



A GUIDE TO CHANGE OF CLUB ELIGIBILITY & EXEMPTION

ATHLETES RESPONSIBILITY

1. Resign from your current club in writing, keeping a dated copy.
2. If you are a member of any other club(s) resign from them as well and obtain proof that you have done so. If you only resign from your first claim club then the second claim club with the longest unbroken period of membership automatically becomes your new first claim club under UKA rules. You may rejoin second claim clubs immediately after joining a new first claim club.
3. If you owe your club any monies they are quite within their right to request payment and not accept your resignation until your debt has been cleared or discharged.
4. When changing clubs you will need to complete a current CHANGE OF FIRST CLAIM CLUB AND EXEMPTION APPLICATION form, obtainable from the UKA website www.ukathletics.net or by emailing eligibility@athleticsservices.org.uk. Make sure that the CLUB OFFICERS from the club you are leaving sign section 4.
5. You must join your new club within 28 DAYS of leaving your previous club. You cannot apply for a change in eligibility until you have joined your new club.
6. Send your completed application to Athletics Services enclosing a cheque for £10 made payable to Athletics Services.
7. Once your application has been received it will be checked and you will receive an acknowledgement letter. This will inform you of any problems with your application and the date of the Regional Eligibility Group that will consider your application.
8. If there are problems with your application they will be specified in your acknowledgement letter. Please deal with these as quickly as possible.
9. You will receive a letter informing you of the group's decision as soon as is practicable after the meeting. This will inform you of the date you will be able to compete for your new club in team competition.

Please note:

- The 6 month period of suspension from team competition applies automatically to all athletes who join a new first claim club. Only the Regional Eligibility Group has the power to rescind or reduce the suspension period (it could be reduced to any

monthly period between 1 and 6 months). An extract from Rule 5(7) which defines these issues is shown below.

- Athletes in the Under 15 or Under 13 age groups may change clubs once in each age group and be exempt from the suspension period but all changes must be reported on the CHANGE OF FIRST CLAIM CLUB AND EXEMPTION APPLICATION form in order to benefit from this exemption. The £10 fee is not payable for these notifications.
- Regional Eligibility Group decisions cannot be determined by age or ability factors – all are treated equally and fairly.
- Your new and former clubs may both support your application for exemption and the Regional Eligibility Groups will receive this support positively but this should not be accepted as a guarantee that the Group will approve your application. Similarly an objection should not be interpreted as a final decision that you will have to serve the full 6 months suspension.
- Athletes who compete in team competition for their new club before the completion of the 6 months suspension or receiving a notice of exemption may be subject to disciplinary action.

Rule 5(7)

Where eligibility is not defined in the paragraph above, athletes are eligible to represent a Club in Open Team Competition when they join their first club as a first claim member. Where athletes have resigned their membership of their previous Club, without claiming hardship exemption, they are not eligible to represent their next first claim club in any Open Team Competition confined to first claim members until the first day of the month following the expiration of six months from the date of receipt of notice of resignation by the Honorary Secretary of the Eligibility Committee of the Association in which the headquarters of the Club they wish to represent are situated. All such changes must be registered with that Association.

Where athletes make an application to the appropriate Eligibility Committee claiming exemption under Rule 6 below, the date that they become eligible to compete for their next first claim Club in Open Team competition shall be the first day of the month so determined by that Committee. This period shall not be longer than six months, unless the athlete concerned has provided false information to that Committee. In that event, the time of the granting of such first claim status shall run from the date of receipt of correct information and may be longer, therefore, than six months.