

AC Summary for UKAMC

June 2018

UKAAC Aims, Values and Mission Statement

"Striving to promote a healthy and productive relationship between the athletes we represent and our National Governing Body"

As a commission our aim is to optimise communication between the athletes we represent and the governing body with the ultimate aim of creating the best possible environment for athletes to thrive. We want to ensure that the voice and viewpoints of the athlete are kept at the very heart of the sport and are both heard and understood at all levels across UK Athletics and British Athletics.

As a commission we will strive to promote a culture of integrity, honesty, transparency and fairness; values that we believe are vital for a trusting, healthy and productive relationship between the athletes we represent and our National Governing Body.

We intend to create an effective working relationship with the governing body in order to maximise the perspective and expertise of our athletes so that informed decisions can be made and to provide our athletes with a comprehensive understanding of the rationale behind the programmes and strategies operated by UK Athletics and British Athletics.

Selections

We had Richard Yates attend the selection meeting (SM) for the World Indoors, well received and considered a positive addition to the process.

Concerns raised by Richard following the meeting were:

- Lack of female representation in the meeting.
- Queried formality of conflict of interest declarations

We have representation at the upcoming WPA European and European Athletics Championships SM.

Regarding the British Championships and European Trials we have been working with the performance team to ensure optimum communication and planning ahead of the, relatively new, mandatory competition criteria. We have tried to anticipate any complications that might arise such as:

- Assessing the validity of withdrawals.
- Ensuring communication to athletes is consistent across BA staff.

- Complications arising from athletes wanting to double at the championships.

The Athletes' Commission fully supports the addition of mandatory competition obligation.

We have also been working with the performance team to create a resource for athletes to improve knowledge surrounding appeals – this will be shared with athletes before the SM on July 23rd.

Athlete Alumni Network

Athlete transition is a hot topic, we feel we could develop something effective within athletics. The market is quite saturated but lacks "family feel" and we are behind other sports like rugby, and rowing.

Productive Discussions at AC meeting involving UKA board member Penny Avis and BA/EIS Lifestyle team led to progress in making decisions moving forwards:

- A closed Linked In group looks like the simplest and most effective platform to link athletes with businesses and opportunities.
- We will target ex-athletes for work experience /internship, more likely to naturally grow relationships with working ex-athletes.
- In the first year we will probably have to limit to Olympians/Paralympians, will then look to scale up.
- We will gain perspective on the holes in athlete qualifications with this first group and have a better perspective of meaningful CPD current athletes could do. (These could be facilitated though EIS)
- We have linked with Jason Sinclair at University of Buckingham, vast experience with providing flexible programs and micro internships to professional sports people.
- UKSport is keen to support schemes that address issues raised in reports such as the Culture Heath Check and Duty of Care (Grey-Thomson), this may fall into this category and result in financial/manpower support.

UKA Board Meeting

Chair attended part of UKA Board meeting in May. Good to be introduced to board members and inform them about the AC. Discussions were focussed on 3 main topics:

- Athlete Alumni Network – lots of useful thoughts and advice from board members with vast business and athletics knowledge.
- Developing an effective mechanism for getting meaningful and productive athlete feedback on staff.
- Whether there could be more domestic opportunities for British athletes at the televised events.

AC engagement with athletes

Working with BA branding team to develop info graphics and eye-catching resources to help us communicate optimally, we think these will be effect over twitter and help keep the athletics community informed of AC activities.

Working with BA Social Media

Met with BA social media team and helped them develop a questionnaire to collect up to date opinions and ideas from current Program athletes. BA keen to engage with athletes and see great value in taking on board the ideas of the athletes, hopefully this will create a productive and fun working relationship for the social media team and the athletes.

Duty of Care Steering Group

Chair invited to represent the AC in the duty of care steering group, attended meeting in May and will attend quarterly meetings. Great to have an insight into the progress being made in this area and to have the chance to provide an athletes' perspective.

Culture Health Check Action Plan

Action plan developed in response to CHC report. The performance team has reached out to AC to assist initially in two of the main focusses – Mental Health, Para classifications and Feedback, more specifically the ability to feedback without fear of consequences and feeling feedback is considered. The feedback topic sits well with the desire of the AC to develop pathways for athletes to provide feedback on staff.