



JOINT POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING RECIPROCAL MEMBERSHIP

Athletics NSW (ANSW) and the Little Athletics Association of NSW (LAANSW) wish to jointly affirm their commitment to working in a cooperative fashion towards the growth and well being of the sport of athletics within NSW and Australia.

Both organisations recognise the important role which the other plays as the peak body for a segment of the athletics community. The need to unite these segments, whilst allowing each organisation to maintain their identity and practices, is paramount for the future development of the sport.

In order to improve athlete pathways and facilitate the sharing of knowledge and resources within the sport, both bodies have resolved to introduce a reciprocal membership program for athletes aged 12 to 16 years old. Athletes in these transitional age groups will benefit from automatically becoming a member of both a LAANSW Centre and ANSW Club upon registering, allowing them to compete in events conducted by either association.

An important element of the reciprocal membership program will be the engagement and alignment of LAANSW Centres and ANSW Clubs at a local level. As time will be required to facilitate such linkages to allow smooth implementation of the initiative, the reciprocal membership program will come into effect at the beginning of the 2009/10 Little Athletics season.

The reciprocal membership program is an example of one of many initiatives jointly undertaken by ANSW and LAANSW during the previous year. Other initiatives implemented or currently in the pipeline are:

- A jointly funded Regional Athletics Coordinator has been working in the Hunter and Central Coast areas since October last year;
- Conduct of a development clinic for girls by Jana Rawlinson prior to the commencement of the Sydney Track Classic in January;
- Shared team management of the LAANSW and ANSW teams to the Australian Interstate Youth Match held in Brisbane during February; and
- Design of new officiating courses which will be of greater relevance in recruiting new officials at all levels of the sport.

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Greg Doyle
CEO, Athletics NSW
9746 1122

Kerry O'Keefe
CEO, Little Athletics Association of NSW
9633 4511