

Introduction

The Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC) Teams event is a two-day competition for Under 13 athletes in which each athlete gains points for their events. These points are added together to give a total team points score, with the highest point scoring team being named National Champions at the end of competition.

A Multi-Event Championship is also conducted for the Under 15 age group, where athletes compete in a heptathlon for individual medals. There is also a team score competition for the Life Member's Trophy.

Purpose

The purpose of this document is for the South Australian Little Athletics Association (SALAA) to ensure that all eligible athletes have an equal opportunity to be selected in the State Team without fear of prejudice or favouritism.

Policy

This policy is an approved policy of the South Australian Little Athletics Association Inc.

SALAA will ensure that all State Team procedures and selection criteria are strictly adhered to. These are as follows:

1. State Team Personnel

- a) SALAA will appoint a member of staff as the State Team Administrator.
- b) SALAA will appoint two Team Managers and two Team Coaches to travel with the team. Two of the appointed managers/coaches will be female and two will be male.
- c) All travelling State Team Personnel must have a current clearance in accordance with the Member Protection Policy, sighted by the Association Responsible Person by no later than four weeks following the date of appointment.
- d) If a State Team Coach or Manager has a child vying for a position in the State Team then this is deemed a conflict of interest and the person in questions may not be part of the team's Selection Panel.
- e) A State Team Coach or Manager is not to have contact on competition days with any athlete vying for a position in the State Team as this is deemed a conflict of interest.

2. General Athlete Selection Criteria

The following criteria apply to both Under 13 and Under 15 athletes seeking selection to the Australian Little Athletics Championships, and should be read in conjunction with the State Team Information Booklet for the current season.

- a) Athletes must be registered with a Centre or Club affiliated with Little Athletics SA on or before the 31st December.

- b) The athlete must meet the eligibility criteria for the State Individual Championships as per Rules 703 and 709 in the Standard Rules of Competition. *Verification of the above eligibility will be made by Little Athletics SA for each of these selected athletes.*
- c) A Selection Panel comprising of at least three Little Athletics SA Board Members will be appointed to ratify the selection of the State Team, and to ensure that selection is consistent with this policy.
- d) The Selection Panel will be made aware of any disciplinary warnings or exclusions (yellow or red cards) issued to eligible athletes at state events throughout the season, and must consider these before selecting an athlete to the team.
- e) Athletes will not be selected merely to fill the team numbers, even if their performances are the best in the State, where their performances would not be competitive at the national level as compared to previous years ALACs.

3. Under 13 Selection Criteria

The following criteria should be read in conjunction with the General Athlete Selection Criteria above.

- a) The maximum team size is limited to the number of athletes specified by Little Athletics Australia. Generally, this will be made up of an equal number of boys and girls, but this is not a requirement. There is no obligation to select the maximum number of athletes.
- b) As the Australian Team Championship is a team point-scoring competition, the Selectors must endeavour to select the team that will maximise South Australia's point score.
- c) The State Team will be selected based on performances achieved at the State Individual Championships.
- d) Athletes performances recorded at the following events will provide additional scope for the selectors in selecting the State Team:
 - Country Championships
 - State PB Classic
 - State Multi-Event Championships
 - Results achieved in Athletics SA competitions
 - Results submitted by Centres will be used as a guide
- e) Athletes performances will be compared to performances achieved at previous Australian Little Athletics Championships to determine the likely point scores for the athlete. These point scores are used to select the team.
- f) Athletes are to pre-nominate to be selected for the State Team. Pre-nomination, via written confirmation to the State Team Administrator, must have occurred before the start of competition for the State Individual Championships. Eligible athletes who fail to pre-nominate will only be considered for selection after applying for special consideration as a late nomination.
- g) Athletes must have competed in the State Individual Championships. Where an athlete is unable to participate in the State Individual Championships due to illness or injury, a medical certificate must be supplied to the Selection Panel by 12:00 midday on the Sunday of the Championships. If accepted by the selectors, the athlete's performances throughout the season will be considered in conjunction with those of the athletes competing in the Championships when selecting the team. Acceptance of a medical certificate by the Selection Panel does not guarantee selection of the athlete.

- h) Should the State Individual Championships be cancelled or postponed beyond the date that team nominations are required by Little Athletics Australia, the selectors shall select a team from those athletes who have nominated for the State Individual Championships based on their performances throughout the season.

4. Under 15 Selection Criteria

The following criteria should be read in conjunction with the General Athlete Selection Criteria above.

- a) The maximum team size is limited to the number of athletes specified by Little Athletics Australia, with an equal number of positions available for boys and girls. There is no obligation to select the maximum number of athletes.
- b) Selection will be determined based on the results of the State Multi-Event Championships.
- c) The events contested and point scoring system for the State Multi-Event Championships will be the same as the Australian Little Athletics Championships.
- d) Athletes are to pre-nominate to be selected for the State Team. Pre-nomination, via written confirmation to the State Team Administrator, must have occurred before the start of competition for the State Multi-Event Championships. Eligible athletes who fail to pre-nominate will only be considered for selection after applying for special consideration as a late nomination.
- e) Selected U15 athletes must compete in the State Individual Championships in March as an indication that they have maintained their fitness and competitiveness. Any extenuating circumstances must be endorsed by the Selection Panel.
- f) Should the State Multi-Event Championships be cancelled or postponed, an alternative selection trial will be conducted. This may or may not coincide with a rescheduled State Multi-Event Championships. Only athletes who compete in this trial will be eligible for selection.

5. Appeals

The Selectors endeavour to select the team that has the potential to score the most points for South Australia based on performances achieved throughout the athletics season. As there are limited positions in the team, and limited athletes per event, not every athlete who would like to be selected to the State Team can be.

If the parents/guardians of an athlete believe that an athlete has incorrectly missed selection, they may lodge a written appeal with the State Team Administrator no later than 7 days after the official publication of the team on the SALAA website. The State Team Administrator will submit the appeal to the Selection Panel, who will make a determination. The determination of the Selection Panel will be final.

Responsibilities

The State Team Administrator is to ensure this policy is available on the Little Athletics SA website, and is made available to all persons seeking appointment as State Team Managers, Coaches and Selectors, and to athletes seeking selection in the South Australian State Team for the Australian Little Athletics Championships.

The State Team Administrator is to ensure the State Team Information Booklet is prepared with the correct information for the ALAC for each season and make this available on the LASA website for prospective team members.

STATE TEAM POLICY

Any person who believes that there has been a breach of this policy by a member of Little Athletics SA staff or an appointed selector, team manager or coach is to report that breach to the Little Athletics SA Chief Executive Officer.

Definitions and References

- ALAC – Australian Little Athletics Championships.
- State Team Information Book – Booklet produced by Little Athletics SA to provide information on the ALAC to potential team members.
- Little Athletics Australia Standard Rules of Competition – Specifies the team requirements and events for the ALAC.

Related Procedures

- State Team Operations Manual

Authorisation

Signature of President: _____

Date: ____/____/____