



UK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF BRITISH ATHLETICS

Youth Development League YDL – League website: <http://www.ukydl.co.uk>

This is a UK wide league with 5 regions; Scotland, North, Midlands / Wales and South and Northern Ireland.

This is a new league which has been formed from the old Young Athletes League and the National Junior League.

The league operates two competitions, one for Under 13's and Under 15's and one for Under 17's and Under 20's.

We compete in Midlands Premier League for both age groups which is some achievement. This involves clubs from as far North as Birmingham, right down to the South West and the whole of Wales! We are in Midlands Premier competing against Birchfield, Notts AC, Swansea, Cardiff and a composite team from Yate, Bath, Bristol & West & Mendip for both age groups.

Background

The culmination of each season's activities is the staging of the famous finals weekend, usually in Birmingham. This brings together the top teams from across the United Kingdom.

The League is supported by UK Athletics, the governing body of the sport.

The majority of current and past UK champions have competed in the old Young Athletes League, but it is essentially a contest between teams and many top athletes never made it through to the Finals weekend like many of our athletes have, proving that team spirit wins through!

From the outset, the League has provided opportunities right across the spectrum of events and the technical events in particular have benefited greatly from the structure.

Competition

There are 4 rounds of competition.

In the U1315 competition, two athletes compete in each event available for their age group – known as A and B athletes.

In the U1720 competition there are 3 competitors for each event, one of whom must be Under 17.

Points are scored as follows:

A 9,7,6,5,4,3

B 7,5,4,3,2,1

In the U1720 competitions there is an U20 A, U20B and U17A HOWEVER all competitors could be U17.

Athletes can compete as an U17 and U20 on the same day but not in the same event!

In 2013, the main finals at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham

IF we are one of the top 2 league point scorers in the division we will go through to the UK Finals in Birmingham on 7th and 8th September for what would be the fifth year in succession – an unbelievable achievement for the junior athletes at our club.

Selection

Selection initially will be based on known performances. Information from coaches will also be taken into consideration for this and all matches.

Transport & Times

We provide coaches to all YDL matches as it is proven this has improved our success. The cost of coaches this year is spiralling as you can imagine! The YDL is an all-day event so please put it in your diary, if you think you might be competing in this league.

Help

This year we will be putting together a helpers rota to make sure that it is not the same parents doing all the work. Our aim is that no-one works on field events or track judging all day unless they want to!