

Dual club membership...UK Athletics rules

1. FIRST CLAIM CLUB

UK Athletics rules allow athletes to be members of more than one club.

The first club you joined is known as your **First Claim Club**.

- ❖ However, over-riding that, is the fact that if you join England Athletics (EA), the club to which you pay your England Athletics membership is classified as your First Claim club, regardless of how long you have been a member of that club. EA membership is only paid through your first claim club and you can only count as part of a team or enter team events i.e. relays such as cross-country, for your first claim club.

2. REPRESENTING YOUR FIRST CLAIM CLUB

You should enter competitions as a member of your First Claim club but when an athlete's First Claim club does not include all disciplines, then an athlete can represent their Second Claim club in those other events.

Eg Joe Bloggs is a member of Helm Hill as his First Claim club and enters fell races as a member of Helm Hill. Also Joe enters shot putt competitions...as Helm Hill doesn't "do" shot putt, Joe enters shot putt competitions under the name of his Second Claim club.

His Second Claim club is actually a fell racing and shot putt club (Unusual!)....but Joe does not do fell races under the name of his Second Claim club.

England Athletics membership....is it worth it?

At one time, many would have said No. However, EA membership is starting to become more prominent as a requirement. Some races organised by Athletics Associations are requiring entrants to be individual members of EA (regardless of whether the entrants belong to a club or not) in order for their finishing positions to be included in the results.

There are many cross country races that are organised by Athletics Associations.

In January this year a Helm Hill runner's finishing position was discounted from the results of a Cumbria Athletics Association cross country event because the runner was not a member of EA. Sadly, there was then an effect on that particular Helm Hill team. The runner had been completely innocent of the requirement.

- ✓ Check entrance forms carefully...if the form asks for your EA number, it probably means that you have to belong to the EA for your finishing position to count in the results.
- ✓ As a general rule of thumb, cross country races / events organised by Athletics Associations are likely to be looking for EA membership, and any County-level events are likely to require EA membership.



There are many benefits of becoming a member of England Athletics, particularly if you plan to regularly participate in road races/cross country events. For more information on England Athletics and receiving a competition licence, please visit <http://www.englandathletics.org/england-athletics>.

Please note, if you wish to count in either the English or the British fell running championships, then you must either be a member of the FRA or registered with England Athletics - see link <http://www.fellrunner.org.uk/englandathletics.php>

If you decide to become a member of England Athletics, you can do this when joining/renewing your membership with Helm Hill online from April 2015 - membership link/more information will be on the website in due course.

3 March 2015. LA.