



Affiliation Policy

JULY 2026

1. Policy Statement

The **scottishathletics** Affiliation Policy (hereinafter referred to as “this Policy”) provides the framework, and sets out the process for clubs, associates, education establishments and event organisers to affiliate, and maintain affiliation, to **scottishathletics**.

2. Aims

Deliver a safe, equitable and clean sporting environment by:

- Ensuring minimum operating standards are established, met and maintained by all clubs, associates, education establishments and event organisers.
- Ensuring all member organisations contribute to the national strategy and adhere to the policies of **scottishathletics**.
- Providing consistency when reviewing any applications for membership.
- Protecting the interests of clubs, athletes, coaches, officials, individual members, staff and other stakeholders in the sport.

3. Scope

This policy applies to any member organisation of **scottishathletics** and sets out the application process for prospective member organisations.

4. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner in the event of relevant legislative changes or revisions to related policies or guidelines.

Any change to this policy must be approved by the Board. If the change impacts upon the articles this policy must also be approved by the AGM.

5. Categories of affiliation

As set out in the Articles of Association for **scottishathletics**, organisations can apply for membership in one of the following four categories.

- Club
- Associate
- Education (Universities, Colleges and Schools)
- Event organisers

By affiliating within any of these categories member organisations are agreeing to abide by the terms set out in this policy (see Appendix 1, category definitions).

6. Affiliation Procedure

6.1 Clubs

N.B. all University Athletics Clubs will follow the application process outlined in section 6.3.

New applicants

- i. To apply for membership organisations should first contact:
development@scottishathletics.org.uk.

- ii. The Development Team will support organisations wishing to affiliate to ensure the affiliation criteria is met prior to submission. The team will also discuss existing athletics provision within the area.
- iii. The Development Team will help in the preparation of the application for membership.
- iv. The completed application will then be submitted to the **scottishathletics** Board for consideration.
- v. After reviewing the application and supporting evidence the Board will then have four options:
 - a. Approve
 - b. Approve with conditions
 - c. Refuse
 - d. Request further discussion
- vi. Following the Board meeting the applicant will be informed of the outcome, and if successful, will be required to complete the affiliation process and submit the membership fee.
- vii. On receipt of the final affiliation information and membership fees the membership will be confirmed.

Existing members

- i. Each year, existing member clubs will receive a request to complete their affiliation return.
- ii. Annual affiliation returns must be completed and submitted to **scottishathletics** by the deadline set each year.
- iii. If during the year an affiliated organisation is not compliant, even temporarily, with any criteria set out within this policy, they should inform **scottishathletics** immediately.

Any member shall be deemed to have resigned if the appropriate subscription has not been paid within six months of the due date.

6.2 Associate

New applicants

- i. To apply for associate membership organisations should first contact *events@scottishathletics.org.uk* to discuss potential affiliation.
- ii. The Competitions Team will support organisations wishing to affiliate to ensure the affiliation criteria is met prior to submission.

Existing members

- i. Each year, associate members will receive a request to renew their membership.
- ii. Membership renewal returns should be submitted by the deadline with the appropriate fee.
- iii. If during the year an associate member is not compliant, even temporarily, with any criteria set out within this policy, they should inform **scottishathletics** immediately.

Any associate member shall be deemed to have resigned if the appropriate subscription has not been paid within six months of the due date.

6.3 Education

New applicants

- i. To apply for a schools (education) membership organisations should first contact development@scottishathletics.org.uk to discuss potential affiliation.
- ii. The Development Team will support organisations wishing to affiliate to ensure the affiliation criteria is met prior to submission.
- iii. The completed application will then be submitted to the **scottishathletics** Board for consideration.
- iv. After reviewing the application and supporting evidence the Board will then have four options:
 - a. Approve
 - b. Approve with conditions
 - c. Refuse
 - d. Request further discussion
- v. Following the Board meeting the applicant will be informed of the outcome, and if successful, will be required to complete the affiliation process and submit the membership fee.
- vi. On receipt of the final affiliation information and membership fees the membership will be confirmed.

Existing members

- i. Each year, affiliated schools will receive a membership renewal reminder from **scottishathletics**. They should complete the membership renewal and declaration form and make payment for their annual fee.

Any affiliated school shall be deemed to have resigned if the appropriate subscription has not been paid within six months of the due date.

6.4 Event Organiser

New applicants

- i. To apply for membership, organisations should complete the online membership form on the JustGo membership platform, sign the declaration on the online form, and submit their payment to **scottishathletics**.
- ii. Once the application has been received and the fee paid the event organiser can begin applying for event licences.
- iii. The process and relevant forms for obtaining an event licence can be found by clicking here [Licensing - Scottish Athletics](#)

Existing members

- i. Each year, event organisers will receive a membership renewal reminder. They should update their details and make payment for their annual fee prior to applying for any new event licenses.
- ii. Membership status will be checked by the **scottishathletics** Competitions Team prior to any licenses being granted.
- iii. All member organisations must provide the details of at least two named points of contact and ensure that these are kept up to date during the period of membership

Any member shall be deemed to have resigned on the expiration of their membership and will be unable to apply for event licenses.

