
Letter to Parents

• 24 October 2012

Dear Parents

As we are settling into the Athletics season, the committee would like to address a few issues to enable a more efficient Saturday competition.

The Club has been inundated with registrations this season and unfortunately, we have had to turn away many disappointed families.

Registrations have doubled over the last 2 years and the involvement of every parent is required to enable Saturday competition to operate effectively. Please be aware that no child can be 'dropped off' to compete.

We appreciate some families have 2 or more children and may only be able to help with one group. The fee structure at Balmain is built around involvement from ALL participating families. There are only 14 committee members, some of whom act as age managers, so parental involvement is vital.



EVERY parent needs to read the Event Information Sheets at <http://eladnsw17.wichit.com.au>

They give clear and brief instructions on how to run events, particularly the measuring of field events.

Parents must assist with set up and pack up. An early set up will allow events to get underway on time.

Each age group now has one (and in instances, two or three) age managers. All age managers are parent volunteers who need the support of the other parents.

From this Saturday, to help relieve the current situation, the following procedures will be implemented:

1. parents are to sign in with their child's respective age manager and let them know which age group they will be assisting.
2. There will be a club warm up prior to competition each Saturday consisting of a lap around the oval. Parents can sign in with their age managers at this time.
3. Events MUST run in the order set out in the Programme of Events. Age managers have a copy in their folder, there is also a copy on the noticeboard and on our website at 'Weekly Programme'.
4. U6-U10 field events, including high jump, should consider TWO attempts only.
5. U6 long jump MUST jump from the grass side into the sand NOT the synthetic track.
6. U7 long jump SHOULD jump from the grass side into the sand.
7. 2 grass long jump run ups on either side can be accommodated, ie. 4 additional run ups. A take-off (rectangle of sand) needs to be laid.
8. U11-U12 triple jump and U6-U12 long jump also take off from sand. A parent needs to set this up.
9. Time places NOT lanes. Age managers should record results by place NOT lane. First place MUST have best time recorded, Second place, next best time, etc to ensure points are allocated correctly.
10. Groups MUST ensure sprint events are held at the correct track. Delays are being caused by groups going to incorrect tracks. Track numbers are listed on the programme and a map is on the back.
11. In the event of a dispute or a query, locate a committee member dressed in an orange club shirt.

And finally, please be patient. Athletics, by its nature involves an amount of 'waiting around'. During these slow periods we suggest parents organise an additional 'warm up' or games with the children to keep them busy.

The age managers are doing a fabulous job with such large groups and their efforts are to be commended. To assist, the Club will be holding a 1 hour session this Sunday at the oval from 9am for all parents and age managers who would like to learn more about the running and setting up of the events.

Suggestions from parents that may further improve the running of Saturday mornings are welcome. Please email balmainlittleathletics@hotmail.com.

Many thanks,

Balmain Little Athletics Committee