

Scottish Athletics Limited
Road Running and Cross Country Commission

**Clarification of the Eligibility Rules for Road Running & Cross Country Team
Competitions in Scotland**

When Scotland moved to using the UK Rule Book in (about 2002) it swept away a number of rules that were put there specifically to promote high quality team competition in Scotland. This affects cross-country running more than the other parts of the sport. Indeed the effect is so detrimental that the rule change is largely ignored with the result that many of the athletes running for clubs in championships and open races are not eligible. Worst of all, there are so many historical inconsistencies that the event organisers and referees are left with unsatisfactory, arbitrary and quite often inconsistent decisions to make.

This clarification is intended to define eligibility in the manner that most people think that it works while still remaining within the UK rules. We can do this by issuing permits with organiser's qualifying conditions under UK Rule 21 S 4. It is also the reason that the Commission wish to issue this as a clarification of the rules rather than new rules.

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Eligibility to Compete in Road Running and Cross Country Races under an SAL Permit

Individual races are Open to all athletes in the UK as per UKA Rule 21 S 4 (2).

Team races are Open but restricted to clubs in Scotland affiliated to SAL as per UK Rule 21 S 4 (3) and Open to second claim members of Scottish clubs as defined below.

In National and District Championships a competitor must be a member of the Scottish Athletics membership scheme.

Additional Rules for Competing in Team Races in Scotland (UKA Rule 21 S 4)

To compete in Open team competition in Scotland athletes must fulfill at least one of the following:

- (a) (Been born in Scotland or have one parent born in Scotland) and have declared their availability for selection for Scotland, or
- (b) Have continuous residence in Scotland for at least 3 months immediately prior to the competition, or
- (c) Be in full-time education in Scotland, or
- (d) Have represented Scotland in International competition, or
- (e) Have previously competed for a Scottish club in team competition. In which case the athlete may only compete for the most recent such club.

Second Claim Members of Scottish Clubs

Subject to the above. a first claim member of a non-Scottish, UK club may compete, in SAL permitted races, for a second claim Scottish club in Open team races.

Change of Second Claim Club

A Scottish second claim club may be changed under the same conditions for first claim membership by applying to the Scottish Eligibility Committee.

Students in Full-time Education in Scotland

Students in full-time, secondary or tertiary education in Scotland may compete as 1st claim for both their educational establishment and another Scottish club but not in the same competition. This is provided that the educational establishment Club is confined to students of that establishment. Thus a student may be entered for two clubs but has to choose one at declaration.

District Championships

As stated above “to compete in District Championships a competitor must be a member of the Scottish Athletics membership scheme.”

Scottish District Championships (UK Rule 21 S 6 (5))

(1) A District qualification shall be acquired as follows:

- (a) By birth.
- (b) By residence in the District.
- (c) By first claim membership of an affiliated Club with its headquarters within the District boundary.

(2) Athletes may only compete at District Championships within one District in any six month period (commencing 1st April and 1st October).

Road Running

Scottish athletics groups its Road championships into calendar years. However to comply

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with UKA rules the age of an athlete is determined by applying the UKA rule on the day of the race.

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Extract from the RR&CC Commission Meeting 25/12/2015

Rules for Scottish Athletes at London Marathon 2016

25/12/2015

Introduction

At its meeting on 7/12/2015, the RR & CC Commission took the decision that the rules for the Scottish Marathon Championships to be held in London in 2016 should be, as far as possible, as if the Championships were held in Scotland.

The London marathon will host the UK Championships as well as Championships for England, Scotland and Wales separately. All athletes competing in London must enter for their 1st claim UK club and wear the appropriate vest under UKA rules. Automatically all athletes will run in the UKA Championship and, if eligible, their home country Championship. That requires clarity for Scottish athletes given the second claim eligibility in team races in the Scottish rules that would apply if the race were held in Scotland.

Individual Championships

The SAL marathon has individual Championships for men, women, masters men (O40) and masters women (O40). Masters athletes are eligible for medals in the Senior race as well as the Masters category.

Individual Eligibility & Vests

The individual RR&CC Scottish Championships are Open to:

- all 1st claim UKA club members as per UKA Rule 4.2, and
- who are members of the Scottish Athletics Membership Scheme

Athletes must compete in their 1st claim UK club vest or another appropriate vest under UKA rules. Additionally, in Scotland, athletes may wear their Scottish club vest if they also have such a club.

The London marathon is run under UKA rules and all athletes must enter for their 1st claim UK club and wear the appropriate vest under UKA rules. This satisfies the Scottish individual rules.

Team Championships

The SAL marathon team Championships Open for both men and women teams. The team race is restricted to clubs in Scotland affiliated to SAL as per UK Rule 4.3.

The team race is 3 to count in both cases and is calculated on cumulative chip times where possible. This allows athletes in different starts to participate in the Championship.

Rules for Competing in Team Races in Scotland

- To compete in Open team competition in Scotland an athlete must be a member of the Scottish Athletics Membership Scheme and must fulfil at least one of the following:
- Been born in Scotland or have one parent born in Scotland) and have declared their availability for selection for Scotland, or
- Have continuous residence in Scotland for at least 3 months immediately prior to the competition, or
- Be in full-time education in Scotland, or
- Have represented Scotland in International competition, or
- Have previously competed for a Scottish club in team competition. In which case the athlete may only compete for the most recent such club.

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Subject to the above, a first claim member of a non-Scottish, UK club may compete, in SAL permitted races, for a second claim Scottish club in Open team races.

Team Eligibility & Vests

The Scottish team Championships are Open to second claim members of Scottish clubs defined in the eligibility rules on the Archive ([url above](#)). In short this means that as well as being defined as Scottish and a member of the Scottish Athletics Membership Scheme, a 1st claim member of a non-Scottish, UKA club may compete, in SAL Championships, for his or her second claim Scottish club. Since the London marathon is rule under UKA rules the decision is to allow athletes eligible to run for their Scottish club, to run in the vest of their 1st claim UKA club.