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INTER-
NATIONAL

NOW:

- International level athletes are pulled in many directions, with unclear competition pathways and risks of over-competition

PROPOSED: Domestic competition structure should be structured to:

- Help international level athletes achieve qualifying standards
- Give a clear calendar at start of season to allow athlete / coach pair to plan together
- Receive continual challenge competition to ensure that they remain stretched
- Avoid over competition in the run-up to international competition
- Change UK age groups, to align them with the worldwide system – the age group deadline would be the 1st September for Under 14, Under 16. For Under 18 and Under 20 the age group deadline would be 31st December in line with IAAF rules.

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UK

NOW:

- There is too much competition for a limited number of athletes who are often forced to compete too frequently in events that sometimes conflict with each other.
- Developing athletes over-competing and becoming disenchanted
- Athlete Pathway is not seamless and appropriate
- Poor communication of opportunities

PROPOSED – three events each year:

- A UK-wide ability based championship in August
- UK schools games in late August/September – serving as Home Country Schools International
- A home country schools championship in July
- Common entry methods and publicity of opportunities through membership

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REGIONAL /
NATIONAL

NOW:

- In England, competition is largely non-existent at this level – athletes compete in county events and then move up to territorial / England / UK level - increased travel times and a variable level of quality
- Athlete Pathway is not seamless and appropriate
- Poor communication of opportunities

PROPOSED:

- Every athlete competing at Level 3 and above should understand the competition opportunities and how they link to his or her personal objectives.
- Regional/supra regional championships for young people in England would supersede territorial championships, territorial representative fixtures in their current format.
- Common entry methods and publicity of opportunities through membership

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SUB-REGIONAL

NOW:

- Disconnection between school and club competition – no clear pathway
- Meetings too long and travel too far – putting off athletes and parents
- Athletes competing for points for placings, sometimes in their wrong events
- Poor communication of opportunities

PROPOSED:

- Schools and county combining forces to deliver higher quality events and a single pathway
- A single National Age Group League structure serving U16s, U18s, U20s with revised delivery/scoring formats (below)
- Meeting lengths significantly reduced and evening open meetings encouraged
- Points should be based upon standards and placings achieved by athletes
- More event specific activity and increased use of relays within shorter formats

1

LOCAL

NOW:

- Huge cultural leap from Sportshall athletics to the serious world of 'real athletics'.
- Perception of a huge commitment – travel and meeting lengths
- Disconnection between school and club athletics – no clear pathway
- Athletes competing for points for placings, sometimes in their wrong events

PROPOSED:

- More open meetings in evenings and in short formats
- More event-specific competitions for athletes in the Under 16 and above category
- Greater partnership between schools and clubs in increased competition provision
- Points should be based upon standards and placings achieved by athletes
- Common entry methods and publicity of opportunities through membership
- A new team game for 12-14 year olds that combines sprint, jump, throw and endurance

Athlete progression

Fixture Planning