

Gloucestershire Schools Athletics Association

Information for staff and athletes looking to compete in the schools' athletics competitions.

1. An Athlete needs to be in full time education and attend a school within the county of Gloucestershire.
2. The age groups for ESAA competition are: under 15 (years 8 and 9), under 17 (years 10 and 11), under 19 (years 12 and 13). Note that these age groups apply to the athlete's date of birth and not their academic year.
3. Outdoor performances are considered from recognised athletics competitions, where a school sports day does not fall within this category.
4. The progression of rounds starts with the District Trials. There are 4 districts within the county, Cheltenham, Forest, Gloucester and South Cotswold.
5. Athletes are fortunate to have a competition structure to gain experience and perform at their best in their event(s) throughout the season which is set up purely by volunteers. Below is guidance to support staff and students alike.

Districts

6. Each district stages their District Trials, which is typically held in the week beginning 8th May. This competition is free of cost to the athlete.
7. Schools in each district are able to submit up to three athletes per event per age group who they feel have reached, within reason, the '**School**' standard – headed as '**1**' on the standards table. Athletes may be entered for up to three events at the District Trials.
8. At the District Trials, athletes compete in accordance with UKA rulers, in their event and age group. Athletes are allowed to compete in up to three events on the day of competition. Under 15 athletes are not permitted to compete in more than one endurance event, over 600m, in any one day. ie one 800m or 1500m in any one day, not both. There is no 3000m event for the under 15 age group.
9. Selectors in each district should look at their performances of all athletes in the district trials and the considerations submitted by schools for those athletes who were unable to compete at their district trials.
10. Three athletes per age group per event should be selected for the County Championships. Guidance for selection uses the '**District**' standard – headed as '**2**' on the standards table. An athlete is allowed to be selected in up to three events for the County Championships.

County Championships

11. At least two team managers from each district attend the county championships to manage their district team of athletes. Athletes compete at the County Championships under the rules of UKA competition and WADA. The County Championships is free of cost of entry to the athlete.
12. If athletes are unable to compete at the county championships, they should notify in writing to their district team managers, giving due reason if they are to be considered for the South West championships. The day after the County Championships, the team for the South West Championships is selected.

South West Championships

13. From the County Championships, athletes, when selected, can compete in up to two events at the South West Championships. The guidance for selection is the '**County**' standard - headed as '**3**' on the standards table.
14. The county can select up to 120 athlete events for the South West championships. This means a total of 120 individual athletes or, if an athlete competes in two events, that number is reduced to 119 and so on. The county select as many athletes as possible based on the county standard and above the district. There is a competition fee for each athlete selected for the south west championships.
15. Athletes that represent the county wear a county vest – gold with a vertical maroon stripe down the right side. The vest can be purchased directly from Gloucester Sports 01452 413525.

English Schools Championships

16. A maximum of 32 athletes can be selected to represent Gloucestershire in the National Championships in one event. Successful athletes are notified the day after the south west championships. The guidance for selection is the '**Entry**' standard – headed as '**4**' on the standards table.
17. Athletes travel and stay two nights as a team for the duration of the schools' championships. The county are under the rules and regulations of the ESAA which establishes the student as being part of a team on a school trip, where students are in loco parentis as with any other school excursion.
18. As with any school sporting trip, the health and conduct of athletes is paramount for the duration of the championships and is considered during selection at each stage alongside athlete performance in equal measure.