

## Appendix E(a)

### Equal Gender Race Distance Proposal for Voting

#### Equal Gender Race Distance Revised Proposal Options Summary

Wednesday, 31 July 2019

EGRD Working Party

|                                  | Option A  | Option B  | Option C                     |                              |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                                  | Equal Distance<br>(same for all events)   | Equal Distance<br>(chosen by host club)   | Status Quo<br>(league rules) | Status Quo<br>(2019 average) |
| U9                               | 1.2k (run together)   | 1.2k (run together)   | 1.2k (run together)          | 1.2k                         |
| U11                              | 1.5k  | 1.5k  | 1.5k                         | 1.5k                         |
| U13                              | 3k  | 3k  | 3k                           | 2.7k                         |
| U15                              | 4.5k (run together)   | 4.5k (run together)   | M: 4.8k, F: 3.5k             | M: 4.9k, F: 3.8k             |
| U17                              | 6k (run together)   | 6k (run together)   | M: 4.8k, F: 3.5k             | M: 4.9k, F: 3.8k             |
| U20, Senior & Vets Male & Female | 8k (+/-0.5k)  | 7k - 9k   | M: 8.5k, F: 6.5k             | M: 9.2k, F: 6.9k             |
| Team Structures & Competition    | 3/team combined - U15 & U17 Male, U15 & U17 Female  | 3/team combined - U15 & U17 Male, U15 & U17 Female  |                              |                              |
| Race Timetable                   | Little impact to timetable  | Little impact to timetable  |                              |                              |
| Distance Steps For Age Groups    | Offers a much more progressive stepping of distances from one age group to the other.                         | Offers a much more progressive stepping of distances from one age group to the other.     |                              |                              |
| Volunteer Requirements           | Little or no impact on volunteer numbers  | Little or no impact on volunteer numbers  |                              |                              |
| Course Set Up                    | 1 less course required (6 rather than 7)  | 1 less course required (6 rather than 7).<br>Course flexibility - best course for venue.  |                              |                              |
| Participation                    | Relatively small changes of course distance for older age groups should minimise the impact on participation. | Clubs can choose a distance that they feel could maximise participation for senior races. |                              |                              |



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## Appendix E(b)

### Mixed XC Relay Proposal for Discussion & Voting

To include a mixed relay after race 9 at the final fixture of each season.

#### ***Details and logistics:***

- Race to consist of four equal legs of around 1500m each (a single loop of a pre-existing "small" lap, or similar)
- Teams to consist of two male and two female athletes, eligibility criteria to be the same as that for the U20/senior/veteran races.
- Athletes may have already completed their individual races earlier that day, or choose to only run the relay.
- This is a one-off race, so winner takes all.
- Presentation to be included alongside the senior presentations after the race.
- Teams to be entered by team manager in advance, but runners and leg orders can be decided on the day.

#### ***Advantages:***

- Promotes team work and bonding between male and female sections of each club, which in the current league structure can be limited.
- Promotes gender equality through equal leg distances.
- Reflects a similar idea seen in elite level cross country, such as the European and World Championship events, which have proved very popular.
- Allows athletes to experience shorter distance cross-country races, which are not currently offered in the league and hard to find outside of it.
- Will extend the appeal of cross country to those who would normally be put off by the full distance of senior races (particularly relevant if the ladies race distance is extended).
- Clubs with no realistic chance of winning their respective league by fixture 5 will still have something to fight for, rather than letting the season peter out.
- Allows league management more time between races 8/9 and the presentation ceremony to finalise and check results.

Proposed by **Phil Marshall** (Newbury AC)

**Yes / No**



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## Appendix E(c)

### Athlete Attire Proposal for Discussion & Voting

There have been too many 'aberrations' to the accepted dress code at past fixtures. If that is allowed to continue, there will be the danger of athletes wearing what they fancy.

It is my view for all athletes (*with perhaps the exception of the U9s*) that club colours must prevail and should apply to vest and shorts as stated on the club's profile on the UKA website.

