

THE FUTURE OF ATHLETICS IN THE ACT



Little Athletics ACT (LAACT), Athletics ACT (AACT) and ACT Masters Athletics (ACTMA) have joined forces to explore the possible futures for the sport of Athletics in the ACT and surrounding regions.

An independent review, conducted by McLaughlin Sports Consultancy, has delivered its final report. Having considered the recommendations from the report, the respective boards of LAACT, AACT and ACTMA have agreed to work towards full implementation including the formation of a single entity governing athletics in the ACT. It is the collective belief of all three boards that this is the best approach to ensure the sport of athletics thrives within the ACT and surrounding region well into the future.

How we got to here!

The review included an **extensive examination** of the delivery of athletics in the ACT and surrounding areas. Focusing mostly on the peak delivery organisations (Little Athletics ACT, Athletics ACT and ACT Masters Athletics), it also looked at schools and smaller sporting clubs.

This examination provided a thorough understanding of the current purpose, governance, organisational structure and operations of the various bodies. It also compared the ACT model of delivery against how athletics is delivered in other regions in Australia. It found numerous areas for improvement in current practices and many opportunities to grow the sport.

A wide-reaching online **stakeholder survey** of members, coaches, officials, volunteers, athletes, parents, and other stakeholders was conducted to get a sense for 'how the punters' feel. Almost 600 people took up the opportunity to provide feedback via the e-survey and their feedback was insightful. The clear message from all was that things need to be done differently in ACT. That all elements of the sport need to operate more effectively as **ONE SPORT**. That is, **ONE community – ONE vision – ONE voice for ONE athletics**. This message was further reinforced through **interviews** with nearly 40 key stakeholders.

The final output of the review was a **suite of recommendations** based on the evidence collected. The boards of LAACT and AACT, along with representatives from the ACTMA managing committee, considered these recommendations at a joint meeting on 31 July at the Australian Institute of Sport. All three boards had separately 'agreed' or 'agreed-in-principle' with the consultant's recommendations, albeit with the understanding that some timelines need reviewing, and agreed unanimously to work together towards creating a single entity to govern athletics in the ACT.

What happens next?

A meeting of the ACT Little Athletics Association has been set for the 28 August to present the findings of the review and discuss the recommendations. An Athletics ACT 'Club President's Forum' is planned to coincide with the 'High Noon' Track and Field meet on Sunday 1 September.

The joint working group, which coordinated the independent review, has been reformed as the **One Athletics Working Party**. The working party of seven includes the presidents of LAACT, AACT and ACTMA, a second representative from each organisation and a facilitator. This group will oversee the many activities that will need to occur over the next 12-18 months to achieve this vision. This includes working from one office and having a single point of contact for people wanting to participate in athletics.

The working party will also develop **pathways of implementation** that will eventually see one entity delivering athletics to participants aged from 5 to 105, in a seamless **ONE community – ONE vision – ONE voice for ONE athletics**, all the way through an athlete's lifetime.

The presidents of all three peak organisations welcome members to contact them if they have questions.

One Athletics Working Party

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