



# City of Portsmouth Athletic Club Higher Claim Membership Policy

## Membership Overview

This policy outlines the **Higher Claim Membership** for the City of Portsmouth Athletic Club (CoPAC). This membership is designed for athletes who wish to represent CoPAC in specific competitions, even if CoPAC is not their first claim club, in accordance with England Athletics regulations.

## Definition of Higher Competition Membership

According to England Athletics, a Higher Claim (Higher Competition) Membership allows an athlete to compete for a club other than their first claim club in specific competitions. To do so, the athlete must complete the Higher Competition Athlete Form and make the appropriate payment. This process closes on 1 March each year.

## Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for Higher Claim Membership:

- The athlete must be a registered member of another athletics club (their first claim club).
- The athlete must complete the Higher Competition Athlete Form and submit it to England Athletics by 1 March of the competition year.
- Approval must be granted by both the first claim club and CoPAC.

## Membership Application Process

- Interested athletes should obtain and complete the Higher Competition Athlete Form, available in the Useful Documents section of the myAthletics Portal.
- [englandathletics.org](http://englandathletics.org)
- Submit the completed form to England Athletics before the 1 March deadline.
- Ensure that both the first claim club and CoPAC approve the application.

## Membership Fees

England Athletics requires a fee for processing the Higher Competition Athlete application. This fee will be covered by CoPAC upon acceptance of Higher Claim Membership.

- CoPAC reserve the right to charge additional membership fees for Higher Competition Members. These fees are subject to annual review and will be communicated at the time of application.

## Membership Review and Renewal

- Higher Claim Membership is subject to annual review.
- Members must renew their application each year by completing the Higher Claim Athlete Form and submitting it to England Athletics by the specified deadline.
- Failure to renew or meet eligibility criteria may result in the termination of Higher Claim Membership.

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## Membership Benefits

Higher Claim Membership provides access to:

- Eligibility to represent CoPAC in specific competitions, as permitted by England Athletics regulations.
- **Exclusions:**
  - This membership does not include track facility usage; however, Higher Competition Members can pay for 'Track Only' membership should they wish to use the track or field facilities at Mountbatten Centre or receive coaching at the centre.
  - This membership does not include an England Athletics licence; athletes must maintain their registration through their first claim club.
- Members must adhere to the England Athletics Senior Code of Conduct, available here:
  - [Senior Athlete Code of Conduct](#)

## Cancellation & Refunds

- Membership fees are non-refundable.
- Members may choose to cancel their membership, but no partial refunds will be issued.

## Code of Conduct

All members must adhere to CoPAC's rules, policies, and code of conduct. Failure to do so may result in membership suspension or termination.

## Amendments to Policy

CoPAC reserves the right to amend this membership policy as needed. Members will be notified of any significant changes.

For any questions regarding this policy, please [contact](#) CoPAC administration.

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