

# Multi-Club Membership Policy

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## Aim

- To allow athletes to make informed decisions about the Centres and Clubs they join and/or compete with.
- To allow flexibility for athletes to engage in and receive athletics services from more than one Centre or Club.
- To ensure Centres and Clubs can continue to deliver the services and experiences to their current and prospective members.
- Maximising participation and competition opportunities for members.
- Maximising participation at team-based competitions by providing the opportunity for Clubs to form teams with athletes who are not primary members of their Club.

## Multi-Club Membership Rules

- Junior athletes (i.e. 13's (U/14) – U/20), Opens and Masters members can be members of a maximum of two (2) NSW Athletics Partnership Clubs. There is no hierarchy placed on an athlete's Clubs – i.e. an athlete will not be required to designate a "first and second claim" Club.
- Little Athletics members (12's and under) may only be members of one Centre/Club as they are not yet in the traditional transition and pathway age groups. However, in addition to this membership, they may take out a secondary 'Community' membership (non-competition) with a Senior/One Athletics Club, allowing them to benefit from local services (Club competition/training) but not championships and events conducted by NSW Athletics (other than events open to the community).. Remember, many Centres/Clubs allow visitors from other Centres/Clubs.
- Junior athletes (i.e. 13's (U/14) – U/20), may choose to take out membership offered by a second Club. However, an athlete may only be a member of one (1) Little Athletics Centre. For the avoidance of doubt, an athlete may be a member of a Little Athletics Centre and a One Athletics Club or Senior Athletics Club.
- If an eligible athlete wishes to be a member of a second Club, they will be required to submit an online expression of interest form for validation and approval by staff.
- Athletes who choose to register with two Clubs will only be charged one (1) State-Level NSW Membership fee, however may be subject to two (2) Club fees depending on the policies of the respective Clubs (see below).
- Clubs may choose to charge a Club fee for athletes registering with a second Club should they wish. No additional state level fees will be charged by NSW Athletics.
- There are no regional or geographic boundaries applied to an athletes' first second Club, though there are some restrictions on athlete eligibility for Country Championships (see further information on website).

## Competition Rules – High Level

### NSW Track & Field Championships

- In all State Championships (including pathway events that directly qualify an athlete for the State Championships) an athlete will determine the Club they wish to compete for at point of entry. An athlete may only compete for one Club at each State Championships but may compete for a different Club across Championships where they are conducted across different weekends. In way of example, an athlete may compete for Club A at the NSW Junior Championships and Club B at the NSW 3000m Championships but cannot compete for Club A and Club B at the NSW Junior Championships.
- Where a progression pathway exists (athletes 8's-15's (U16) the point of entry will be defined as either:
  - **Entry to the Zone Championships:** If an athlete enters the Zone Championships, this will be defined as the point of entry. In this case, should an athlete qualify for either Regional and/or State Championships, they will continue to compete for the Club they entered at the Zone Championships.
  - **Direct entry to the State Championships:** Where an athlete does not enter and/or compete at the Zone or Regional Championships, their point of entry will be the State Championships. This is only relevant for an athlete who enters a State Championships event not offered at Zone or regional (e.g. Steeplechase, Pole Vault, Hammer Throw, Competition Pathway Hurdles, Competition Pathway Walks) and/or accepts a 'non-automatic qualifier' (next best 8) and has not entered and competed in a Zone or Regional Championships.

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For the avoidance of doubt, please note the following:

- An athlete that qualifies for the State Championships via the Zone and Regional progression pathway, but also wishes to enter an event at State Championships not offered at Zone or Regional Championships (e.g. Steeplechase, Pole Vault, Hammer Throw, Competition Pathway Hurdles, Competition Pathway Walks), the athlete must compete in all events at the State Championships for the Club they competed for at Zone/Regional Championships.
- Athletes in the 16's (U17) & 17's (U18) may compete in Zone/Regional Championships, however are not obligated to qualify for the State Championships. In this case, the point of entry will be the athlete direct entry to the State Championships. They may compete for a different Club at State Championships than Zone and Regional Championships.
- Athletes entering the Open, Masters, juniors 17's (U18-U20), Combined Events, NSW Distance Championships will define their Club at entry and may change their designated Club up until 15 minutes prior to the first event at the Championships.

## NSW Country Championships

- An athlete may choose to compete for either Club (as defined at point of entry), providing both Clubs are considered 'country Clubs' (are assigned to Region 1, 2, 3, or 4). An athlete may not compete for more than 1 Club at the Country Championships
- If an athlete is a member of a 'Country' Club (Region 1, 2, 3, or 4) and a Metropolitan Club (Region 5, 6, 7, or 8) they may only participate in the Country Championships if their residential address is within the geographic boundaries of Region 1, 2, 3, or 4 i.e they reside in a Country area. This is to ensure that the Country Championships are genuinely a Championship for country athletes.

## Treloar Shield

- Athletes may choose to compete for either Club at each round of the Treloar Shield. By way of example, an athlete may compete for Club A in Round 1 and Club B at Round 2, but cannot compete for both Club A and Club B in Round 1.
- Athletes will choose the Club they compete for at point of entry. The athlete may change their designated Club up until the end of the round (i.e. time of last event completion). The change must be completed by the athlete (and not a Club representative) via a form that will be available in administration.
- In the case of the Final, athletes may compete for either Club, but cannot compete for both, even in different age groups. To be eligible for the final, they must have competed in no less than 1 preliminary round for that Club.

## State Relays

- Athletes may choose to compete for both Clubs at the NSW State Relay Championships.
- While an athlete may compete for more than one Club, they are not permitted to compete for two different Clubs in the same event/age group.

## Winter Championships (Cross Country, Road Running, road walking)

- Athletes may choose to compete for either Club at each round of the Winter Series. By way of example, an athlete may compete for Club A at the NSW Cross Country and Club B at the NSW Short Course Cross Country, but cannot compete for Club A and Club B at the NSW Cross Country Championships.
- Athletes will choose the Club they compete for at point of entry. The athlete may change their designated Club up until race start and must comply with other rules such as uniform requirements. The change must be completed by the athlete and not a Club representative via a form that will be available in administration.

## **Expression of Interest Process**

- If an athlete wishes to be a member of a second Club, they are required to submit an online expression of interest:
  - <https://forms.monday.com/forms/c526636d1b4fd33067c76aeaec674779?r=use1>
- NSW Athletics staff will review the EOI and if approved, update the athlete's membership profile in RevSport and advise the athlete and second Club accordingly.