

Proposal to hold the Athletics NZ Inter-Club Cross Country Mixed Relay Championship

The Athletics NZ competition team has proposed that Athletics NZ hold an annual Inter-Club Cross Country Mixed Relay Championship for all age groups who are eligible. The teams would be comprised of two males and two females.

Introduction:

At the recent Athletics NZ Cross Country championships held in Taupo in July 2022, a pilot cross country mixed relay race was conducted for clubs on the Sunday. The teams comprised of two men and two women and run over 2km each. This was hugely successful and was well received by the majority of athletes, coaches, officials and supporters.

There are three main reasons supporting this proposal.

Firstly, The World Athletics Cross Country Mixed Relay championship is now a world competition over 4 x 2km with two men and two women comprising the make-up of the team and conducted by our international body.

Therefore, any Athletics NZ Championship would offer further opportunities for our elite athletes to attend and to be considered for a world championship event. We would as an organisation be consistent with World Athletics, and it would also be helpful in athlete selection.

Secondly, it is anticipated that the addition of an annual cross country mixed relay as an Athletics NZ championship for clubs will encourage more of our club middle to distance athletes of all ages to consider this event. We would envisage that more club athletes would attend this championship over time due to the distance of the event and held on the same weekend of our Athletics NZ Cross Country championship. We also believe that in the future, it would encourage clubs/regions to consider hosting a national championship much like Leith Harriers and Port Hills Athletic Club have done in hosting and conducting the Athletics NZ Trail championships and enjoy the benefits from it.

Thirdly, it has been identified that it would be easy to add the cross country mixed relay championship on the Sunday alongside an existing event namely the Athletics NZ Cross Country Championships which are held on a Saturday.

It is proposed that Para sections be available as appropriate, and that Inter-Club Cross Country Mixed Relay Championships be held in each grade.

Proposed Regulation Change:

REGULATION C17 – Inter-Club Mixed Cross Country Relay Championships

This REGULATION shall be read in conjunction with REGULATION C3 - NZ CHAMPIONSHIPS - GENERAL.

C17.1 - EVENTS

1. Annual Inter-Club Mixed Cross Country Relay Championships shall be held under the auspices of Athletics NZ when the championship events shall be contested for:
 - Senior Men and Women;
 - Masters Men and Women (35+, 50+ and 65+ age groups);
 - Under 20 Men and Women;
 - Under 18 Men and Women;
 - Under 16 Men and Women,
 - Under 14 Boys and Girls,
 - Grades for Para athletes, as appropriate.
2. Each event will be held over a distance of 8km (consisting of 4 laps of 2km), each team comprising two male and two female athletes.
3. The distance of the race shall be subject to tolerance of plus or minus 3% providing that the actual distance shall be notified as requested by Regulation C3.1.2.
4. The course shall be over true cross country and in general terms comply with Athletics NZ Competition Rule STR56.
5. Competitors should compete in their Club uniform. (Refer Regulation C3.3.).

C17.2 – CHAMPIONSHIP MEDALS

1. Members of the first three (3) placed teams in each Inter-Club event shall each receive a Championship medal of approved design as set out in Regulation C3.10.

NOTE: For combining with an Authorised Competition refer Regulation C3.6

Comment:

This proposal is now posted for the required 50-day consultation period before any recommendations for adoption go to the Board.

Rod Syme, John McBrearty, Don Mackenzie and Andrew Orme, Rules Committee