



FIELD EVENT REVIEW PROJECT

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Aims for this session

- Summary of the process
- Steps we've taken since September
- Presentation of our findings
- Solutions for consideration and key priorities
- Reflections and next steps



FIELD EVENT REVIEW PROJECT

The Team

Working Group:



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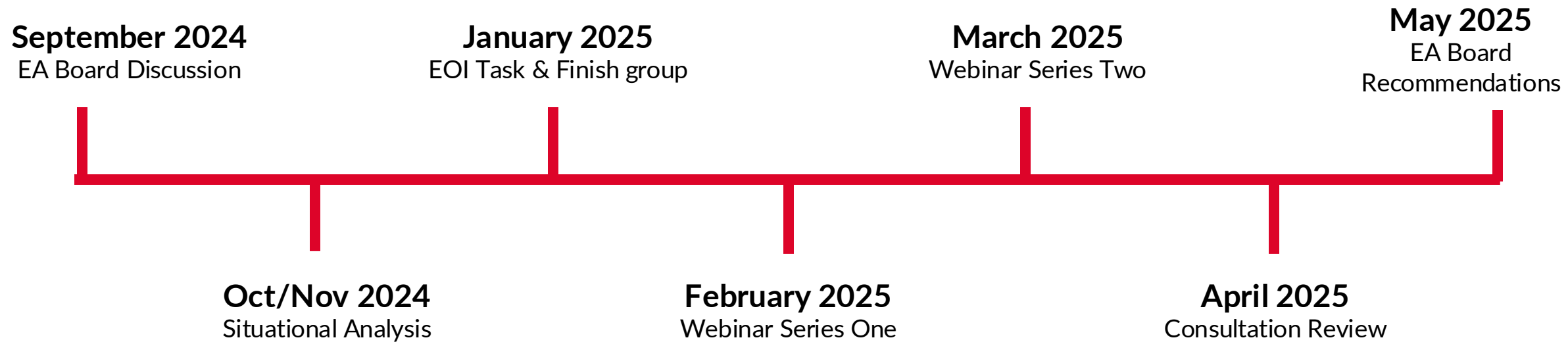


Sarah Benson

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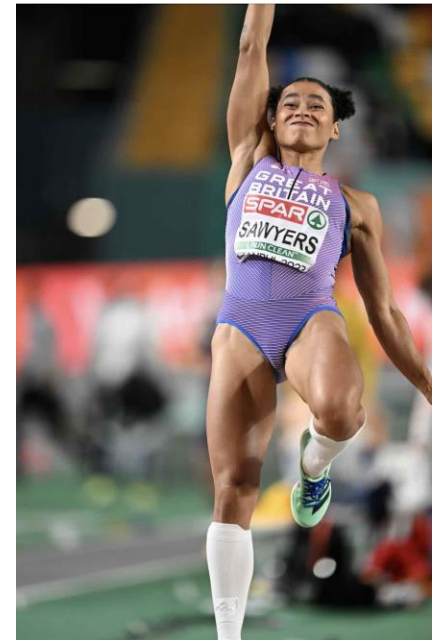
Timeline



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Situational Analysis

- Clubs & Grassroots Athletics
- Schools & Entry Points
- Competition
- Coaching
- Facilities & Venues
- Talent & Performance Pathway



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SWOT ANALYSIS

- Sense of community
- Competitions
- Excellent talent development environments (TDEs)
- High performing coaches/athletes
- Masterclass/training camps
- Lack of insight
- Coach education/development
- Lack of technical expertise
- Lack of professional coaching
- Facilities & equipment
- Lack of representative opportunities
- Mentoring & CoP
- Collaboration with TDEs
- Regional development events
- Competition format and representative opportunities
- Support and engagement with schools
- Recruitment of athletes to coaches
- Availability of facilities
- Decline of coaches
- Falling participation & performance levels
- Lack of exposure in schools
- Increase in cost of running development opportunities
- Funding/investment



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Key challenges - Emerging themes

Competition

- Limited multi-event competitions for young athletes
- Limited formats and opportunities

Clubs and grassroots

- Shortage of field event expertise and inter/intra-club collaboration
- Lack of coaching workforce data in clubs
- Limited local club coach support

Talent and Performance

- Lack of paid coaching opportunities
- Lack of guidance on TDEs (colleges, unis, Hubs)

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Key challenges - Emerging themes

Coach Education and Development

- Limited mentoring opportunities
- Coaches working in isolation
- Lack awareness of and limited guidance on coach development opportunities

Schools and entry points

- Lack of T&F curriculum (Teacher training)
- Weak school engagement and competitions
- Limited communication between schools and clubs

Facilities

- Access to facilities
- Cost and availability
- Indoor venues and training

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Key solutions - Emerging themes

Competition

- Modernise Formats & Accessibility
- Improve Visibility & Promotion
- Optimise Structure & Incentives

Clubs and grassroots

- Map and strengthen coaching capacity
- Enhance regional support structures
- Invest in sustained club development

