

From: admin@gwent-registration.org.uk
Sent: 02 September 2026 22:33
To: admin@gwent-registration.org.uk
Subject: Pre-season details for Gwent Cross Country League
Attachments: GL Rules for competition.pdf

Categories: Yellow Category

Hello,

Another season is arriving so it's time for the pre-season email. There is quite a lot to say so please bear with me. If you have any questions about any of this, please get in touch.

Age Group Changes

Please see the [rules page](#) to see the new age groups. These should soon be on the Gwent League website

Neil has also written a page to give some explanation - Note that since then the U23 age group is now U24

<https://www.gwent-league.org.uk/agegroups.html>

The changes have the potential to cause some confusion so my very strong recommendation is to ensure that you have a date of birth recorded for all your athletes. I have updated the registration system to deal with the changes and it will place athletes in the correct age group when a data of birth is entered.

For the first fixture, we will have the date of birth remaining visible to managers until everyone has gotten used to the change.

The table below shows the cutoff dates of birth for all the younger age groups

age group	start - youngest	end - oldest
U12	10-Oct-2017	1-Sep-2015
U14	31-Aug-2015	1-Sep-2013
U16	31-Aug-2013	1-Sep-2011
U18	31-Aug-2011	1-Sep-2009
U20	31-Aug-2009	1-Sep-2007
U24	31-Aug-2007	1-Sep-2003

Production Of Results

Although chip timing has made it much easier to manage the finish area and has reduced the number of officials we need there, it was not a success in terms of producing team and divisional results. The Gwent results algorithms are a bespoke system and we found out last season that the standard software systems that chip timing companies use don't do what we need them to.

So, for this season, the chip timing data is going to come straight to me after the event and Neil and me will produce complete (individual, team and divisional results) provisional results as soon as possible after the event.

We will also revert to dealing with results queries. Please send these to

Seniors: gwentresults@gmail.com

Juniors: gwent.juniors@neilmiller.info

Depending on how things go this season, we may need to think about changing our results setup so that it will fit neatly with standard results software.

Also, in case anyone is unclear, the other big driver to chip timing was that the barcode system cannot cope with the size of senior field (around 700) we get at the Cardiff Cross. It was so chaotic in 2024 that they told us that we can't use it there again.

Number Allocation

Unfortunately, this did not go at all well last season. We had a huge number of numbers allocated to athletes who did not compete. This cost the league around £1400 and we can't repeat this experience in terms of expense and administrative effort.

This season each club will start with a batch of numbers equalling the number of results that it recorded for the whole of last season.

If a club requests any extra numbers up to and including fixture 4 we will be charging £2 for each one - we discussed and agree this at the AGM

We need to allow for clubs to grow their athlete numbers so any numbers requested for fixture 5 will be supplied without any charge.

Obviously, we will be listening to any club who is seriously changing their Winter focus to the Gwent from another league and so has very good reason for many extra numbers.

Numbers and Pins

The numbers this year will have a header than ends with 2026/27. Please look out for athletes that are wearing a number from last season or a number that is not issued by the Gwent League and get them to change it before their race.

Please bring a supply of pins with you. We will have some but this season I am not going to purchase the usual batch of 15,000 and distribute them with the numbers.

Please collect all your numbers from registration at the first fixture.

Entry Deadline And Entries On The Day

As we are now back to dealing with provisional results and queries, we don't have to supply our athlete data to the chip timing company. The upshot of that is that you can still allocate numbers to athletes until late on Friday evening rather than Wednesday evening.

As this is the 4th season using the registration system we are really hoping that you can all get your athletes registered ahead of race day so that entries or changes on the day are reduced to an absolute minimum. We are also going to charge £2 for each on-the-day entry or number changed. Again, we discussed and agreed this at the AGM

University Athlete Eligibility

Last season we had a couple of issues with ineligible athletes competing for university teams.

Any athlete competing must be pursuing some kind of course of study at the university in question. Being an ex-student or someone who trains with a university club does not qualify an athlete to compete.

Please can university managers carefully check their athlete registrations before the first fixture. This also extends to managers of Bristol, Cardiff and Swansea based clubs who are much more likely to have athletes competing for them and a university in the city.

Watch Out For These Registration Errors

If a male over 65 athlete is running with the Senior Women, they must be registered in the Over 65 race.

If a male over 65 athlete wants to run with the Senior Women AND in the Senior Mens race they need to be registered in both the Over 65 and Senior Mens races with a different number and need wear the number that matches each race.

Under 20 athletes are allowed to compete in the Senior races but they must be registered for the Senior race AND have their age group recorded as Under 24.

regards,
Peter

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