantly increase the number of qualified officials** available in our region in order to host T&F championships
- **More helpers are needed** for each meet, to assist with a variety of tasks

Recruiting new officials and volunteers



- We have appointed Stacey Wilson (Coordinator of Officials) and Vaughan Oates (Technical Education Manager) in new T&F positions.
- We will **require clubs to provide a roster of helpers** to assist at T&F events
- We have arranged four training seminars in August and September **to train new officials**
- This programme can only be successful if new people are willing to attend training and follow through to gain experience
- There is a great opportunity for new officials to assist with a major event at the NZ Secondary Schools National T&F meet at Newtown Park from 6-8 December

Our commitments to track and field



- We will create an environment that is **welcoming**, inclusive and fun for competitors and volunteers
- We will provide **opportunities** for competition that enable individuals and teams to strive for their peak performance
- We will **recognise and celebrate** individual and team achievement, across all ranges of ability
- We will support and celebrate **top performers**
- We will recognise and **acknowledge the vital contribution** of volunteers
- We will rebuild and sustain our capability to manage track and field events

A new Track and Field committee



- We are **looking for volunteers** to join our Track and Field committee (please email: board@athleticswellington.org.nz)
- We will ensure that the members of this committee can **effectively lead** the changes that are necessary
- We will aim for strong linkages with clubs

The 2019/20 season programme



- We will shortly publish a draft 2019/20 season T&F programme and events matrix
- We may have to **reduce the total number** and duration of interclub meets if there are insufficient officials and helpers.
- These events simply cannot run unless there are committed volunteers to run them. **If there are not enough people to manage events safely and effectively the meet will be cancelled.**

What you can do to help

- **Take part in T&F competition** yourself
- **Promote** the T&F events to your clubs and networks
- **Volunteer as a helper** at T&F events
- Train and **gain experience** as a T&F official
- **Take a turn** at being the Meeting Manager
- **Enjoy** the upcoming season!