

## USE OF COMBINED EVENTS SCORING TABLES

This guidance document has been updated to reflect the changes made to UK Athletics Rules effective 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, following the implementation of the “under even” age groups.

The current Combined Events scoring tables, which are referred to in Technical Rule 39.11 may be located via the World Athletics (WA) website at <https://www.worldathletics.org/about-iaaf/documents/technical-information/>. As is explained there, the points scores in those tables (essentially dating back to 1984: the preamble gives an interesting history of the evolution and theory behind the scoring systems) are calculated for each event by using common formulae published by WA / IAAF:

- Track Events: Points =  $a \times (b - T)^c$  where T is Time in seconds
- Field events: Points =  $a \times (M - b)^c$  where M is Measurement in centimetres (jumps) or metres (throws)

Note that the position of “b” in the formula is different between track and field, as in track events, a lower time will give higher points, while in field events, a higher height/distance will give higher points.

As an alternative to looking up points scores from the tables (either manually or using a LOOKUP formula – *note that if using a VLOOKUP function in Excel, care needs to be taken as the published tables do not show all possible times/heights / distances, only those where the rounded down score changes*), results systems can be designed using the abovementioned polynomial equation, so there are effectively three ways determine the points.

- Manual look-up from tables;
- System-based (e.g. Excel) look-up from tables;
- Calculation using a formula.

The formula-based approach is proving to be increasingly popular for those designing results systems for Combined Events competitions.

The values for a, b and c in the formula are constants, published by WA as above, which are specific to each event and differ for Men’s and Women’s events (outdoors and indoors), representing:

**a is a scaling factor**, i.e. the event constant: for track events, the shorter the race / likely Time in seconds and for field the lower the likely height/distance Measurement (Jumps in centimetres, Throws in metres), the higher the value that “a” will need to be (with an underlying objective that performances of equivalent quality in different events will produce a broadly similar points score, e.g. an excellent performance at international level will produce a score of around 1,000 points);

**b is performance scoring zero points**. i.e. the maximum time / minimum height or distance at which a point will be scored (e.g. the time it is estimated to take to walk 100m);

**c determines the curvature of the function**. i.e. the exponent: this will be a value between 1 and 2, a deliberate attempt by WA to ensure that relationship between performance and Points scores in any one event is not a straight line but a parabolic curve, so that a specific improvement in time or distance at a high level should be more highly rewarded than the same improvement at a low level (referred to as a “progressive” system).

In the case of Combined Events competitions under UKA Rules for **Age Groups younger than World Athletics Age Groups** (i.e. U16 and U14, with guidance also given for events involving athletes younger than 12 years old), dealt with in Rule T39 S1 UKA Supplement and T53 S1 UKA Supplement, the scores for the majority of events (those which are also included in the Men's Decathlon or Indoor Heptathlon and the Women's Heptathlon, Decathlon or Indoor Pentathlon) can simply be found from the WA tables, or by using the same WA formula and the same values for a, b and c.

However, for these younger age groups, the WA information does not deal with sprint hurdles events (both Boys and Girls), the Girls' 150m, the Girls' 600m, the Boys' 800m, or the Boys' 1000m (hereinafter referred to as "*non-WA events*"). As part of the introduction of new Age Groups within UKA Rules, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026, the values for a, b and c required for non-WA events have been reviewed and updated and are now included within the UKA Rules for Competition – see Rule T39 S1 (5). One aspect of this update was to bring Girls' hurdles events (which had previously been based on IAAF tables from the 1970s) onto the same basis and formula as the other events.

Scoring tables for those events at U16 and U14 age groups (and reflecting the HCAF-determined parameters for athletes younger than 12) have also been updated, and are downloadable (along with instructions for use) via the English Schools AA (ESAA) website, as a PDF at <https://esaa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Combined-Events-Score-Tables-17th-January-2026.pdf> (or click on <https://esaa.org.uk/competitions/combined-events/> and follow the links). Earlier versions of those were originally put together by a group of ESAA officials for the ESAA Championships held at Sheffield in 1992 and have since then been used as the standard at these age groups for both schools and non-schools competitions (their use for the latter was formally confirmed by the Technical Advisory Group of UK Athletics).

For **Masters' Combined Events** please refer to the British Masters Athletic Federation website at <http://bmaf.org.uk/laws-and-rules/> where there are links provided to the WMA Scoring Tables for each age group and to Appendix B of WMA Rules at <https://world-masters-athletics.com/documents/competition-rules/> which deals with the Scoring of WMA Combined Events Competitions and explains the use of Age Factors.

UK Athletics Rules Advisory Group  
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