For Birmingham & District Invitation Cross-Country League AGM 2026

Amendments to League Rules Proposed by the Executive Committee

1.Minimum Age to Compete in the League

UKA Rules on age groups and the definition of the competition year are changing and this will affect the League's minimum age rule (A7.6). This currently states: "Athletes must have reached the age of 17 years by 31st August at the commencement of the cross-country season." The new definition of the competition year is from 1st September to 31st August for both endurance events (i.e. including cross-country) and track &field and the qualification for an age group is an athlete's age at the end of the that competition year, i.e. 31st August. For example, an athlete who is aged 18 on 31st August 2027 will be regarded under the new UKA Rules as being eligible to compete as an under 20 during the 2026/27 cross-country season.

Therefore, to reflect these changes it is proposed to amend Rule A7.6 to state that the minimum age must be 18 as at 31st August of the competition year.

2.Cancellation of Races

The existing Rule C16 gives the procedure for host clubs who find it necessary to cancel a fixture. However, no procedure is stated for how to decide whether, when and where to re-arrange it. Such situations will be rare and the circumstances different so any new rule should be sufficiently flexible to give the League discretion to cope with these. The most appropriate body to take such decisions is the Executive Committee, which has representatives from each Division and League Officers, and, after consulting the affected clubs, can decide quickly via Zoom or e-mail consultation. It is proposed that the existing Rule becomes 16.1 and a new 16.2 be added as follows: "The Executive Committee, after consulting affected clubs, shall have power to decide whether and how the fixture is to be re-arranged and any effect on the award of team and individual points." The Terms of Reference of the Executive Committee (A9.1) will also need to be amended to reflect this power.

3. In addition to the above there are a number of small technical changes needed in order to reflect the way the League now operates:

3.1 The League no longer appoints a Referee for each Division for the whole season. Instead the Joint Committee with the Midland Women's Cross-Country League appoints Referees for each fixture. Therefore, the word "Divisional" should be deleted from Rules A9g and A15.

3.2 There is a discrepancy in the wording of Rule A18 (Financial Management & Accounts). In A18.4 it states that an independent auditor shall be appointed. In practice the auditor is from one of the League clubs. To define what is meant by independence, it is proposed that in A18.4 the following be added: ", who is not a member of the Executive Committee nor of the same club as the Treasurer." Furthermore, the word "Auditor" implies that the process is akin to a professional audit and thus requires someone with the requisite professional qualifications. The actual process is an examination of the accounts and does not follow all the processes of a formal audit. The use of the word "Auditor" might discourage someone from a club putting themselves forward for this role. Therefore, it is proposed to substitute

“Examiner” for “Auditor” throughout Rule A18 and to amend the wording in Rule A18.3 to insert “independently examined” in place of “audited”.

3.3 Rule B2 states that each race “shall be approximately 10,000m in distance.” The UKA Rules state that the maximum distance for under 20s is 10,000m. It is proposed that this discrepancy be avoided by using “maximum” in the league Rule to conform to the UKA Rule.

3.4 Rule B2.5 states that “Applications to host races must be made in writing to the Secretary at least 6 weeks prior to the AGM.” It is proposed that this be amended to read “Offers” to reflect the actual practice.

3.5 Rule B7.2 states that trophies should be returned by the final fixture. To give some leeway to chase-up a club that does not return a trophy by that time, it is proposed that the second sentence of this Rule now read “The club must return the League Trophy suitably engraved to the relevant Divisional Secretary by the third race of the following season.”

3.6 Rule C4.2 deals with the deadline for declarations and states that these must be made to the Divisional Secretary by midnight on the Wednesday preceding the race. However, in practice some Divisional Secretaries have agreed that this can be extended to the Friday. This Rule should be amended to simply give Divisional Secretaries discretion to set their own deadline.

RGM
4/5/26