

Centre Awards Policy

Highfields and District Little Athletics is proud to recognise athlete achievements by presenting awards at the conclusion of each season, the recipients being decided on the basis of points allocation.

The system of point allocation is intended to encourage our athletes to;

- Participate in as many events as possible
- To always strive for their own personal best
- To represent our club at regional and state LAQ events, and
- To recognise their achievements at the end of the season

Awards Presented

The following awards are presented;

1. Participation Award
2. Improvement Award
3. Age Champion
4. Athlete of the Year
5. Recognition Awards

Note: individual awards are not applicable to Tiny Tots – all Tiny Tot athletes receive the same participation award.

Eligibility

All eligibility criteria must be met for the athlete to accumulate points;

1. The athlete must be a registered member of Highfields and District Little Athletics during the season
2. The athlete must attend at least 60% of available centre competition meets to qualify for any award, at least 3 of these events should be after Christmas.
 - a. Centre competition means regular weekly events held in Highfields for Highfields members only, as detailed in the season calendar. 'Available centre competitions' are those where events are held and results are recorded – competition meets that are cancelled due to wet weather or any other reason are not included in the calculation of available competitions.
 - b. Attendance means to attempt at least one scheduled event per centre competition, registering attendance.
 - c. Attendance as a triallist does not record results or accumulate points, and points will only accumulate once the athlete's registration is complete.

Note: an athlete does not directly gain points for attendance at centre competition, the 60% mark must be achieved to be considered for points accumulation.

Centre Awards Policy

Participation Award

Presented to: All athletes in all age groups, including Tiny Tots

Achieved by: Being a registered, financial member of Highfields & District Little Athletics for the current season and meeting the eligibility criteria as detailed above.

Improvement Award

Presented to: One athlete in each age group (may be male or female)

Achieved by: Achieving the highest number of personal bests over the centre competition events (Personal Best Points)

The athlete must have achieved minimum attendance

The athlete who achieves the Age Champion is not eligible to also receive the Improvement Award

Age Champion

Presented to: One male and one female athlete in each age group

Achieved by: Achieving the highest number of points over the centre competition, Downs and South West Regional Championships

Points are the accumulation of personal best points, performance points and representative points

Points are not allocated for non LAQ events, other LAQ affiliated centre events, or any other carnival than those listed above

The athlete must have achieved minimum attendance

If more than one athlete achieves the same points, more than one Age Champion may be awarded in an age group.

If no athletes in the age group achieve minimum attendance, an age champion will not be awarded for that age group.

Athlete of the Year

Presented to: Junior Athlete of the Year is awarded to one athlete from U9 to U12

Senior Athlete of the Year is awarded to one athlete from U13 to U17

Achieved by: Achieving the highest number of points over the centre competition, Downs and South West Regional Championships and LAQ State Championships

Points are the accumulation of personal best points, performance points and representative points

Points are not allocated for non LAQ events, other LAQ affiliated centre events, or any other carnival than those listed above

The athlete must have achieved minimum attendance

Hornet Spirit Award

Presented to: one athlete in each age group or combined age group, where applicable

Centre Awards Policy

Achieved by: Age athletes who has received the most number of recognitions during the season for exhibiting Club Mission Values of recognising Individuality; promoting family, fun and fitness; building self-esteem; encouraging and acknowledging success; promoting good sportsmanship; effort; and contribution to the club.

Group Leaders each club meet provide the name of the athlete from that day who most exhibited the above qualities.

The athlete must have achieved minimum attendance

Points Allocation

Points accumulate from week one of centre competition to the final week of centre competition inclusive of LAQ State Championships, per the season calendar.

Performances from prior seasons are irrelevant to any accumulation of points for the current season, and do not form a basis of an athlete's personal best seed. The personal best seed is created upon the first event of the current season.

Performance level points are based on the McDonald's performance levels that are defined and supplied by LAQ each year. These levels are available for each LAQ sanctioned event and for each of those events a 'better than' mark is determined for three levels identified as green, red and blue.

An athlete achieving a green level, which is within the reach of most athletes with a little application, has achieved a good level of performance.

Red level represents a very good performance, achievable by approximately 65% of athletes.

Blue level represents an excellent performance achievable by approximately 20% of athletes.

By linking the accumulation of points to the stated levels, athletes are rewarded for their level of achievement against the levels rather than against other athletes. Awarding points based on each occasion a level is achieved rewards an athlete's consistent performance at that level. This avoids an athlete's points assessment being based on achieving a high level on one occasion, rather than consistently striving for the listed performance levels.

Points are allocated as follows;

Personal Best Points	Each time a reference seed has been bettered, at a Highfields centre competition, Downs and South West Regional Championships and State Championships	1 point
Performance Points	Participation in an event where no result or no McDonalds level is recorded. Eg. Where the athlete did not finish, all attempts were fouls, or withdrawal after commencement due to injury (on each occasion)	1 point
	Green Level achieved (on each occasion)	2 points
	Red Level achieved (on each occasion)	4 points

Centre Awards Policy

	Blue Level achieved (on each occasion)	6 points
Representative Points	Attending and participating at Downs and South West Regional Championships	5 points per event
	Attending and participating at LAQ State Championships	5 points per event

For the avoidance of doubt, see the following examples;

- a) At a centre competition, if an athlete competes in 4 events and achieves 2 PBs, a red level and a green level. They will achieve;
 - 2 personal best points
 - 2 performance points – participation
 - 2 performance points – green level
 - 4 performance points – red level.

Total points for the competition – 10 points

Maximum available points for centre competition four events is 28.

Maximum available points for centre competition five events is 35
- b) At the Downs and South West Regional Championships, an athlete competes in 5 events, achieving 1 PB, a blue level, a green level and a red level. They placed 1st and 2nd being eligible for State Championships in those events, 4th, 5th and DNF due to injury. They will achieve;
 - 25 representative points
 - 1 personal best point
 - 2 performance points – green level
 - 4 performance points – red level
 - 6 performance points – blue level

Total points achieved – 38 points

Maximum available points for regional championships for five events is 60.
- c) At the State Championships, an athlete competes in 5 events, achieving 3 PBs, 2 blue level and a green level. They will achieve;
 - 25 representative points
 - 3 personal best points
 - 2 performance points – green level
 - 12 performance points – blue level

Total points achieved – 42 points

Maximum available points for State Championships for five events is 60.

Centre Awards Policy

Recognition Awards

The committee recognises there are a number of significant achievements by athletes that should be recognised, although do not form part of the points system. Such as;

- Athletes who break a regional or state record
- Athletes who achieve a Gold McDonalds Performance Level
- Athletes who register and participate in ten seasons of Little Athletics
- Athletes who progress through U17 and retire from Little Athletics

Life Membership

HDLAC values the contribution and tireless effort of all volunteers. In recognition of exceptional service, the club may choose to award Life Membership to individuals who have demonstrated outstanding dedication and commitment to the club over an extended period of time.

Nominations for Life Membership can be submitted to the Club Committee at any time and will be passed by a majority vote of the Committee. Life Memberships will be presented at the annual Awards celebration.

The following criteria should be met when considering an individual for Life Membership:

- Minimum of 10 years at HDLAC, with the majority of those years spent serving on the Committee
- Have performed their normal duties as well as going above and beyond what is required
- Has had a positive impact on HDLAC and Little Athletics in general