

## ENGLAND ATHLETICS BOARD & ENGLAND COUNCIL MEETING OUTCOMES

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025** via Teams

### **Present:**

#### Board Directors

Gary Shaughnessy, Board Chair (GS)  
Lorna Boothe, Member Elected Director (LB)  
Matthew Dalton, EC Director, Chair of England Council, RC Chair (East) (MD)  
Connie Henry, Independent Director (CH)  
Janyce Holmes, Independent Director (JH)  
Chris Jones, CEO (CJ)  
Helen Kendall, Independent Director (HK)

#### England Council

*Matthew Dalton (Board Director)*  
Paul D'Arcy, Regional Council Chair (South West) (PD)  
James de Vivenot, Regional Council Chair (South East) (JdV)  
Stuart Paul, Regional Council Chair (West Midlands) (SP)

#### In attendance

Sarah Benson, Talent & Performance Director (SB)  
Sam O'Shea, Board & NED Secretary (SO)

### **Apologies**

Gabriel Akin-Odujobi, Board Observer  
Tunji Akintokun, Senior Independent Director (AA)  
Jim Buckle, Independent Director  
Adrian Day, EC Director, Regional Council Chair (London) (AD)  
Marilyn Okoro, UKA representative Board Director  
Clive Poyner, Member Elected Director (CP)

Jon Clark, Regional Council Chair (North West)  
Lynn Cooper, Regional Council Chair (North East)  
Neil Dawson, RC Chair (East Midlands) (Vice Chair to attend in his place)  
Jen Granger, England Council Secretary  
Ian Martin, Regional Council Chair (Yorkshire & Humberside)  
Terry Timmis, Regional Council Vice Chair (East Midlands) (TT)

### **1. Welcome and apologies**

Apologies were noted.

### **2. Indoor Championships 2026**

- 2.1 GS explained that as some additional feedback had come to light recently, the Board requested England Council's view of the advantages and

disadvantages of bringing in the new age groups earlier (than the communicated date of 1<sup>st</sup> April) for the January Indoor Champs.

- 2.2 The paper was taken as read and SB summarised the background to the extensive consultation resulting in the recommendation to retain the U15 and U17 age groups for the 2026 Indoor Champs. MD added that the additional consultation and vote at England Council (after the whole council discussion in April) fed into the paper that came to the Board in May.
- 2.3 As noted by the Board in May, additional consultation has been carried out and the views were presented within the slides. The consultation group comprised a wide range of individuals, including athletes impacted by the age groups; EA Athlete Panel; officials; coaches; competition providers; the Technical Advisory Group; UKA Rules Chair; and relevant online systems. Based on feedback received, the recommendation remains, to retain the current U15 and U17 rules for 2026 indoors champs and work to implement the new age groups for outdoors for planned 1<sup>st</sup> April date.
- 2.4 A winter development plan is being developed, to support hurdlers and field event athletes. In addition, conversations are taking place with indoor competition providers to pilot time trial events which would simulate a competition environment. U18s hurdles indoor competitions could also be held based on World Athletics rules instead of UK's. In addition to more content being added to our existing e-comms, a comprehensive targeted comms plan has been developed for the winter period, for athletes, parents, coaches and officials to ensure that they are fully prepared for the change.

England Council members voted, and the majority vote was to retain the current U15 and U17 rules for the 2026 Indoors Championships.

**Resolved and Actions:**

- 1.) The Board approved the recommendation, to retain current U15 and U17 rules for 2026 indoors champs.**