

## Supporting the athletes – providing improved competition in the more specialised events

### Background and context to the meeting

We all recognise that some events (e.g. hurdles, triple jump) have very few competitors in a standard MCAA T&F League match. To provide more competitive fields in these events we will draw together athletes from all divisions into an extra match. The selected events will also remain in the other four standard league matches. The league AGM agreed to this innovation and so we have a fifth round for the league – one in which we promote a single pan-division match to cover selected events. The other four rounds of matches will proceed as per usual with, to re-iterate, their standard full timetables.

**This document provides a summary of how this match will operate.**

The same information is contained in the MCAA T&F League rules and constitution 2026 – but is drawn together here for convenience.

1) **Date:** Sunday 21 June 2026.

2) **Venue:** Birmingham University (as of 3/3/26, likely to be manually timed).

3) **Match format:**

- a. This is a **scoring match and league points will be awarded** – these will add to the divisional league tables and standings.
- b. There will be nine **scoring events** for both men and women. The scoring events are: **Sprint Hurdles, 400H, 3k Steeplechase, 400m, 3k race walk, PV, TJ, HJ, HT.** There will also be non-scoring 100m races and non-scoring Shot Putt events.
- c. Races and field event pools will be seeded based on Power of Ten performances from either of the two previous seasons.
- d. Teams can enter
  - i. two athletes in all scoring events (effectively A and B string – giving 16 entries).
  - ii. For each sex (i.e. same for men and women) a club can also enter a single additional C string athlete into ONE of the track events and another single C string athlete into ONE of the field events. This means at maximum a club can enter two men and two women C strings spread across track and the field. Clubs choose the events into which they will, if the club wishes to, enter their C strings. As all events are on a “time/distance trial” basis a club’s highest performance in each event will of course be counted as A string, second highest performance B string etc..
  - iii. Any number of ambulant or wheelchair para-athletes into events recognised by the IPC, with the highest placing para-athlete per club per event scoring.

4) **Match scoring:**

- a. From the seeded heats, jump/throw pools, results will be drawn together on a "time trial"/"distance trial" basis into the separate league divisions. These are then scored as per a standard league match. This will be done in the results programme – it will have no effect on the running of the races or field events
- b. For the HT events we have a large number of declarations. For 2026 we will therefore invoke the league rules designed to protect the timetable:
  - i. Standards are div 1: 40m for men and 38m for women. ALL athletes who equal or exceed the standard get three extra throws.
  - ii. No points, and probably no recording, for throws less than 18m (men) or 16m (women). Sector marks at 17.5m (men) and 15.5 m (women) will be used and marks at or below these will very likely not be measured.

- c. Given that we only have around half the usual individual events (8 vice 17) the league points are half the usual. Thus for a 6 team division the league points available are: 3, 2.5, 2, 1.5, 1, 0.5.
- 5) **Declarations:**
- a. Clubs are asked to **provide their initial team declarations a week in advance** (by midnight on 14 June) so that we may finalise the timetable. As per usual rules, teams are allowed to update these declarations right up to the event taking place – but please do not take this as a chance to send in unrealistic team declarations – we want to give athletes a reliable timetable. (See also 8b below re. guest 100m races.)
  - b. Clubs are also **asked to provide officials' numbers, and their levels**, by midnight on 14 June. Names and EA numbers are not required at this point.
- 6) **Draft timetable** can be found linked from the [MCAA T&F League webpage](#).
- 7) **Officials**
- a. **Clubs will score points for officials** – up to three officials. Clubs are asked to provide two field officials and either a TK or a TJ (clubs can do more if they want). You get 5 points for each qualified official, or 2.5 points if not qualified, but NO penalty points if you don't have officials.
  - b. The league committee will arrange the “chiefs” and build TK, TJ, FJ teams based on the officials declared by the clubs.
  - c. We will offer the match as a chance for new officials (i.e. in training) to gain mentoring and a practical experience day.
- 8) **Guest 100m races and guest shot putt.**
- a. Based on our 2023-2025 experiences we estimate the scoring track events will last around 4.25 hours. The long throw (HT) is expected to last longer (multiple pools, men and women).
  - b. We therefore invite clubs to enter athletes in guest 100m races.
  - c. We recognise that most athletes have some option for a second event (both hurdles, sprint hurdle and 100m guest race, PV and sprint etc.) but possibly not hammer throwers. We have therefore added a non-scoring shot putt event as an option for athletes.
- 9) **Bid Numbers** will be provided at the venue on 21 June.
- 10) The League Chairman and League Secretary and BRAT will lead the match organisation **supported by the league management committee.**