



The 2016 Championships were held this year later than usual in light of feedback received following the 2015 meeting. This was an attempt to avoid important cricket fixtures and the Common Entrance Examinations immediately after half term and we hoped staff might find it easier to be released from school once GCSE Examinations had finished. Our efforts were met with mixed results over the later date clashing with several school trips.

Full details were posted to the 9 eligible schools on Friday April 15 with an URGENT sticker and a note of the closing date on each envelope. An envelope was sent to every school Thursday 19 May in support of the hard copy reminding everyone that the closing date for entries was Friday 27 May (end of term). The four main Track and Field clubs were sent the information this year so that they might identify their most talented Under 14 and Under 14 athletes and encourage their schools to submit entries. The Championships Committee met on Friday 3 June to organise the event, but final details did not need to be sent to schools until Wednesday 22 June, giving us a long lead-in period in which to make final preparations. We continue to make every attempt to enable schools to submit their entries simply and efficiently and year on year we appear to be making headway in regard to most of the following aspects:

1. [Redacted] Neither parents nor coaches attempted to enter athletes this year. We appear to have solved this problem.
2. More than half (the schools) submitted entry forms in handwriting, some of which was completely illegible in places. Therefore, some names on the lane draw and on the field cards were inevitably inaccurate.
3. [Redacted] Only two schools made errors in this area. We have made pleasing progress with this problem.
4. [Redacted] Only one school ignored this instruction in 2013 but in 2014 the number was back to the four of 2012. Schools submitted entries on the official forms. One school had to send entries by email on the closing date so I had to transcribe the entries on to the official forms.
5. Two schools failed to comply with this basic condition of entry and had to be pressed for the name of a school official. Several schools offered two (or more) officials which was much appreciated.
6. [Redacted] Six schools failed to include entry fees with entries but three of those paid the money the day, with two of those paying during the following week. The final £5.00 arrived on Monday 3 October.
7. [Redacted] One school did this and had to email the entries on the closing date.
8. [Redacted] These points were emphasised in every communication to schools. There was one request on the day. This was refused.

