



Dear Parent / Guardian,

Attendance at training groups in the Junior age groups has been extremely high since the London Olympics in 2012. The Club is delighted with the increased membership and in 2012 increased training sessions to accommodate the regular influx of new members. However, the groups reached saturation point and a waiting list had to be started. That waiting list now stands at 40 – 50 potential new members that unfortunately, we cannot start.

St Helens Sutton Athletic Club is very proud of its history and past achievements. We have helped to produce Champions and Olympians and currently have some extremely talented young people who are ranked very highly in the UK. Coaches are committed to providing quality training for all athletes and are proud when the athlete's efforts and dedication are translated to personal achievements. The Club wishes to provide the same opportunities for **all** that wish to join.

Sadly, the strong training attendance hasn't translated into a good attendance at competitions and we hope to **significantly** improve in this area. The Coaches have recognised that we have a number of young athlete's that have the potential to do very well in the sport as they get older and develop their skills but until the coaches see them run / jump / throw in a competitive environment, we will never know how good they really could be.

The Club is a member of Youth Development League (Upper and Lower ages), Cheshire League and Manchester Area Cross Country League and continues to strive for improvement in placements and promotion. In order to achieve this, the Committee is placing much greater emphasis on the need to compete and represent the Club in competition. Some of the League teams are on selection only but other leagues plus open meetings can be entered by any athlete. The Club also hosts an internal competition to give athletes a taste of racing.

In order to create space for youngsters on the waiting list, the Club will be reviewing attendance at training, competitions and also behaviour. The Development Groups that train at 6.15pm must be reviewed and, where appropriate, moved on to the later training groups but spaces have to be created. We want a Club made up of keen youngsters who attend regularly, listen to advice given by coaches, work hard in training sessions and represent the Club in competition. If you don't think your child can live up to these expectations, you may wish to review their membership. After all, you wouldn't take your child to football training and never expect them to play in a match or attend dance classes and never participate in a show. Please speak to any of the coaches or club officials if you wish to discuss this further.

We require all Junior athletes:

- Have paid Club Membership (see Pam Appleton or the Subs Desk)
- Are committed to attend competitions this summer (those over 9 years old)
- Are committed to the Athlete Code of Conduct displayed in the Club House

Please speak to your child and confirm that they are willing to meet the criteria above.