Talent and Performance

- Improve guidance and communication
- Grow and specialise the Talent Hub network
- Recognise and enhance talent development environments

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Key solutions - Emerging themes

Coach Education and Development

- Align coach development with national strategy
- Establish structured mentoring pathways
- Deliver long-term support and progression

Schools and entry points

- Strengthen school-club connections
- Expand access to inclusive competition
- Influence long-term curriculum change

Facilities

- Identify and prioritise needs
- Improve national visibility and access
- Deliver long-term infrastructure growth

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Top 3 priorities

Emerging solution	The detail	Time	Staffing	Costs
Priority 1 Coach Education and Development Strengthen Development Pathways <i>Formalise the existing ad-hoc coach mentoring activities into a structured, event-specific mentoring programme, enabling pathway coaches to regularly engage with technical experts and enhance their development</i> <i>Re-vision Talent Event Lead roles to Coach Developer/Mentor roles, increasing and enhancing their role up to 1 day/week.</i>	Importance - Many field event coaches feel isolated and lack structured development opportunities beyond initial qualifications, making regular access to technical experts vital for deepening expertise and improving coaching quality. Challenge - Coordinating mentors and mentees across diverse locations and events, securing sufficient technical experts, and ensuring the programme is accessible, sustainable, and tailored to the specific needs of field event disciplines. Impact – Provide consistent, practical development for coaches, fostering a more confident, skilled coaching workforce and ultimately raising the standard of athlete performance in field events.			

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Top 3 priorities

Emerging solution	The detail	Time	Staffing	Costs
Priority 2 Clubs and grassroots Expand, diversify and upskill coaching workforce <i>Provide ongoing development beyond entry-level qualifications, focusing on the development of targeted event groups and locations through ongoing athlete and coach development initiatives.</i> <i>Increase resources for the RCCL (or an RCL role) to support coaches in clubs in critical geographical areas.</i>	Importance – It is essential because many clubs lack access to specialised coaching in field events, and ongoing development can help address skills gaps and build sustained expertise among coaches and athletes. Challenge – Implementation is challenging due to the heavy reliance on volunteers, limited regional development infrastructure, and difficulties in identifying and reaching qualified coaches across all clubs. Impact – If successfully implemented, it will foster stronger, more capable coaching networks, improve the quality of athlete development, and reduce disparities in field event participation and performance across regions.			

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Top 3 priorities

Emerging solution	The detail	Time	Staffing	Costs
Priority 3 Talent and Performance Grow and specialise the Talent Hub network <i>Partnering with universities, expanding paid coaching roles, and ensuring dedicated field event expertise at selected sites.</i>	Importance – Field event athletes often lack structured, high-quality coaching and development support at university level, and expanding Talent Hubs with paid roles and field-specific expertise would address this gap and promote parity with track disciplines. Challenge – Securing sustained funding for paid coaching positions, identifying universities with the capacity and commitment to host field event hubs. Impact – Enhance the performance environment for field event athletes during a critical development phase, increase access to expert coaching, and help shift the perception of field events as under-supported compared to track, ultimately strengthening the senior talent pipeline.			

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Top 5 priority

Emerging solution	The detail	Time	Staffing	Costs
Priority 4 Facilities Map and Strategise National Provision <i>Consider the findings from the UK/England Athletics Facilities Strategy Review to identify key areas of support required for the development and sustainability of field event venues</i> <i>Work collaboratively with the EA Facilities Manager to develop a plan for implementing targeted resources and/or key projects aimed at protecting and enhancing field event facilities</i>	Importance – A clear national overview of field event facilities, including where athletes and coaches can train year-round, is currently lacking, and developing a detailed audit and strategic plan will help prioritise investment, ensure proper maintenance, and improve access to high-quality venues across the country. Challenge – Collecting reliable and comprehensive facility data from diverse operators, agreeing on objective criteria for prioritising venues, and securing funding and coordination to maintain and upgrade a targeted list of key facilities amid competing local and national demands. Impact – Deliver a transparent and strategic map of the country's year-round field event training infrastructure, guide sustainable investment into high-priority sites, and ensure that athletes and coaches have consistent access to safe, well-maintained facilities that support long-term development and performance.			

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Top 5 priority

Emerging solution	The detail	Time	Staffing	Costs
Priority 5 Schools and entry points Strengthen school-club connections <i>Updating school contact databases, promoting existing club resources, and exploring a dedicated EA schools coordinator role to enhance collaboration and volunteer support.</i>	Importance - The growing disconnect between schools and athletics clubs is limiting young people's exposure to field events, and a dedicated EA schools coordinator could play a key role in bridging that gap, facilitating collaboration, and strengthening the grassroots talent pathway. Challenge - securing funding and defining the scope of the coordinator role, ensuring effective engagement with both schools and clubs across diverse regions, and integrating efforts within an already stretched voluntary sector without duplicating existing work. Impact - Introducing a schools coordinator role could create a more cohesive and equitable pathway from school to club sport, increase access to field event opportunities in schools, and provide much-needed support to the volunteer network connecting education and community athletics.			

