England Athletics Athlete Panel

Terms of Reference

The England Athletics Athlete Panel is an athlete representative committee under the responsibility of the Board and Senior Leadership Team of England Athletics. The England Athletics Athlete Panel will connect experienced current and former athletes with the Board and Senior Leadership Team of England Athletics.

Purpose

The purpose of the Panel shall be:

- To represent ‘the athlete voice’ for athlete members of England Athletics.
- To ensure that the athlete perspective is considered for England Athletics decisions affecting membership, participation, domestic competition, England national championships, international team representation and the talent pathway.
- To provide athlete feedback from England Athletics programmes and activities.
- To assist and recommend improvements to England Athletics programmes and activities.

Structure

The England Athletics Panel is comprised of no more than 11 members including:

- One representative from each of the event groups (7 in total):
  - Sprints & Hurdles
  - Endurance (track)
  - Endurance (off-track)
  - Throws
  - Jumps
  - Combined Events
  - Para-Athletics
- Two representatives who have competed at Commonwealth/Olympic/Paralympic Games
- One representative who is/has been selected on the England Youth/Junior/Senior Talent Programmes
- One Chair (a member of the Panel will be appointed as Chair with additional duties as required below). Where voting is required, if after the chair has voted, the voting is level; he/she may, exercise an additional casting vote to decide the issue.
Appointments

An open application process will be carried out to select the 11 members of the England Athletics Athlete Panel.

Members shall be selected based using the desired, but not essential, criteria below:

- A minimum of five years competing in the sport of athletics at any level
- Experience of training in a club environment
- Experience of competing in age-group, county, regional or national athletics leagues (track & field and/or cross country)
- Event discipline
- Competition performance level
- Geography
- Diversity

Members shall represent the England Athletics athlete membership and therefore:

- Must not be currently serving, or have served a ban from the sport
- There is no reason to believe the athlete would bring England Athletics or the sport into disrepute

Appointments to the Panel shall be for a period of up to two years. All members including the Chair may serve for a maximum of two consecutive terms (2 years x 2 terms), unless exceptionally agreed by the Board or Senior Leadership Team of England Athletics. All members including the Chair will be eligible for reappointment after a two-year break. All members including the Chair may resign, in agreement with the Board or Senior Leadership Team of England Athletics, at any point during the two-year term.

Responsibilities

The Panel will:

- Provide feedback on key decisions England Athletics intends to make which will directly affect its athlete members relating to membership, participation, domestic competition, England national championships, international team representation and the talent pathway
- Seek feedback from English athletes competing at all levels of the sport ensuring there is anonymity and confidentiality across all feedback processes
- Make recommendations and help influence changes which will positively affect competitive members of England Athletics
- Provide an observer for international team and talent programme selection meetings
- Report formally to the Board of England Athletics at least once a year
- Provide a direct communication channel between England Athletics and its athlete members
**Additional Responsibilities of the Chair**

The Panel Chair will:

- Have regular communication with the England Athletics Senior Leadership Team
- Provide regular updates to the Board of England Athletics
- Contribute to reviews and consultations as requested by England Athletics

**Meetings**

The group shall meet a minimum of four times a year online or in-person. Minutes of each meeting shall be produced and presented to the Board of England Athletics. To protect anonymity, sensitive information will be redacted prior to presentation of minutes to the Board.

Membership of the England Athletics Athlete Panel is voluntary. All members shall be entitled to claim travel expenses in line with the England Athletics volunteer expenses policy.