

# Staffordshire Amateur Athletic Association

(Founded 1924)

*Secretary /Chairman:*

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Dear Colleague,

The County Association has carefully reviewed both England Athletics guidelines and the recently issued 19-page document entitled “Return to Restricted Cross Country Competition in a COVID-19 Secure Setting” and has concluded that the 2021 County Cross Country Championships are cancelled.

This has not been a decision we would have liked to have taken. However, given the proposed formats of races prescribed in the document, we feel that we could not put on an event that would be likely to satisfy athletes and clubs. It could not be called a championship given the maximum length of any race would be 15 minutes and starts would be in “waves” of 12 athletes. Also, it cannot be assumed that local authorities or landowners would be willing to let numbers of people from different areas of the county gather on their land. With individuals being required to travel in their own vehicle car parking problems are likely. We also have to be mindful that a number of county officials are over 70 years of age and could therefore come under the governments category of vulnerable – would we therefore have enough officials.

In addition to the above, recent government announcements have indicated the current situation, if not worsening, is likely to last until at least March next year. This raises the possibility of an event having to be cancelled at the 11<sup>th</sup>. hour due to emergency local restrictions being introduced.

Given the above, we feel the association had no option but to cancel the championships.

Malcolm Hackney (Chairman/Secretary)