

New Format Planned for SDS Junior T&F Championships 2023

Scottish Disability Sport is piloting a new format for the SDS Junior Track and Field Championships in 2023. This will develop the organisation's ongoing strategy to strengthen partnerships between relevant sport-specific governing bodies in Scotland and beyond.

The format for **scottishathletics'** SUPERteams is a popular introduction to competition for athletes aged 9-12. The format is being adapted to be rolled out to 12-14 years olds too, creating a multi-event team-based competition pathway as athletes enter the sport. Currently, the SDS Junior Championships, in contrast, typically follows a traditional competition format where athletes select specific events from a young age. To align SDS' junior athletics offering to **scottishathletics'** pathway, and to encourage more young athletes with a disability to try athletics, it is proposed that a new format is piloted to the SDS Junior Championships in 2023, inspired by the successful SUPERteams events.

In this new competition, athletes will be divided into ability pools (similar to the previous band system) and will rotate around different events: a run, a jump and a throw for ambulant competitors, two track events and one throw for FR/WC competitors and one track and one throw for PC competitors. At the point of entry, athletes will be asked to choose which events they will take part in:

- 100m, long jump and shot put
- 50m, standing long jump and ball throw
- FR/WC 50m, 100m and an appropriate seated/standing throw
- Powerchair Slalom plus appropriate seated throw

This format should make it simple for athletes, teachers and team managers to know where each athlete should be throughout the day as it is a single drop-off at the start of the day and doesn't require them to take multiple athletes to different events throughout the day. It enables young athletes to try a range of events in a relaxed competition atmosphere. Medals will be awarded within each pool, with the top three performing athletes in each category winning that pool's competition. Pools should be made up of around 8-12 athletes so very similar rewards to the existing structure.

The competition day will close with some fun non-scoring relays to allow athletes to work together as a team to record another performance.

In addition to competing individually within their pool throughout the event, athletes will also represent their branch in the overall team competition. Each performance will achieve a score, with the highest-scoring four athletes from each branch coming together to produce an overall team score. The branch with the highest team score will win the team trophy.

