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## **Age Group Working Party (AGWP)**

### **Terms of Reference**

**February 2017**

### **Amendment, Modification or Variation**

These Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing by the BOM after consultation and agreement by AGWP members.

### **Our Stakeholders**

- Athletes
- Little Athletics Australia (LAA)
- Athletics Australia (AA)
- Little Athletics State Associations
- Clubs and Centres
- Athletics Community
- Coaches, Officials and Volunteers
- Parents
- Educational institutions and schools
- School Sport Australia
- Media
- Staff

### **Establishment of AGWP**

LAA have determined in the best interests of the sport of athletics in Australia to change the age groups associated with children participating in Little Athletics. The change will align Little Athletics age groupings to the wider athletics community. In order to ensure a smooth transition, the AGWP has been established and is responsible for reporting and recommending to the Board of Management, the goals and objectives.

### **Goals and Objectives of AGWP**

- To provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure the smooth transition of age group changes to all stakeholders.
- The AGWP will make recommendations in an advisory capacity to the LAA BOM who, will in turn advise the various stakeholders in the Little Athletics community regarding best practise initiatives to ensure a smooth transition to the new age groups.
- Develop a transition plan to ensure athletes are provided an opportunity for State Team representation at the Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) for U13 and U15 athletes. The transition plan will be finalised by the commencement of the 2017-18 summer season.
- Where there are concerns or areas of the sport that may be affected by these changes then the group will make recommendations to provide direction to the affected stakeholders.

The AGWP will work towards achieving these goals by:

- Engaging and consulting with LAA BOM and State Associations and seeking their input into items to be addressed by the AGWP.
- Addressing any items raised by any of the stakeholders pertaining to age group changes.
- Engaging and consulting with the LAA BOM and State Associations, seeking their input and feedback on any recommendations made by the AGWP as it pertains to the implementation of age group changes.
- Presentation of a draft transition plan to the LAA BOM in July 2017

### **Background**

Traditionally, Little Athletics registration dates have aligned to the commencement of the summer athletics season. Essentially, the age that the athlete turns between 1 October and 30 September of any given registration year, determined the age group that the athlete was considered 'Under'.

Across the sport of athletics in Australia the Little Athletics age grouping has been unique in that it is based upon the season rather than the calendar year, whereas School Sport Australia and AA determined age groups by year of birth. Consequently, the determination of age groups within Little Athletics has long been a subject of discussion.

In 2016, representatives from LAA established a working group to review the alignment of age groups for athletics. The motion to adopt an amendment to future age group determination was unanimously endorsed by the relevant State and Territory Associations, LAA BOM and LAA Executive at the half yearly conference in October 2016. The change will be implemented from the commencement of the 2018-19 summer athletics season.

The progressive alignment of age grouping for athletics in Australia is a positive step for the foundation of pathways across the sport as a whole. The decision to maintain the same age group for the duration of the summer athletics season will allow the athlete to train and compete at their Centre, Zone, Regional and State Championships with the specifications they have used for the whole season, providing them with the maximum opportunity to improve and be their best.

### **Changing Environment**

The anniversary date for determining the age group for athletes participating in Little Athletics will change in the 2018-19 season from 30 September to 31 December of each year.

This means that the age groups will be aligned to the year of birth for each athlete. This will align the age groups with the age groups the athletes compete in at most school competitions and with Athletics Australia (AA) for the first half of the summer season.

All event specifications will be aligned with School Sport Australia competition specifications with the exception of boy's hurdles from U15 to U17 where the hurdle heights in Little Athletics will remain at 76cm.

The table at **Appendix 1** shows the progression of age groups by year of birth for the current 2016-17 season, the 2017-18 season which will operate under the same rules as this season and the 2018-19 season which incorporates the implementation of the new age group rules.

The athletes affected by the change are those whose birthday falls between 1 October and 31 December. Those athletes will increment by two age groups in 2018-19. Athletes whose birthday falls between 1 January and 30 September are not affected by the change and will transition by one age group as normal. Athletes will remain in the determined age group for the duration of the summer season and will compete at their relevant State Championships in the age group that they commenced the season in.

It should be noted that athletes born between 1 October and 31 December 2005 and are competing as U12's in 2017-18 will progress to U14 in 2018-19 and will bypass the U13 age group which is the age group for state team selection.

It should also be noted that athletes born between 1 October and 31 December 2003 and are competing as U14's in 2017-18 will progress to U16 in 2018-19 and will bypass the U15 age group which is the age group for state team selection in the heptathlon.

Some of the State Associations do not offer U16's and U17's and conclude at U15's. For these Associations it should be noted that athletes born between 1 October and 31 December 2003 and are competing as U14's in 2017-18 that this will be the final year of Little Athletics for these athletes.

For State Associations that offer U16's and U17's, it should be noted that athletes born between 1 October and 31 December 2001 and are competing as U16's in 2017-18 that this will be the final year of Little Athletics for these athletes.

Some State Associations conduct a winter cross country and race walking competition. The age group determination for these competitions will continue to be the responsibility of the relevant State Associations.

### **Term**

These Terms of Reference are effective from January 2017 and continues until September 2019 when transition will be complete.

### **Management of the AGWP**

The AGWP will be made up of a number of representatives of both the national organisations and State Associations.

The committee will consist of the following six members (subject to change by agreement of the committee):

- LAA Executive - Eddie Fabian (Administration & Finance Director)
- LAA Executive - Todd Williams (Competition & Standards Director)
- LAA National Office - Martin Stillman (Chief Executive Officer)
- LAA BOM - Donna Smith (LA Queensland, President)
- State Representative - Tracy Canham (LA Tasmania, Administration Officer)
- State Representative - Bridget Senyszen (LA South Australia, Development Officer)

### **Meeting Frequency & Duration**

- All meetings will be chaired by a member of the LAA Executive. The LAA CEO shall be responsible for scheduling meetings.
- A meeting quorum will be four members of the AGWP.
- Meeting agendas minutes will be provided by the LAA CEO, this includes:
  - preparing agendas and supporting papers.
  - preparing meeting notes and information.
- Meetings will be conducted at a date, time and frequency agreed by consensus of the AGWP and coordinated by the LAA CEO.

## Appendix 1 – Age Group Table

Year of Birth	Month of Birth	Age Group 2016-17	Age Group 2017-18	Age Group 2018-19
2013	January to September			U6
2013	October to December			U6
2012	January to September		U6	U7
2012	October to December			U7
2011	January to September	U6	U7	U8
2011	October to December		U6	U8
2010	January to September	U7	U8	U9
2010	October to December	U6	U7	U9
2009	January to September	U8	U9	U10
2009	October to December	U7	U8	U10
2008	January to September	U9	U10	U11
2008	October to December	U8	U9	U11
2007	January to September	U10	U11	U12
2007	October to December	U9	U10	U12
2006	January to September	U11	U12	U13
2006	October to December	U10	U11	U13
2005	January to September	U12	U13	U14
2005	October to December	U11	U12	U14
2004	January to September	U13	U14	U15
2004	October to December	U12	U13	U15
2003	January to September	U14	U15	U16
2003	October to December	U13	U14	U16
2002	January to September	U15	U16	U17
2002	October to December	U14	U15	U17
2001	January to September	U16	U17	
2001	October to December	U15	U16	
2000	January to September	U17		
2000	October to December	U16	U17	
1999	January to September			
1999	October to December	U17		