

2020 Blyth Running Club Relays Selection Policy, including Diamond League & NEYDL specific implications.

We are producing this policy in light of the opportunity for Blyth Running Club's junior relay teams (U13+) to aim to qualify for the club:connect relays at the IAAF Diamond League event at Gateshead in August. Additionally, the increase in participation in our younger age groups is likely to result in increased demand for relay places particularly in U13 age group.

What are the Club: Connect relays?

This is a UKA initiative which allows clubs to take part in 4x100 relays alongside the world's best athletes at the IAAF Diamond League event in Gateshead. There are races for U13, U15, U17 & U20 age groups, with 8 teams in each race. Club's need to register their interest, and then selection is based on the 8 fastest times from power of 10 rankings. Traditionally, larger established clubs feature at this event, however last year our U13 girls team not only qualified for the event at Birmingham, but finished in 2nd place against the biggest clubs in the UK.

Selection policy for the Club: Connect relays

Just to be considered for selection we will have to run a qualifying time. Please be aware that the standards required to qualify will be extremely challenging. The only opportunities to gain qualifying times are at the Spring Track Relays (in May), at York Open meets, and at the NEYDL events. UKA will announce the teams that have qualified in late July. We should be able to run multiple teams at the events if demand is there. We intend to have a squad of up to 5 athletes. 4 on the team, 1 reserve. Selection criteria as follows:

- Based on best AAA standard achieved in 60m, 75m, 100m, 150m or 200m since 1st November 2019
- In the event of athletes achieving same grade, will be based on the margin that they have achieved that grading by. If athletes have not achieved a grading, will be based on how close their best PB is to an AAA standard.
- In the event of their being relay spaces available and insufficient athletes having set a performance over a sprint distance, then coaches will use discretion and best judgment to select teams, based on performance in other disciplines and regularity of training/competition.

This policy will define which teams compete at the Spring Track Relays and also NEYDL events and will then be used to decide the final teams which shall be decided on **31st May 2020**. As the season progresses and athletes set new PB's, the teams may therefore change up until the deadline. In the relays running up to the deadline we will endeavor to run the current fastest team wherever possible with the aim of achieving qualification times.

Other things to consider – Due to the unavoidable timetable clashes with the U13 girls relay & high jump at the NEYDL meetings, team manager may specify that an athlete may NOT participate in both the relay and high jump at NEYDL meetings. This only applies to U13 girls.

Training sessions will be offered where can work on changeovers and leg-order. The coaching team will make final decisions on leg order.

Important links:

Power of 10 - <https://www.thepowerof10.info/>

AAA Standards - <https://d22mrp1h7meci.cloudfront.net/2018/10/AAA-Standards-for-2017-2018.pdf>

Club Connect Relays - <https://www.uka.org.uk/competitions/british-athletics-club-connect/clubconnect-selection-policy/>