7. Criteria for affiliation

Organisations applying for membership of **scottishathletics** must be able to demonstrate suitability to be a member of the governing body. All member organisations must maintain their affiliation status on an annual basis by providing information to show their compliance with the criteria set out within the appropriate category of membership.

7.1 Clubs

N.B. all University Athletics Clubs will follow the criteria for affiliation outlined in section 7.1.3.

Annually all member clubs must be able to meet and evidence, where requested, compliance with the following criteria. The Development Team will support all members, where required, to meet the criteria:

- a) Constitution or appropriate governing document for the management of the club/organisation. This should be compliant with the club/organisation's legal status, include an open and transparent membership process, and outline how monies are reinvested upon dissolution.
- b) A disciplinary policy
- c) A registered bank account in the name of the club/organisation and with a minimum of 2 signatories required.
- d) Board or Management Committee in place with all office bearer positions filled.
- e) Individual Board or Management Committee members should only hold one office bearing role at any one time.
- f) Adoption of the latest UKA and HCAF Codes of Conduct.
- g) Adoption of the latest UKA and HCAF Adult Safeguarding policy and the Safeguarding Regulations
- h) A requirement for all members to be given access to read and acknowledge all club policies and procedures including the UKA and HCAF Safeguarding policies, procedures and Codes of Conduct.
- i) An Equality Policy
- j) Conflict of interest policy
- j) Appointed Club Welfare Officer(s) who is a member of the PVG scheme* (or Self Declaration for Clubs who do not provide activities for U18 or protected adults) and has completed the relevant Child or Adult Welfare and Protection in Sport Training (updated every 3 years).
- k) Adopt and follow the **scottishathletics** Safer Recruitment Guidelines ensuring that anyone recruited is a suitable person for the role within the club: Safer Recruitment and Management of Volunteers in Athletic Clubs May 2024.pdf (scottishathletics.org.uk)
- l) All club delivering training sessions (social/recreational/competitive or otherwise) should be delivered by appropriately qualified, licensed leaders and coaches with the correct criminal record/ background check in place. Sessions should be appropriately risk assessed, with adherence to the relevant codes of practice and supervision ratios. Guidance can be found on our website: <https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/coaches/important-documents-and-guidance-for-coaches-and-leaders/>

It is recommended that the constitution and all Policies and Procedures are reviewed every three years to ensure that they keep up to date with the needs of the club.

7.1.1 Clubs Delivering Activity for Children Aged U18 or (exclusive Activity) for Protected Adults

- a) Where a club offers activity for children under the age of 18 or **(exclusive Activity) for protected adults**, in addition to j)-l) above, they must also:
 - adopt the latest UKA and HCAF Child Safeguarding policies and associated procedures;
 - have up to date PVG Scheme Suitability Decision Making and Disclosure/ PVG Club Point of Contact Registration forms in place for processing PVG applications;
 - Assess and progress, via **scottishathletics**, PVG Scheme Record checks for all individuals (licensed or otherwise) deemed to be in a Regulated Role (with children aged U18 or Protected Adults);
 - make sure that they have any additional relevant policies and processes in place.

Any club wishing to develop a junior section (U18's) or include specific activity for protected adults must first contact development@scottishathletics.org.uk.

*Legislation changes introduced on the 1st April 2025, mean that it is now a legal requirement for:

- anyone carrying out a regulated role to be a member of the PVG scheme (and linked to SA).
- organisations (clubs) offering a regulated role to ensure that the individual is a member of the PVG scheme (and linked to SA).

During the application phase, potential new member clubs will also be requested to:

- Outline the rationale for their application to be a member of **scottishathletics**.
- Provide clarification of athletics disciplines offered.
- Provide clarification on the age groups they will cater for in the club.
- Submit their club colours and vest design to **scottishathletics**. New clubs should ensure their vest does not clash with any other clubs prior to submission.

7.1.2 Associate Members

Associate members are responsible for all elements of the safe recruitment and deployment process associated with the delivery of any athletics activity, this includes ensuring PVG checks are in place for those in regulated roles.

Associate members should follow safe practice in the delivery of any/ all athletics activities. As such it is expected that, as a minimum, they will adopt the following best practice:

- a) Adoption of safer-recruitment practices and ensure all roles within the organisation are assessed against PVG Scheme requirements for regulated roles. Where necessary, individuals must become a PVG scheme members (or complete an update to existing membership), linking them to the Associate member organisation, and ensuring that anyone recruited to undertake regulated work is a suitable person for the role within the associate organisation.
- b) Where the organisation provides coaching or leading activity, all coaches and leaders should be appropriately qualified, licensed and (where relevant) PVG scheme members, linked to the Associate member organisation. PVG scheme membership should also be assessed for volunteer helper roles. Self-Declarations could be used for organisations who do not provide activities for U18 or protected adults.

