

## BORDERS ROAD RUNNING LEAGUE

### Borders League Rules on Eligibility to Compete (Report to AGM 2008)

As previously agreed by the member clubs in the Borders Road Running League, eligible athletes who wish to compete in the Borders Road Running League races are those who are :

1. A First Claim member of a Borders League Club (*first claim in this context is eligible as per UK Athletics Rules for **TEAM** competition*).

**OR**

2. A **Second claim** member of a Borders League Club, where the athlete's first claim club is not a member of the Borders Road Running League.

In both cases, all participating athletes must be paid-up members of their club and current members of their national membership/registration scheme. Because clubs have different dates for renewal of membership, clubs are trusted that only athletes who are *bone fide* paid-up members for that year will compete.

The Borders League was set up to encourage inter-club team competition and for that reason does not allow first claim athletes who are waiting for clearance of first claim for team competition following transfer of club membership to compete in League races. The League does not allow "guest" runners.

#### **Club Transfer. (First Claim)**

In view of the problems which have arisen during the 2007/08 season we attempt to explain the transfer process for athletes from one club to another, in particular with respect to **TEAM** competition.

On the acceptance of an athlete's resignation by their former club, the athlete **MUST** register their first claim transfer to their new club by completing the standard form available from their club, or downloaded from the Welsh Athletics or the England Athletics web sites. This form requires signatures by officers of both the former and new clubs, particularly if the transfer notification includes a request to reduce the normal 6 months ban from team competition for their new club. The completed form plus a fee (currently £10) must be sent by the athlete to either Welsh Athletics (if the new club is in Wales) or Athletics Services at Solihull (if the new club is in England). The transfer period does not start until the correctly completed form is received by the national body. The maximum ban from TEAM competition is 6 months, but in most cases applications for a reduction seem to be granted. A club should deal with a resignation letter within a month of receipt and can only refuse to accept the resignation if that athlete is in debt to the club. It is not acceptable for an athlete to do nothing and expect to be able to compete for their new club 6 months after resigning from their former club.

This we hope gives a correct summary of the rather detailed and complex Rules 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the UK Athletics Rules for Competition (2008). It has been shown to representatives of both Welsh and England Athletics for comment.

During the past season we have had a number of club changes by athletes, 3 of which caused problems and others which followed the correct procedures. These included second claim members and the process evolved for those to remain consistent with the first claim requirements was as follows :

1. If a second claim athlete resigns from their first claim club to join their second claim Borders League Club first claim, they will be subject to the transfer process described above and any ban which might result. (*We suggest they transfer after the last Borders race of the season as they then should be clear by the first or second race of the next season*).
2. If a first claim athlete resigns from their Borders League club and joins another club first claim which is not in the League, then provided their former club allows the situation, that athlete can continue to compete but as a second claim member of their former club without any ban.

Borders League clubs are reminded that they are responsible for ensuring that all competing athletes are eligible to compete in League races as outlined above. This will prevent recurrence of the difficulties that have occurred during the past season requiring the rescoring of races. This is extremely time-consuming and places unnecessary additional burden on the officers of the Borders League who carry out these invaluable duties on a voluntary basis. If clubs fail to apply these rules we may either lose the good will and services of those officers without whom the BL will not function, or be required to ask at the next AGM to set a scale of penalties against clubs who fail in this responsibility.

Rob Mackey (Chairman) and John Driscoll (Secretary)  
June 2008