

SELECTORS REPORT 2018

In last season's report I noted that there was a flaw in our criteria whereby it was hard for some quality athletes to qualify with the existing criteria and the new committee needed to address this.

I also noted in my Development report that we had no U13 girls and few U13 boys competing in Triathlon.

At the last AGM there had also been a request for the Selectors to consider having a time based element in the criteria.

The selectors for the 2017/18 season were Dr Austin Jeans, Mel Barnes and myself, as Convenor.

We as a committee addressed these issues above and decided that we could improve our criteria by having a time based element whereby athletes could gain bonus points if they completed their race within a certain time. This would resolve the issue of large categories being unable to qualify.

Looking back over various seasons of results we came up with what we felt was a fair time for both the girls and boys categories in the U15, U17 and U19 categories.

In the U13 categories we decided to try and take a little bit of the pressure off these athletes whereby they only had to compete in a minimum of 3 events. One event in January 2018 onwards had to be time based to ensure that they were of the caliber to compete at SA Champs.

This year 15 athletes qualified and travelled to SA Champs at Maselspoort Bloemfontein as compared to last year's 20 athletes.

Our athletes raced exceptionally well coming home with 1 gold medal (U15 girls), 1 silver medal (U15 Boys) and 2 bronze medals (U13 boys, U17 Boys)

Although the U13 girl and boys criteria was more lenient than in previous years we still did not have any U13 girls qualifying and only 1 U13 boy qualifying.

Out of a team of 15 athletes only 3 of them were girls.

AFRICA CHAMPS

This year Africa Champs were held in Rabat Morocco. With a month to go it was announced that it would also double as the YOG qualifier.

Andie Kuipers, Mikayla Colegrave, Matt Denslow and Marcel Paulser were in the YOG squad so it was decided that they would automatically qualify to travel.

For the rest of the team they had to qualify at SA Champs as per previous year's criteria by being top 3 Zimbabweans across the line but within 10% of the relevant event winner's time.

4 U15 boys qualified but only 3 travelled, 1 U15 girl qualified and 1 U19 girl qualified but neither travelled.

The team of 4 YOG athletes and the 3 U15 boys travelled.

Our 3 U15 boys who had to compete in the 15-17 category all raced well and podiumed. I am sure the experience was extremely valuable and will assist in future racing.

Our YOG athletes had to compete in the U19 category but needed to be top 3 nations across the line in the U17 category. Unfortunately we were 4th nation across the line in both the girls and boys categories therefore not qualify for YOG which I am sure was very disappointing for all.

However as a result of their performance at Africa Champs, Matt and Andie were selected by the ITU to attend an African Development camp in Brieve France later this month (June 2018).

I am sure the whole YOG experience has been very exciting for all 4 athletes and will have taught them valuable lessons for life.

PAMELA FULTON
CONVENOR OF SELECTORS