

AGE GROUP ALIGNMENT CHANGE SUMMARY COMMENCING SEASON 2018-19

Little Athletics age groups have traditionally been based upon the summer season with age group registration commencing from 1st October till 30th September each year.

In 2018-19 the anniversary date for athlete age groups will be aligned to year of birth. This change is being implemented by every Little Athletics State Organisation in line with Little Athletics Australia.

The following diagram summarises the age group transition to occur in 2018/19. Any year/month of birth affected by the change has a note attached to it that is explained below.

As you will see every effort has been made to ensure representational opportunities remain available to athletes. Athlete service awards will be flexible to account for the age group alignment.

2018/19 Season – Age Groupings

Age	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
U17										2001 Note 1	2001 Note 1	2001 Note 1
U17	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002	2002
U16	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003	2003 Note 3	2003 Note 3	2003 Note 3
U15	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3	2004 Note 3
U14	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 4	2005 Note 2 Note 4	2005 Note 2 Note 4	2005 Note 2 Note 4
U13	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2	2006 Note 2
U12	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007	2007
U11	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008	2008
U10	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009
U9	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010	2010
U8	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011	2011
U7	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012
U6	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013



U17 Registration

In 2018-19 the U17 age group registration will include athletes from a 15-month age grouping to allow all athletes affected by the age group alignment changes to complete their final year at Little Athletics.

Note 1: Athletes born from Oct – Dec 2001 will be included in the U17 age group.

Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC)

Team based event for U13 athletes to be held in April 2019 in Hobart.

Note 2: These athletes will be eligible for selection to the WA State Team for the Australian Little Athletics Championships (ALAC's).

- For 2018-19 only, the State Team will increase size from 26 athletes to 32 athletes to provide additional opportunities for all athletes, taking into account the age group alignment.
- For 2018-19 only, three athletes per event will be selected, rather than 2 athletes per event.
- All athletes selected will compete using U13 event specifications. These differ as detailed below;
 - Note A: **U13G Discus is 750g**, U14G Discus is 1kg.
 - Note B: **U13B Hurdles is 80m**, U14B Hurdles is 90m
 - Note C: **Hurdle height for U13 200m Hurdles for is 68cm**, and is 76cm for U14 200m Hurdles.
- For WA, athletes must nominate their availability for team selection, prior to State Championships each season.
- All nominated athletes in the Note 2 age group will be considered for selection based on performance.

Multi Event Championships (MEC)

Team event for U15 athletes held concurrently with ALACs. Will be held in April 2019 in Hobart.

Note 3: These athletes will be eligible for selection to the WA State Team for the Multi Event Championships (MEC).

- For 2018-19 only, the State Team will increase size from 3 boys and 3 girls, to 4 boys and 4 girls, to provide additional opportunities for all athletes, taking into account the age group alignment.
- All athletes selected will compete with U15 event specifications.
- For WA, athletes must nominate their availability for team selection, prior to Combined Event Championships each season.
- All nominated athletes in the Note 3 age group will be considered for selection based on performance.



National U15 Camp 2019

This is a camp hosted by Little Athletics Australia where the highest performing athletes across Australia are selected for a training camp. The training camp will be held at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra in Sep/Oct 2019. Selection is performance based and is co-ordinated by Little Athletics Australia.

Note 3: These athletes will be eligible for selection to the National Camp held at the AIS in 2019.

- Qualifying standards will be amended where there are differences in specifications where athletes are affected by the age group transition.
- The number of camp attendees will be increased by 25% in 2019 to provide additional opportunities for all athletes, taking into account the age group alignment

U14 & U15 International Trip to Malaysia or Singapore

Little Athletics WA offers a unique opportunity for State medal winners to qualify for the State Team travelling to Malaysia or Singapore (rotational destinations) to compete in a competition against the best junior athletes from Malaysia and Singapore. In 2019 this will be to Malaysia, with the 2020 trip going to Singapore.

Note 3 & 4: These athletes will be eligible for selection to the International Trip to Malaysia in 2019

- Qualifying standards will be top 3 three in each event at the State Track and Field Championships and Combined Events Championships plus the Country Championships age group champion.
- Any athletes selected for the team born in October to December 2003 will compete in the international team as an U15 using equipment specifications as determined by the local organising committee.
- For the 2019/20 season the athletes born Oct to Dec 2004 will be eligible to compete as U15 using event equipment specification as determined by the local organising committee. This additional opportunity is provided to compensate for missing the eligibility to compete as an U14 in 2018/19.

Awards and Recognition

Athlete of the year – this award is open to all U15's. For the 2018/19 season this will include all athletes covered in **Note 3**.

Doug Hancy Award – this award is open to all athletes in the U15 – U17 age groups and for the 2018/19 season will include the athletes born in Oct, Nov, Dec 2001.

Athlete Service Awards – athletes in **Note 1** will be included in the consideration for athlete service awards for the 2018/19 season.

Please also note that in subsequent years athlete service awards will still be recognised for those who skipped an age group, if an athlete can demonstrate no break in their service. The full criteria of each award can be found in the Awards and Recognition Policy on the LAWA web site.

