

INFORMATION FOR AGE GROUP ATHLETES AND ACCOMPANYING CLUB MEMBERS

1 **Getting in to the Odyssey**

Please note that the Odyssey security staff do not open the doors before **10am**, so please do not arrive too early in case of bad weather.

Entry will be via the front doors of the Arena, which is next to the main Pavilion. There will be one door for athletes and team managers (one manager per 10 junior athletes – please see below) and the rest of the doors will be general ticket admission for additional coaches and spectators.

2 **Tickets/Passes – Very Important; please circulate to all travelling to the event!**

For the Age Group events, each club/school will have **ONE TEAM MANAGER'S PASS FOR EVERY TEN ATHLETES ENTERED**. If a parent has entered their child separately as a member of a club/school then they should check with the club secretary/teacher who will be responsible for the team pass for the group.

Anyone lifting a pass should have a mobile phone with them, and they will be asked to leave their number for any following team managers who may need to contact you to come and collect later-arriving athletes. If you have one of the passes you will need to keep it with you at all times to avoid being refused entry in to the changing corridor.

TEAM MANAGER PASSES ONLY ALLOW ENTRY IN TO THE PUBLIC AREAS PLUS THE CHANGING CORRIDOR. Parents without passes will not be permitted in to the changing corridor, athletes should give their supervisors/parents bags to mind if possible to avoid congestion in the changing area.

As in previous years, there will not be enough room in the warm up area for any coaches to be present. All athlete-coach communication must be done outside of the warm-up/call area. **ONLY ATHLETES ARE PERMITTED IN THE WARM-UP AREA AND THE ODYSSEY SECURITY WILL NOT ADMIT ANYONE WHO IS NOT WEARING A NUMBER.** The warm-up area will be adequately supervised by officials and staff.

Additional coaches and spectators will be required to purchase a ticket to gain entry in to the Odyssey. Tickets are still available at the promotional price through the Athletics NI office until Saturday 23rd January, after which clubs will need to purchase regular price tickets from the odyssey box office or Athletics NI Office.

There are no passes for coaches of senior athletes – the junior ones are for child protection and supervision only. Junior team manager passes become invalid for corridor access at the end of the junior events each day.

www.indoorathletics.net

3 *The Age Groups Championships are closed to NI & Ulster Championships*

As is the case every year, the age group championships are NI & Ulster closed championships- the Odyssey is Ulster's regional qualifying round for the All-Irelands.

*However as a general rule we tend to allow **guest entries** on request from other provinces' clubs or elsewhere. With respect to qualification to a final, the fastest athletes irrespective of whether they are a guest or an "Ulster" athlete will qualify for the final. Medals will be awarded to the first three athletes completing the event and if necessary additional medals will be awarded to the first three Ulster qualifying athletes.*

New Start Rules

As you may be aware the IAAF have introduced new start rules. In these Championships the following rules will be applied

Under 14 (athletes born in 1997) and Under 15(athletes born in 1996) athletes – one false start will be allowed before disqualification

Under 16 (athletes born in 1995) and Under 17 (athletes born in 1994) athletes – no false starts will be allowed – i.e. all false starts will result in disqualification

4 **Timetable Alterations**

Please note that some minor timetable changes continue to be made due to TV scheduling etc. We recommend that you check the timetable on the website the day before the event, and as with all events athletes should pay attention to any announcements at the event regarding changes or early/late events.

5 **Parking**

The Odyssey has ample car parking facilities in front of the arena.

6 **Kit, property etc**

Please ensure that all your athletes collect their kit from the changing rooms after their last event. There was a large amount of lost & found items last year, and as there is no specific lost and found reclaim area athletes will be responsible for looking after their items. Valuables should be left with the team manager/parents, Athletics Northern Ireland and associated organisers do not accept responsibility for valuables that have been stolen from the changing areas.

Athletes in the warm-up area should leave their bag at the far end of the warm-up area (near the mixed zone) to avoid tripping hazards.

I appreciate you taking the time to read the above, there is a lot of information but if clubs and schools are as prepared as possible it really helps us to make the event run more smoothly for you.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me by replying to this email – in the meantime please keep an eye on www.niathletics.org and www.indoorathletics.net for any changes/updates.

Finally, on behalf of Athletics Northern Ireland and the Ulster Athletic Council, I wish your athletes the best of success in the event, and hope that they will be able to enjoy spectating as well.