

1st November 2008.

Road Running Leadership Group

Approval of new road running licence scheme to take effect from 1st April 2008

Summary

We are pleased to announce that UK Athletics has now approved a new licence scheme for road races to take effect from April 1st 2008.

We would like to thank everyone who gave their feedback on the new scheme through our consultation meetings and by email. We have taken all views into consideration and attempted to address as many concerns as possible. Whilst we acknowledge that there will be certain exceptions, we believe that the new scheme will make the vast majority of races, and the sport of road running as a whole, better off.

In conjunction with the introduction of the new licence fee scheme, the RRLG is continuing to develop plans for a "virtual club". A key goal of the virtual club is to generate funds for re-investment into the sport. A further announcement on the plans for the virtual club will be made in the near future.

Background: Current permit scheme

Under the current permit scheme in England, race organisers collect a levy of £2 from all unattached runners.

Prior to 31st March 2007, race organisers would pay the collected sum to their territory bodies (North, South, Midlands), which would then distribute a share to the counties. The specific share of the counties' distribution varied from territory to territory.

Post 1st April 2007, on a one-year interim arrangement, race organisers pay the collected sum directly to UK Athletics. 25% of this sum is subsequently paid to the county in which the race is located.

In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, unattached levies (£2 in Scotland and NI, £1 in Wales) are collected by the respective home country bodies. Distribution of these funds is at the discretion of those organisations.

Proposed new licence scheme

UK Athletics has approved a new payment model for road races to take effect from April 1st 2008.

The new race licence scheme is designed to leave more money in the hands of race organisers. This will give races the opportunity to raise standards to higher levels and promote participation to a wider community of runners.

To achieve this, we will no longer collect the £2 unattached levy fees from race organisers. We will, however, require races to offer a minimum £2 attached runner discount to maintain the incentive for unattached runners to join clubs.

In place of the unattached levy collection, we will charge races a licence fee based on number of runners. We estimate that, on average, races will be 50% better off under the new scheme. In return for this cost saving, we will require races to support the RRLG in the promotion of the virtual club.

The new licence fee structure is shown in Appendix A.

Frequently asked questions

The following section is intended to address the most frequently asked questions about the new licence scheme. Some of the questions below were also presented in the August RRLG release.

1. When will application forms for the new road race licences become available?

Paperwork for the licence scheme won't be available until early 2008. However applications for races after April 1st can be made on the current forms if you haven't already applied.

2. What new conditions will apply to the licence?

Since income from the "virtual club" will be a vital component of the future funding of road running, there will be two key additional conditions to the new licence:

- A commitment from race organisers either (i) to submit contact details of unattached runners to enable us to promote the virtual club, or (ii) to promote the virtual club via other means, such as:
 - Including a standard flyer with entry forms, info packs and goodie bags
 - Carrying an approved logo or kite-mark (details to be announced in due course)
 - Sending a promotional email to runners
 - Website banners
 - Word of mouth

- Race organisers will be required to submit their results online. This will enable us to create a single database of results for all licensed UK races, which will open up the opportunity for us to offer a nationwide ranking programme. We will develop tools to make result submission as simple as possible.

3. What if I *apply for* a licence for a 300-runner race and 350 runners end up running?

We only ask for your *best estimate* of numbers prior to the race. The licence fee paid will be based on the information set out on a post event "returns" form, which will set out the actual numbers of entrants rather than pre-event estimates. As now, the race organiser will send his payment based on the simple scale of licence charges. We are investigating the feasibility of making this an on-line process in due course.

4. When will payment need to be made?

All licence applications will require a flat rate fee of £25.00 on application (or £10 in the case of races with under 50 competitors), with the balance on return of a Road Race Return Form or an equivalent online return. Note that current levies are paid this way. The fee will be due within one month of the race.

5. How will series of races be licensed?

We will be able to issue a licence for the series rather than one for each separate race. Given the different formats that a race series can take, we will not prescribe a set formula but will agree a licence fee on a case-by-case basis. Where applicable this licence fee will reflect the arrangement in previous years.

6. What about 'closed' races?

The following events will be able to obtain a race licence free of charge:

- National, Territorial, Regional and County championship events that are restricted to affiliated club teams of registered members.
- Other closed events that restrict entries to registered members of clubs affiliated to one of the home country governing bodies. A closed event must incorporate a team competition for affiliated clubs.

7. Is the fee based on entrants or actual runners?

The fee is based on the number of entrants, as per the current system. We have based this on the understanding that entrance fees for most races are not refundable.

Appendix A: Licence pricing schedule to take effect from April 1st 2008

Runners	Fee per race
1-50	£ 10
51-75	£ 20
76-100	£ 25
101-150	£ 35
151-200	£ 50
201-300	£ 75
301-400	£ 120
401-500	£ 155
501-600	£ 220
601-700	£ 260
701-800	£ 320
801-900	£ 370
901-1000	£ 420
1001-1250	£ 530
1251-1500	£ 645
1501-1750	£ 750
1751-2000	£ 860
2001-2250	£ 965
2251-2500	£ 1,065
2501-2750	£ 1,165
2751-3000	£ 1,265
3001-4000	£ 1,500
4001-5000	£ 1,840
5001-6000	£ 2,200
6001-7000	£ 2,600
7001-8000	£ 3,000
8001-9000	£ 3,400
9001-10000	£ 3,800
10000-15000	£ 5,000
15000-20000	£ 7,000
20000-25000	£ 9,000
25000-30000	£ 11,000
30000-35000	£ 13,000
35000-40000	£ 15,000