

U13 / U15 Inter Counties Track and Field

History

The first meeting of this event was held in 1983 at Harvey Hadden Stadium in Nottingham. The format was based upon the Nottinghamshire Mini League and the need for the local leagues to have an event to work towards. Leicestershire (represented by Charnwood AC) and South Yorkshire were invited to join in with, what was originally a one- off friendly match. However before the meeting finished there were requests that it should become an annual event, the venue to change each year, and trophies being awarded for best performances. This competition has been hosted by all the counties involved every year since the initial match (apart from 1997 where it was cancelled for Princess Diana's funeral.

By 1986 Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Humberside had joined the competition. Regrettably Leicestershire & Rutland experienced some problems and withdrew from the competition in 1993. Tamworth AC was approached to represent Staffordshire and joined the competition in 1994. Regrettably they too experienced difficulties and withdrew from the 1998 match and beyond. Leicestershire & Rutland were welcomed back to the competition and Warwickshire joined as newcomers in 2003 and in the same year Nick Reade of Rushcliffe AC took over as Secretary / coordinator. John Cotton of Nottinghamshire took over this role in 2015.

The current group of seven counties (rather than clubs) is as follows: Derbyshire, Humberside, Leics & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, South Yorkshire and Warwickshire. Over time different counties have also asked to join but this has not been increased mainly due to the problems of travelling long distances and also the logistics if there are more than eight clubs. There have been requests from North Yorkshire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire to join the event. There have been suggestions for EA to take on the organisation, and there have been suggestions of two separate competitions (North and South or East and West) to accommodate further requests. So far no changes have been agreed.

Objectives

This is a friendly match which allows athletes of all grades to feel the thrill of competing for their County against similar athletes in the bordering Counties. This event brings together a host of like-minded athletes and gives the grass root athletes a prestige event to work towards. This event attracts promising athletes who give top quality performances, bringing out many personal best achievements throughout the competition. This gives a super day of Athletics and a great stepping stone to higher things.

Selection Policies

Each of the seven Counties within our group makes selection to this event in a number of different ways. The organisers do not wish to impose at this time a dogmatic selection policy to this friendly meeting of young athletes climbing the ladder to success. Some counties use participation in local mini league matches as the main selection criteria which is how the match was originally organised. Other counties who joined later and do not have a mini-league use a totally open policy selecting the counties best athletes and adhere strictly to UKA county qualification rules. Other counties include school athletes as well as club athletes to provide a platform for competition from the county schools championships as well as from the rankings on the Power of 10. Some counties exclude athletes if they have not competed in certain county events. The selection policy for this event does not matter what matters is taking part. In the case of selection of an athlete for more than one county, the team for whom an athlete competes is often decided by the athlete in consultation with the team managers making the selection.

Competition Rules

(These were agreed at the outset of the competition but are reviewed annually by a meeting of the Team Managers on the day and exchanges of emails prior to each year's competition)

- 1 The competition is aimed at youngsters of both genders who are Under 13 or, Under 15 at midnight on 31st August /1st September in the year of the competition.
- 2 Each competitor is limited to a Maximum of 3 Events. These can be 3 Individual events or 2 individual events plus a relay. (Any non-scoring events to be included in this count)
- 3 No Athlete may compete in more than one race between 800m and 1500m on the same day
- 4 Each County is allowed 2 competitors per event (A & B) except relays
- 5 Numbers to be worn front and back, each number secured with 4 pins. Except in High Jump, where one number is permitted
- 6 Field Events - all athletes are limited to 3 trials except High Jump
- 7 There will be separate A & B Races except in the 1200m and 1500m races
- 8 Minimum Starting Heights for high Jump
U13 Girls 1.15m; U13 Boys 1.20m; U15 Girls 1.25m; U15 Boys 1.35m
- 9 Medley Relay to be over 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m (in that order)
 - Start at the 200m start point
 - 1st leg runner - 100m runs in lane round the bend
 - 2nd leg runner - 200m start in lanes and break at the blue lines near the finish, continuing to the changeover at the 1500m start line
 - 3rd leg runner - 300 to the normal 4 x 400 relay change over points near the finish
 - 4th leg runner - 400m as above.
- 10 Team Declaration Sheets these are to be completed prior to the event and sent on line to the results secretary at least three days before the event. Changes may be made on the day if required by using a change slip.
- 11 In the 1200m and 1500m races plus all field events the leading competitor for each county will be deemed the "A" competitor
- 12 If in the High Jump the athlete has 3 consecutive failures then they are eliminated
- 13 ALL athletes in each individual County team must wear the same colour as originally declared, which can be changed if required by a request to the coordinator at least 3 months prior to the event
- 14 All competition shall be under UKA Rules for competition
- 15 Counties shall be responsible for ensuring that their athletes do not breach UKA Rules for Competition
- 16 Non scoring 100m races will be held and will be limited to 2 competitors per gender per event per county and these events will be included in each athlete's count of events. They will wear the numbers as listed in the Declaration Sheet.

Notes: Some Under 13 events are rotated across different years.

In 2016 counties were notified by the organiser that they should provide the following qualified officials and get 5 points for each of the following officials: Track Judge, Timekeeper, and four Field Judges. This has not yet been incorporated into the rules. The host county has always ensured the provision of the Chief Starter, Chief Marksman, Field Referee, Track Referee and Chief Timekeeper. Each county has always been responsible for two or three field events each year. This is agreed on a rotational basis and notified to each county.