

WESTERN PROVINCE ATHLETICS

POLICY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF NEW CLUBS

1. Clubs are the basis of Western Province Athletics, and joined together in a Council meeting constitute the highest decision-making structure in the province. For that reason it is essential that caution is had to ensure that clubs which are admitted to WPA will help to contribute to the development of the sport of athletics. A failure to do so will lead to a burdensome administration and the inability to constitute a quorum at the Council meetings due to inactive clubs no showing an interest in the affairs of WPA.
2. All new clubs must comply with the minimum standards for the existence of clubs in the WPA Constitution.
3. No new club may be formed within 5km of another club, unless that club consents thereto in writing or that club has more than 50 members.
4. All prospective clubs must indicate the following in their application:
 - The base for the club. This must be a place where members can meet and, preferably, train and have ablution facilities.
 - The support structures for members: although this need not necessarily mean formal coaching structures, there must be structures in place to assist members in fully participating in the sport.
 - Their club colours – which must not clash with those of any existing WPA club.
 - Whether they plan to participate in all three major disciplines of the sport: cross country, road running and track & field.
 - Whether they will be catering for juniors (especially from ages 16-19).
 - A list of no less than 50 members who are not already affiliated to other clubs and who are over the age of 18.
5. New clubs must provide a constitution which must comply as far as possible with all the requirements for registration for a Non Profit Organisation, unless the club will form part of an institution, especially an educational or government security services institution or a corporation. Since clubs apply to WPA for affiliation, they must be in existence before they can affiliate. The Constitution must provide for the regular election of office bearers and not be in conflict with the WPA or ASA Constitutions.
6. Preference will be given to clubs which serve a specific community. It is for that purpose that the club's base is essential. Only in exceptional circumstance, which will usually be in the case of educational, government security services and similar institutions, will clubs which serve a broader area be permitted.
7. Clubs cannot exist properly and will contribute little to the sport if they do not have support structures for their members. An absence of any coaches will probably indicate that such structures are not sustainable, although that is not an absolute rule.

8. Only four clubs actively participate in track & field and about 20 participate in cross country, out of over 70. All clubs participate in road running. It is unlikely that another club catering only for road running will contribute much to the sustainability of the sport in a broader sense.
9. Since over 80% of licenced WPA members are over the age of 40, and numbers of seniors and juniors are dwindling, the sport will not be sustainable if new clubs do not intend to cater for these ages. With only two clubs having an average age below 40, it is unlikely, although not impossible, that another club with an average age of over 40 will add to the sustainability of the province, especially if the club will only cater for road running.