



ESAA

English Schools' Athletic Association

05 July 2020

ENGLISH SCHOOLS VIRTUAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020

Thus week, we would normally have been hard at work making final preparations for the English Schools Track & Field Championships in Manchester, an event that has only been cancelled during the Second World War, and would have been our 90th Championships.

With the loss of the event that so many young athletes look forward to each year, we made the decision to offer an opportunity for athletes to compare their progress with others across the country during the week of the Championships.

We hope that competing, either in a training session or a school lesson, against athletes from other counties, will raise the mood of so many athletes and, even if they can't be in the same place to do so, they will get the great feeling of competition and comradeship that the Championships always bring. We are aware that many tracks across the country are still closed and coaching sessions are difficult, that schools are not fully open and some pupils are not attending full-time, and some not at all. We still felt it was worthwhile trying to do something, hence the decision to stage this virtual competition over the week of the championships.

Athletes can enter more than once during the week commencing Sunday, July 5th and ending on Saturday, July 11th, but can only enter one event, in the same way they can enter the actual Championships. Their best result will be used to determine the final rankings.

Clearly, as these will be training results, and photo-finish won't be in use, they won't be eligible for Power of Ten, and there are large areas where errors can creep in, from coaches misreading tapes to out and out exaggeration of results, which we hope won't happen, but we hope to get a good set of results from a fun competitive opportunity, even if nobody is going to be crowned ESAA Champion!

All athletes will receive a certificate to show they participated in the event, sent by email to the contact email address we have in the entry and we will also send a discount voucher very kindly donated by Neuff Sports, which can be used for anything except javelins and ground equipment, and another kindly presented by our Championship sponsor, New Balance.

You will be able to see a link to the results on the ESAA Facebook page after the end of competition. This is very much a trial on our part, and volunteers are staging it, with a results system put together by students (for which we thank Buxton Community School in Derbyshire), so please bear with us that we can't provide running results during the week, but only final results afterwards. If we are able to list intermediate results at some stage during the week, we will do so.

To enter the competition, click on the Virtual T&F Competition link which will shortly be available on the Track & Field page on the ESAA website, and it will open to give you a form to complete with various details about the athlete and the event and performance. Complete the form, remember to include a contact email for the coach or teacher so we can send the certificate to show you competed in the 2020 virtual ESAA.

I hope you are able to take part in one of the events and get some enjoyment out of being part of a national event, albeit a virtual one. Good luck!



Supporting ESAA National Championships

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