

South-West Cross-Country Championships 2021

Statement from Midland Counties AA Facebook Page

The South West Region of England Athletics currently has a team planning the staging of the South-West Region Cross-Country Championships at Royal Naval Air Station Merryfield (Near Ilton, Somerset) on Sunday 3rd January 2021.

Entrance to the site will be limited to athletes and officials (including team managers and coaches) only, with athletes permitted to be accompanied by one person (parent, guardian or supporter).

All athletes will be encouraged to arrive solely with sufficient time to warm up properly and to collect their number: the collection will be in an allocated time band publicised in the event details. Runners will need to leave after their cool down unless accompanying someone in a later race to keep numbers at the venue to a minimum throughout the event. Results will be published on websites, including the Athletics South-West website, over the following day or two, because of the need to have wave starts to ensure social distancing, and therefore the need to merge result sheets for each event. Medals will be forwarded in due course. There will be NO results or presentations on the day.

There will be no walking the course after 10.45 a.m.: again, COVID-19 guidelines will apply and people will be reminded to socially distance throughout the event. There will be no admission to hopeful, on-the-day arrivals. The Athletics South-West website will give full details on opt-in forms etc.

A competition licence has been granted and, if the event is given the final go-ahead by the Royal Navy, entries will open on the Athletics South-West website on Thursday 10th December 2020 and will close at midnight on Wednesday 23rd December 2020. Numbers will be limited for COVID-19 reasons and due to the stretched timetable, we are unable to stage the popular Under-11 races this year. Early entry is advised and there will be no late entries.

Entries are limited to athletes who are registered with England Athletics. Club Awards are possible for clubs with teams composed of registered athletes, registered in Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Wiltshire and Dorset. At present UKA and Government regulations mean that athletes living in areas that have been declared in tier-3 are unable to enter at this time (as the event is in a tier-2 location). This ruling will be reviewed should an area's tiered status be eased before entries close.

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