

Received from Alec McNab Wanganui Collegiate

“That NZSSAA change the weights of throwing implements to meet any changes that might be made by Athletics New Zealand in light of changes made by the IAAF at Youth level (under 18 in year of competition)”

The Senior grade at NZSS has always straddled two Athletics New Zealand Age groups and we have over the years adopted the specifications of the younger age grade to accommodate the fact that we can have athletes as young as 15 (if their birthday falls between the Championships and the end of the year) and as old as 19. For this reason we have adopted the lighter implement so as not to further disadvantage the younger athlete.

If this remit is adopted it should be noted that we would only change in events where Athletics New Zealand make a change.

REMIT – NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

It is proposed that the following rule be changed to allow fair and reasonable competition for athletes of all disabilities:-

- That the CP and Amputee sections have their results based on a percentage of the world record to reflect the disability of the athlete.

Background:

Having CP classes all together could result in a seated thrower competing head to head with a CP athlete who can stand, walk and run. This is not a fair competition as one athlete has more and better functionality than another.

The same applies with amputee athletes. One athlete could have a missing arm and another a leg amputee. This makes movement patterns far harder for the athlete who has a leg missing.

All athletes should be classified prior to competing at the NZ Secondary School Champs either by assessment the day prior or by a provisional classification which can be done by filling in a form and submitting to Paralympics NZ.

The athletes would be loaded into a spreadsheet with all their details prior to the competition to enable a quick and easy system of providing the results for the athletes at the completion of their event. This is done regularly in international competitions.

Education through the PA will enable the public to understand the process and results.

Raylene Bates

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Paralympics NZ Coach Athletics

REMIT – NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

It is proposed that the following rules be changed following a discussion paper presented in December 2011:-

- The rule around use of starting blocks is amended to read: “The use of starting blocks for AWD is optional if their disability prevents their safe use. This should be exclusive of lack of training”
- A standard take off board needs to be used for long jump events, not a metre board.
- AWD be restricted to competing in 3 events only, in addition to a relay. This will allow adequate recovery time between events and eliminate the clash of timetabled events. 3 events to be 2 track and 1 field or 2 field and 1 track.
- AWD competing in long jump to use the standard take off board, not the metre board often used in training.
- AWD must have achieved or exceeded the recommended standard for each event prior to registration.
- AWD must be well trained and if deemed by officials to use incorrect or unsafe technique, particularly in throwing events, they have the authority to disqualify that athlete.
- If AWDID require caregiver support, the carers must be outside of the field of play.
- All new athletes, (those who do not hold a Paralympics New Zealand (PNZ) athletics classification) need to submit, with their registration, a completed PNZ Provisional classification form to ensure they meet eligible impairment for athletics. Alternatively, athletes be classified by PNZ certified classifiers the day before competition and a national classification accredited.
- To ensure AWDID meet minimal eligibility criteria, all competitors, at time of registration, must show proof of an Intellectual Disability or receipt of Special Education Services or ORS Funding.

Marguerite Christophers
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REMIT – NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

My name is Holly Robinson and I am writing a submission in regards to how the medals are awarded for the AWD classes at the New Zealand Secondary School Track and Field Championships. I have a disability and will be competing at the 2012 championship. I have been doing athletics for about 7 years now and have been competing at international competition for about 5 years. I have been competing at the elite level for a couple of years now and attended the London Paralympics this year gaining a 7th placing in the F46 javelin.

It is my understanding that the medals at this years championships will be awarded to the athletes solely on the best results in an event. I am particularly concerned about this within the CP and Amputee classifications and do not believe that the medals should be awarded in this way. I believe this as there are different degrees of disability within the CP and Amputee class and it is completely unfair to the athletes who have a more severe disability compared to another within the same event, as they are not giving a fair chance for a medal. For example in an amputee high jump event if you had an athlete who is missing a leg and another athlete who is missing an arm, then the leg amputee would be at a disadvantage as the degree of disability they have is worse than the arm amputee. My disability is definitely one of the more functional disabilities than other amputee classes. Personally if I was to win a medal over another athlete who has more of a disadvantage solely because my distance was further, the medal wouldn't mean anything to me because I didn't win it fairly.

I would definitely not expect to turn up to a national championship and have the AWD medals awarded in this way. The athletes who come to a national championship like this, work and train hard to get to where they are and by ruling who gets 1ST, 2nd and 3rd solely on results is discriminating to the athlete. I believe that the best course of action is to award the medals based on highest percentage of an individual's own world records. For example If you have a seated CP thrower who's world record in the javelin is 15m and they throw 7m and an ambulant Cp thrower who throws 10m and there world record is 34m, than the seated athlete would win as their percentage relative to their world record is higher. This is a much fairer way in awarding the medals and what is recognised nationally by Athletics NZ and internationally by the International Paralympic Committee.

REMIT

THAT MEDALS ARE AWARDED TO ATHLETES COMPETING IN CP AND AMPUTEE SECTIONS OF AWD ATHLETICS AT NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS CHAMPS ARE AWARDED BASED ON PERCENTAGE OF WORLD RECORDS.

Remit

To make the following amendment to the Constitution of the New Zealand Secondary Schools Athletic Association Incorporated:

Currently it states:

5. AGE GROUPS:

Age groups for Championship events shall be:

Juniors – over 13 and Under 16 on December 31st in the year of competition

Seniors – over 16 and under 19.5 on December 31st in the year of competition

I propose to make the following additions to include the AWD athlete age group and the Year Nine age group at the Road Race and Cross Country Championships and to bring our upper age of the Senior age group in line with the NZSSSC upper age limit (under 19 January 1 in the year of competition):

5. AGE GROUPS:

Age groups for Championship events shall be:

Juniors – over 13 and under 16 on December 31st in the year of competition

Seniors – over 16 and under 20 on December 31st in the year of competition

AWD – over 13 and under 22 on December 31st in the year of competition

In addition, the Association offers a Year Nine age group at the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Road Race and Cross Country Championships.

Year Nine – over 13 and under 15 on December 31st in the year of competition.

A competitor who has their birthday on December 31 is eligible to compete in the younger age group

Moved: Christine Long (Mount Albert Grammar School)

Seconded: Geoffrey Shaw (Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu – the Correspondence School)

Registration of Rules(Constitution) with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies

It is moved that the Association approve registration of our constitution with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies.

Moved: Christine Long (Mount Albert Grammar School)

Seconded: Geoffrey Shaw (Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu – the Correspondence School)