

Membership Matters

Each year club membership secretaries complete and submit a return to England Athletics which indicates for which disciplines they wish to be affiliated for the following year. This involves ticking boxes for:

- Road Running
- Cross Country
- Trail Running
- Track and Field
- Hill and Fell Running
- Race Walking

Currently there are ten clubs which only tick the box for Hill and Fell Running and these ten clubs are designated "Fell Only" clubs being:

- Borrowdale Fell Runners
- Bowland Fell Runners
- Calder Valley Fell Runners
- Cheshire Hill Racers
- Dark Peak Fell Runners
- Durham Fell Runners
- Esk Valley Fell Club
- Mercia Fell Runners
- Northumberland Fell Runners
- Pennine Fell Runners

This number is likely to change in April as I know of at least one other club which is considering becoming "Fell Only".

Membership Principles

- Members of fell only clubs who are also members of the FRA are not required to be registered with EA to be eligible for team competition, (including Championships) for that club.
- Members of fell only clubs may also be members of another club for alternative disciplines such as Road Running, XC or Track and Field. The EA registration fee then becomes payable for them to be eligible for team competition in that other discipline.
- Only a runner's First Claim club can collect and pay their EA registration fee for them
- The membership status of runners who are members of more than one club depends upon which disciplines those clubs affiliate for.

Specific Examples

- Dark Peak are fell only and Hallamshire Harriers do not affiliate for Hill and Fell running. Therefore a member of these two clubs can be registered as First Claim for HH and First Claim Other for DPFR. HH will collect and pay the EA registration fee.
- Dark Peak are fell only and Buxton are a multi-discipline club which affiliates for T&F, XC, RR and H&F. A member of these two clubs must be registered as First Claim for DPFR and First Claim Other for Buxton. Dark Peak will collect and pay their EA registration fee even though this is for disciplines covered by Buxton.
- Glossopdale Harriers currently affiliate for XC, RR, HF and Trail. Therefore a member of Buxton who wants to join Glossopdale or vice versa, needs to decide which one will be his/her first claim club and which one will be his/her second claim club. If he/she decides to

change his First Claim club then he/she needs to comply with the Change of First Claim Club process which can be found online here: <https://www.englandathletics.org/athletics-clubs/club-affiliation>

- To be eligible for the whole of the current Championship year fully completed Change of Club applications must be lodged with EA before 10th February.

Clarification for 2018 Eligibility

The annual tick in the box exercise is general and not specific for Juniors and Seniors and a club which may be competitive in Senior Hill and Fell running may not support Junior fell running. Therefore, with the express and full support of their first claim club, Junior athletes will be considered as First Claim Other for another club even though both clubs tick the H&F box.

If any FRA members have any specific queries about any of the above then please feel free to contact me at membership@fellrunner.org.uk and I will do my very best to help you. Membership Services at England Athletics are very helpful and I can make sure that members of fell only clubs are properly recorded as such and offer advice regarding membership of more than one multi-discipline club.

Charmian Heaton

29th January 2018