

# Changes to the SAMA By-Laws – June 2024

George White as Governance Coordinator has reviewed the By-Laws and the SAMA Committee has approved any amendments. These include:

- **Points amended for Achievers Award**

The revised By-Law (effective from September 2023) is shown below with amendments highlighted.

1. **SAMA ACHIEVERS AWARD**

In 2020 the SAMA Achievers Award was introduced to recognise participation and improvement.

### **Aim of the Award**

To introduce a scheme for an "Achievers Award" to acknowledge individual performances gained by athletes who strive from week to week to improve their performance ratings but who may not necessarily be at a "high" standard.

### **Advantages**

Encourage more athletes to attend weekly meetings for both Summer and Winter seasons.

Increase motivation and competitiveness between athletes at all levels of competition for the full range of events.

### **Scheme**

The Award will be applicable only to financial members of SAMA and based on their performances during the weekly SAMA competitions. Awards will be made separately for each of the Summer and Winter seasons.

In the Summer season it will cover all athletic disciplines i.e. runs, sprints, walks, jumps, throws. For the Winter season it will apply to all participants in the run and walk events.

The Award will be determined using a points-based system.

Points will be awarded on a weekly basis, commencing on the first week for each SAMA season i.e. for the Winter season or Summer season. Athletes that compete at a meet will be acknowledged with one point for participation that week.

A further point will be awarded for improvement in any event entered.

Performance improvement will be assessed by comparing the latest achieved Age Grade Rating for a particular event with the previously achieved maximum Age Grade Rating for that event for the current season. Performance points cannot therefore be accumulated on the first occasion that an athlete competes in a particular event that season.

Points will be calculated for each unique event (except Race and Club walks will be considered as one event for this purpose).

Points towards a season's total will be awarded as follows:

- One point for participating in the meet for that week, plus
- One additional point for improvement over the best age grade % performance for the same event. Distance event points will be calculated as general distance events rather than a unique type and distance i.e. if an athlete entered a 5km race one week and then a 10km the next week they were considered to have run distance events and the age grade % compared for points. Distances 2km or more are considered to be distance events.

### **Accounting**

Award points will be calculated based on the results entered in the SAMA Event Manager database each week. Software algorithms have been incorporated to enable comparison of performance data each week as detailed above.

### **Reports**

A report will be produced from Event Manager each week recording the points status for each athlete as they progress through the season.

This report will be published on the SAMA website appended to the bottom of the weekly competition Results. Only the points accumulated up to the previous week's competition will be included in the report, as points should not be allocated until all results are confirmed.

### **The Award**

Awards will be given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd highest point scoring athletes based on overall points achieved at the end of each season, regardless of age, gender or athletic discipline.

The accumulation of points for each season will cease on a competition date to be determined by the SAMA Committee, taking into account the lead time needed by the Awards Officer to prepare the trophy and certificates.

Each Awardee will receive a certificate and a prize of a gift card (their value will be reviewed by the SAMA Committee from time to time, which will decrease in amount according to the placing). The winner (with highest points) will receive the highest prize amount and will also be presented with a trophy to keep.

The outcome of Achievers Award will be notified initially to the Awardees and subsequently announced at the Presentation ceremony at the end of each of the Summer and Winter seasons, when the presentations of trophy and certificates will be made.

### **Responsibility**

The SAMA Awards Officer.

Updated September 2023