

HOW DOES SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS IN DEVON WORK ?

Devon Schools' AA have their own website <https://www.devonschoolsathletics.org>

English Schools' AA have their own website <https://esaa.org.uk/>

In the first instance it is up to your PE teacher to identify athletic talent running, jumping, throwing. As all the competitions listed below are School based, entries must come via Schools and Area School Association representatives. Coaches and athletic clubs may recommend athletes but they cannot enter directly.

So PE TEACHERS are encouraged to offer the pathway outlined below to talented pupils.

How do the AGE GROUPS work? They are DIFFERENT to other school sports because the AGE DEADLINE is set at the end of the school year, 31 August midnight. (So an Under 12 rugby/soccer/netball player is an Under 13 athlete) BUT we also use YEAR GROUPS to assist clarity.

Athletics Age Groups:

Year 7 (Minors)

Year 8 (Minors & Junior) - they can compete at both levels

JUNIOR - Years 8 & 9

INTERMEDIATE - Years 10 & 11

SENIOR - Years 12 & 13

A pupil, representing their school, should firstly be entered into their District championships.

There are FOUR GEOGRAPHICALLY ORGANISED DISTRICTS to cover all areas of Devon:

EAST DEVON (Schools in Tiverton, Okehampton, Exeter, Honiton, Sidmouth areas)

NORTH DEVON (Schools in Barnstaple, Bideford, Ilfracombe, Braunton, South Molton, Holdsworthly Area areas)

SOUTH DEVON (Schools in Newton Abbot, Torbay, Kingsbridge areas)

WEST DEVON (Schools in Plymouth, Tavistock, Ivybridge areas)

FOR TRACK & FIELD COMPETITIONS

Each Devon area may hold their own Track & Field Championships in May from which up to THREE ATHLETES are chosen in each individual event from each area to compete at the **Devon County Schools' Championships** usually held during the second week of June, traditionally on the Saturdays.

Immediately after the County Championships a Devon Team, restricted to a total of 130 athletes across the Junior, Intermediate and Senior age groups are selected for the **South West Schools' AA Championships** with Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Cornwall and Wiltshire which normally takes place on following weekend at Exeter Arena.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE INTER COUNTIES MEETING the Devon Schools' AA team is selected to represent the county at the English Schools' AA Track & Field Championships which is usually held on the second Friday and Saturday of July.

The number of athletes each County is permitted to enter is governed by a combination of their total school population and their performances over the previous three years at the main championships. Devon is rated as a B category county and is allowed to take a maximum of 40 athletes to these championships.

The ESAA publishes ENTRY STANDARDS (ES) for every event and athletes should ordinarily gain those standards in order to be considered for selection.

Click on this link for the 2024 standards <https://esaa-prod-assets-bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/2024/03/Standards-2024.pdf>

At the ESAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, at INTERMEDIATE LEVEL ONLY, the first two athletes are selected to represent England at the **Schools' International, organised by the Schools' International Athletic Board (SIAB)**.

There is NO FURTHER PROGRESSION FOR ATHLETES IN THE MINORS SECTION i.e. no competition for Minors in the ESAA Main Champs.

In some years the ESAA may decide to enter an ENGLAND TEAM into the **World Schools' Championships organised by the International Schools' Sports Federation (ISF)**. This is dependent on two factors: firstly, that school teams must also be entered and, secondly, that the ESAA can financially afford to send a team (which is not always the case when events are at some distance).

THE ESAA TRACK & FIELD CUP is completely different to the above. It is an **INTER SCHOOL TEAM EVENT** and has nothing to do with INDIVIDUAL SELECTION for anything. A PE teacher will enter this national competition which takes place over three rounds:-

1. A Devon County Round in May

2. 8 Regional Finals in June (the winning School from the SW area final automatically qualifies for the National final)

3. The National Final usually held on the first Saturday in July.

School athletes must take part in two events in order to contribute to the team score.

Also the Track & Field CUP ages are DIFFERENT too:

- JUNIOR TEAM - Year 7 & Year 8 -COMBINED
- INTER TEAM - Year 9 & Year 10 -COMBINED

Performances are scored on a POINTS TABLE (rather like decathlon) and finishing position in an event is not as important. Details can be found using this link <https://esaa.org.uk/competitions/track-field-cup/>

FOR CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITIONS

Each Devon area holds Area Trials/Championships during the second half of the Autumn Term from which UP TO SIXTEEN RUNNERS are chosen from each of the four Devon County area to compete in the **Devon Schools' AA Championships usually held on the third Saturday of January.**

Immediately after the County Championships a Devon Team, restricted to a total of 10 athletes in each of the Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior age groups are selected for the **South West Schools' AA Championships** with Avon, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Cornwall and Wiltshire which normally takes place the following weekend at Exeter Arena. This competition is hosted by each County Schools' Association in turn.

The 2024-25 Championships is being hosted by Cornwall Schools AA followed by Devon Schools' AA in 2025/26.

Following the above two championships a Devon Schools' AA team is selected for the English Schools' AA Championships which are held in March each year. Up to 16 names (8 starters and 8 non-travelling reserves) can be entered in each of the Junior, Intermediate and Senior age groups with eight runners actually competing. Selection is based on runners' performances in the Devon Schools' AA Champs and the SW Schools' AA Inter Counties Champs.

There is NO FURTHER PROGRESSION FOR ATHLETES IN THE MINORS SECTION i.e. no competition for Minors in the ESAA Main Champs.

Schools International Cross Country: JUNIORS & INTERS who finish in the top 8 at the ESAA National Championships will be selected to run for England (ESAA) in the SIAB meeting against Scotland, Wales & Ireland, normally a week after the main ESAA Champs. A further four runners (2 each of Male and Female) in each age group take part in separate age group Mixed gender relays usually over a distance of 1500m – 1750m)

In some years the ESAA may decide to enter an ENGLAND TEAM into the [World Schools' Championships organised by the International Schools' Sports Federation \(ISF\)](#). This is dependent on two factors: firstly, that school teams must also be entered and, secondly, that the ESAA can financially afford to send a team (which is not always the case when events are at some distance).

The ESAA Cross Country Cup Competition is completely different to the above. It is a **SCHOOL TEAM EVENT** and has nothing to do with INDIVIDUAL SELECTION for anything. A PE teacher will enter this national competition which takes place over three rounds:-

The County Round before half term in the autumn term.

South West Regional Final on the second Saturday in November

The National Final on the first Saturday in December

Schools select 6 runners for each team with the best 4 scorers counting towards the final team result.

The CROSS COUNTRY CUP ages groups are DIFFERENT too:

- JUNIOR TEAM - Year 7 & Year 8 -COMBINED
- INTER TEAM - Year 9 & Year 10 -COMBINED
- SENIOR TEAM – Years 11/12/13

Schools may enter one team only in as many age groups as they wish.

A link to full details is: <https://esaa.org.uk/competitions/cross-country-cup/>

FOR COMBINED EVENTS & RACE WALKING

Schools can nominate pupils to represent Devon in the SW Regional Championships held in 2024 at Yeovil on Sat/Sun 22nd/23rd June. Age groups are Juniors; Intermediates and Seniors.

Winning county teams and leading individuals countrywide progress to the National Final.

A link to full details is: <https://esaa.org.uk/competitions/combined-events/>