*Proposed by* **John Sear** (Oxon AA)

**Yes / No**



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## Appendix E(d)

### Senior Women Team Size Proposal for Discussion & Voting

Headington RR propose that starting in the 2021/2022 cross-country season senior women's teams be increased to 5 from the present 3 scorers. Our reasons are:

- 1) In general having 7 men's scorers compared with only 3 for women is anachronistic in the modern day with the large increase in women runners (*see below*), especially at a time when the league is debating equalising the distances run by women and men.
- 2) Other leagues have already moved strongly in this direction. In the Chiltern League for example (in which several OXL clubs participate) it's:

|       |                |                 |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| Div 1 | Men 10 scorers | Women 6 scorers |
| Div 2 | Men 8 scorers  | Women 5 scorers |

For veterans parity has already been achieved: for both men and women teams are 4 vets each for both divisions.

To the argument that the Chiltern League clubs are generally larger, we would say that that fact is already reflected in overall team sizes: it doesn't change the fact that women's team sizes are getting much closer to the men's.

- 3) Other local events are moving in this direction: team sizes are equal in the Teddy Hall Relays (*women's, men's and mixed teams all 4*) and in the County Road relays they are moving from women teams of 3 runners to 4 (*with men's teams remaining at 6*).
- 4) A few statistics from OXL events from 2008/9: average runners throughout the season. Team sizes in brackets.

|         | U15/17 girls (3). | Women (3) | Men (7) | % women to men |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| 2008/9  | 36                | 108       | 214     | 33.5           |
| 2009/10 | 31                | 132       | 229     | 36.6           |
| 2010/11 | 32                | 131       | 240     | 35.3           |
| 2011/12 | 34                | 137       | 252     | 35.2           |
| 2012/13 | 35                | 150       | 229     | 39.6           |
| 2013/14 | 43                | 145       | 217     | 40.1           |
| 2014/15 | 46                | 143       | 244     | 37.0           |
| 2015/16 | 47                | 155       | 265     | 36.9           |
| 2016/17 | 34                | 152       | 264     | 36.5           |
| 2017/18 | 35                | 172       | 261     | 39.7           |
| 2018/19 | 36                | 178       | 286     | 38.4           |

- a. Women's numbers have increased relatively more than either girls or men
  - b. While the numbers in the girls' race have remained fairly static, women have increased dramatically. Now there are around 5 times the number of women as compared with girls, compared with 3 or 4 before – but team sizes have remained at three scorers for both events.
  - c. In general, at present women's team size is the same (3 scorers) as all the junior groups, but far more women participate than any of these other categories, and the difference is growing. A women's team size of somewhere between 7 and 3 would better reflect the situation. After all, the junior groups generally cover a 2-year age group, while the adults' age group covers a span of 50 years +, so it's not surprising that you have bigger adult fields!
  - d. It's true that men's numbers have also gone up a lot – but they've already got seven scorers which seems to work well. Let's look then at the % column above: if men's teams have seven, and the women, say, four, the proportion between them would be 63.7/36.3. The women's figure is less than their percentage of the adult turnout for every year from 2012/2013, so 4 for a woman's team seems very reasonable: the true figure for a women's team for say 2013/2014, for example, works out at 4.66 (*with the men staying at 7*).
- 5) At 2019 AGM it was claimed that some clubs struggle to find even 3 women runners. To this point we would say:
- a. The clubs making this argument presumably might also have difficulty in raising 7 men – over twice as many.
  - b. A club in any event needs only one to score in the team competition. Increasing team sizes to 5 from 3 would make little difference if a club had 1, 2, 3 or even 4 women finishers – it would still have an 'A' team (*but not a 'B'*) team.
- 6) Increasing the size of women's teams, even if only from 3 to 4 scorers, would go some way towards tackling the anomaly of having such an enormous Div 3 compared with the top two divisions.
- 7) As to whether the league should go for 4 women scorers or 5, we would say we should go for 5 because:
- a. Jumping to 5 at once would hopefully obviate the necessity of making another change for a while, and ...
  - b. Having an odd number is more satisfactory bearing in mind the provisions of Rule 30, under which in order to qualify as a team (*not a first team*) you need "...more than half the necessary number of finishers..." This threshold would become 3 for women's teams under our proposal, as opposed to the 2 finishers one currently needs.

*Proposed by Kit Villiers (Headington RR)*

**Yes / No**