

East of Scotland Club for British League

A new club is being set up to attempt to qualify for British Athletics League (BAL) – aimed at East/Central/North athletes. This will give athletes another tier of competition above Scottish level, encouraging athletes to stay in the sport – particularly after U20 age group when they may have experienced competition in the National Junior Athletic League (NJAL). This new club will be for track and field only.

The BAL has 5 divisions with 2 clubs demoted and 2 qualifying each year. The bottom division (National 4) has 6 teams – other divisions have 8 teams. There are 4 matches each summer. In 2010 the only competition would be the qualifying match - Abingdon 18 September.

Athletes will join the new club 1st claim but stay with their home club 2nd claim. They can therefore compete in Scottish League for their home club since Scottish League allows a club to have up to 12 2nd claim athletes competing in any season. CSSAL also allows 2nd claim athletes. Road and X country will not be affected since new club is only track and field – athletes will remain 1st claim with their home club for Road and X Country.

Athletes will need to commit to changing 1st claim status early enough so that their performances for this season can be used for a paper team to be submitted to the BAL – they then use this to select the teams who take part in the qualifying match. Scottish Athletics are willing to help smooth the transfer process for the athletes. To put together a paper team we need to know the athletes who are eligible and their performances this summer in Scottish League, NJAL and BAL (if competing as Higher Claim Athletes (HCAs) with another club).

UNDER 20s

Junior athletes who compete in NJAL will be looked at separately - any who are in their final year as an U20 this summer can switch 1st claim as soon as their NJAL season is over. Those who are still U20 next year will not be advised to switch their 1st claim as they cannot compete for Team Edinburgh/Forth Valley/Kingdom Athletic if they are only 2nd claim for their home club. If we start competing in the BAL we may consider using HCA status for top juniors but HCAs cannot be used in the qualifying match. We can however use any of our own 1st claim athletes in the qualifying match who may be HCA with another BAL club this season.

BAL are well aware of the above method which has already been used by Glasgow in 2009. The BAL are very keen to get another Scottish team into the league. All that BAL require is that they are able to confirm 1st claim status of athletes at the time of the competition.

The above will allow athletes to be eligible to compete in the BAL for a Scottish club but still compete for their home club in other competitions.

The attached form should be completed and returned if you are interested in competing for the new club. This is not a membership form and does not commit you to joining the new club. It will help us to decide if there is enough interest in this proposal and enable us to progress this forward and ensure we keep you informed about the progress.

Please complete and return as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



Paul Allan
(Kingdom Athletic
& Pitreavie Coach)



Keith Ridley
(Team Edinburgh
& Edinburgh AC)



John Dawson
(Team Forth Valley
& Central AC)

East of Scotland Club for British League

Name

Date of Birth Age Group.....

Address

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Tel

E-mail.....

Current 1st Claim Club

Events	PB (or current standard)
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2.
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3.
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4.
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Do you expect to be available for the qualifying match in Abingdon (Oxford) on 18 September 2010?

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If not available for the qualifying match are you interested in competing next year in the British League if the club qualifies?

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If you are still competing in the National Junior League in 2011 would you be interested in competing as an HCA (and still compete in Junior League)?

(NB – limited HCA places available and not at all for the qualifying)

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To be returned to:

Ally Love
Regional Development Manager - Grampian

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