During the application phase, potential new associate members will also be requested to:

- Outline the rationale for their application to be a member of athletics including, where appropriate, the types of competition they aim to provide and their relationship with local clubs.
- Provide clarification on their planned activities and the age groups they will cater for.

This should be read in conjunction with the table in appendix 1

7.1.3 Education members

School members are responsible for all elements of the safe recruitment and deployment process associated with the delivery of any athletics activity; this includes ensuring PVG checks are in place for those in regulated roles.

School members should follow safe practice in the delivery of any/ all athletics activities. As such it is expected that, as a minimum, they will adopt the following best practice:

- a) Adoption of safer-recruitment practices and ensure all roles within the organisation are assessed against PVG Scheme requirements for regulated roles. Where necessary, individuals must become a PVG scheme members (or complete an update to existing membership) linking them to the School member organisation.
- b) Where the organisation provides coaching or leading activity, all coaches and leaders should be appropriately qualified, licensed and (where relevant) PVG scheme members, linked to the school member organisation. PVG scheme membership should also be assessed for volunteer helper roles. Self-Declarations could be used for organisations who do not provide activities for U18 or protected adults.

During the application phase, potential new education members will also be requested to:

- Outline the rationale for their application to be a member of **scottishathletics**.
- Provide clarification on the age groups they will cater for.
- Submit their establishments colours and vest design (if applicable) to **scottishathletics**. New education members should ensure their vest does not clash with any other clubs or education establishments prior to submission.

7.1.4 Event Organisers

It is expected that event organisers will follow safe practice in the delivery of all events/ activities, this includes ensuring PVG checks are in place for those in regulated roles.

Further criteria must be met to obtain each event licence can be found here: [Organising an event - Scottish Athletics](#)

Corporate members should follow safe practice in the delivery of any/ all athletics activities. As such it is expected that, as a minimum, they will adopt the following best practice:

- a) Adoption of safer-recruitment practices and ensure all roles within the organisation are assessed against PVG Scheme requirements for regulated roles. Where necessary, individuals must become a PVG scheme members (or complete an update to existing membership) linking them to the corporate member organisation and ensuring that anyone recruited to undertake regulated work is a suitable person for the role within the corporate organisation.

- a) Further criteria must be met to obtain each event licence can be found here [Organising an event - Scottish Athletics](#)

8. Compliance

scottishathletics will support all member organisations to ensure they continue to comply with the affiliation criteria set.

To assist in maintaining compliance, the Development Team will on an annual basis randomly select 25% of member organisations to conduct a full review with. As part of this process the Development Team will support the member organisation to review and enhance existing policies and procedures and identify additional resources that should be implemented.

9. Jurisdiction and sanctions

As set out in **scottishathletics** Articles of Association, **scottishathletics** shall have jurisdiction over the club, associate, education or event organisers on any matter affecting athletics in Scotland.

Affiliation will be deemed complete on receipt of the completed affiliation form and payment. Note that if either the form is incomplete or nonpayment, clubs will not be entitled to vote at the **scottishathletics** AGM or be able to compete in **scottishathletics** events until the full process has been completed.

If at any stage **scottishathletics** becomes aware of a potential breach of affiliation requirements appropriate steps will be taken in line with section 7 of this policy.

If an affiliated organisation cannot exhibit the appropriate evidence to demonstrate compliance with affiliation requirements, appropriate action will be taken in line with the Articles of Association and disciplinary policy for partakers.

Appendix 1

When affiliating to **scottishathletics**, consider which category you will affiliate with:

- a) **Club:** Members are offered regular leader/ coach led training sessions and competition opportunities. May require race licences to host events. Support given to aid the development of the club. PVG applications processed via **scottishathletics**. Entitled to vote at the **scottishathletics** AGM.
- b) **Education:** This is for education establishments that are not operating as an athletics club, but who are looking to affiliate to **scottishathletics** to offer competition opportunities to pupils and students, including Championship events. Entitled to attend but not vote at the **scottishathletics** AGM.
- c) **Associate:** This category of membership is for any association or organisation that is not operating as an athletics club, but which is interested in the development of athletics in Scotland. Entitled to vote at the **scottishathletics** AGM.
- d) **Event Organisers:** This category of membership is for organisations concerned with staging and promoting Athletics Events.

Affiliation Framework:

The table indicates what is required by each category:

	Leader/ Coach led Sessions	Competition Opportunities for Members	Governance	Safeguarding Policies and Procedures	Licensed Coaches	Event Licence
Clubs	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓
Education		✓		✓*		
Associates				✓***		✓
Event Organisers				✓**		✓

*If an event targets U18's or Protected Adults, relevant PVG checks, and Safeguarding Policies and procedures should be in place: [Welfare - Scottish Athletics](#)

With regards to the membership categories outlined in this document, **scottishathletics will only process PVG checks for individuals within the affiliated club category.

***Education/ Associates: Where training sessions are being delivered, it is recommended that they are delivered by individuals with the relevant HCAF (formerly UKA) Leader/ Coach Licence. More information on qualifications can be found on our website:

<https://www.scottishathletics.org.uk/coaches/qualifications/>