



Newsletter from the Board – September 2022

Welcome to the start of the summer season to our member clubs and athletes. We are certainly hopeful for a much less disrupted and full season this year. We know that it was really challenging for clubs last season....roll on Summer!

Thank you to all our members – we appreciate you registering again, or for the first time! Athletics is a great sport for all ages, and we have members from 3 years through to those well into retirement years.

Who are Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty

If you belong to an affiliated club, you are a member of Athletics Waikato Bay of Plenty, as well as of Athletics NZ. We are a Regional Sports Organisation, who exist to support our clubs and school athletes and the sport in our region which covers the Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, and King Country area. When you pay your club fees, some goes to Athletics NZ, a small portion comes to us, and the balance goes to your club. Our levies go towards paying for our staff, as well as running the events in the region - Open Meets, Championships, Children's, and School Events, selecting athletes for teams, supporting officials and coaches to develop, and fostering the sport in our large region.

Here are two links to our summer handbooks - for Seniors:

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-2023-Summer-Handbook-V2.pdf>

and Children:

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/2022-23-Childrens-Handbook-V1-1.pdf>

We are lucky to have the assistance of Dianne Rodger, our Centre Manager, and CoachForce Officer Kerry Hill in the Bay of Plenty region.

The Board has six trustees – Chairperson Sally Kerr, President Andrew Langman, and four trustees Tony Rogers, Ashleigh Sando, Thomas Refoy-Butler, and Monica Robbers. We are supported by the Operations Committee and have a Children's Team who run the programme for our 3–14-year old athletes.

The board has just signed off on our strategic plan for the next three years. We want to see participation and opportunities grow in the sport.

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Strategic-Plan-2022.pdf>

Changes ahead

There are some changes happening in athletics that you may or may not be aware of:

- 1) More flexible membership options from April 2023. These include rolling memberships and shorter-term options. There will be more information to come.
- 2) A new membership database – GameDay. This is underway and will allow better communication at a club, centre, and national level.
- 3) Changes in events – especially for teenagers.

- 4) Planning for a new event to replace the 12/13 Interprovincials – this event was becoming very costly and not aligned with the Balance is Better philosophy. AWBOP want to ensure that there is a great alternative for these athletes so they can keep inspired and developing at an important stage.

We need help

The last couple of years have provided some challenges for most sporting organisations and we have been affected, especially over the summer of 21/22 when it was challenging for clubs and events. AWBOP needs more help – any help with the following is appreciated.

- 1) Training to be an Official – or helping out the officials at Ribbon Days, Open Meets, or other events. Without help we cannot put on these events.
- 2) Registering as a Community Coach – we are wanting to build our coaching resources. (see Athletics NZ website for details <https://athletics.org.nz/get-involved/coaching/>)
- 3) Helping the Children's/Youth Group – helping to plan events and ensure they cater for our tamariki.
- 4) Coming on board as a Sponsor – we are close to launching our funding and sponsorship plan, and there are opportunities to get your brand in front of 1000s of athletes. We are a broad sport with athletes across all the region.
- 5) Growing your Club – reach out to local schools and encourage them to come along to your club nights. A simple email to the schools to go in their newsletter or on their Facebook page can be a good idea. Here is a link to information about Get Set Go and Run Jump Throw - <https://kidsathletics.nz/>

If you have comments, feedback, or help, you are welcome to contact the board on board@athleticswbop.org.nz or you can contact Dianne directly.

<https://athleticswaikatobayofplenty.org.nz/contacts/>

The Board will be back in touch again midway through the summer season.

All the best for your 2022-2023 season of athletics.