



ATHLETICS SOUTH WEST

C/O
57 POPLAR DRIVE
YEOVIL
SOMERSET
BA21 3UL

07909512073

See Distribution:

19 Sept 25

SOUTH-WEST CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS - 3 JAN 2026

EVENT INFORMATION LEAFLET (Version 25.0)

Event Sponsor and Organiser: Lt Cdr D'ARCY RN Rt'd (07909512073)

1. **General.** England Athletics South-West Region will stage the 2026 South-West Cross-Country Championships at RNAS Merryfield Airfield, near Ilton, Somerset by kind permission of the Commanding Officer, RNAS Yeovilton (COVL).

2. The event will be held under United Kingdom Athletics (UKA) rules and England Athletics (EA). The UKA Licence application has been submitted through Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club (YOAC), as the responsible affiliated club. YOAC will also administer entries and payments on behalf of Athletics South West.

3. There will be a series of off-road running races for athletes of all ages from Under 11 upwards, from across the SW Region. It is anticipated that overall numbers of competitors will be in the region of 700, based on entry data from previous years. It will be held on a closed airfield and will use the fields and woodland areas to the South of the airfield. The first race will be at 1100. Tarmac areas will be designated for car parking and domestic use but will not be used for the races.

4. **Set Up.** The course will be marked out by the organising team over the days immediately preceding the event using high visibility tape in accordance with UKA/EA guidance. Where natural boundaries exist, these will be used. Where there is a requirement for Gazebo tents these will be sited on the tarmac surface, held in place by leg weights, to provide cover for race officials and team managers during the event.

5. **Poor weather.** Significant ice and snowfall immediately prior to the event will lead to cancellation or postponement of the event. This is due primarily to being able to get to the venue safely. The event will continue in all other weathers. All attendees are advised to bring clothing appropriate for the forecast weather, no shelter is provided. Private vehicles may be the only respite from heavy rain.

6. **Externals Agencies and Services.** The provision of public Portaloos and a catering facility will also be arranged by the organiser. There will be a degree of hedge trimming carried out by a local provider as arranged through OiC MFD.

- a. Portaloos will be provided by Eagle Plant, Ilton.
- b. A catering facility will be provided by Henry Chipperfield.
- c. Medical first aid will be provided by Dartmoor Ambulance Service.
- d. PA System will be provided by Ian Pearce

7. **Event.** The races will be competed over the distances shown in Annex A.
8. **Entry. Pre-entry is essential.** Due to new restrictions imposed by the MOD all attendees must be pre registered prior to the 14 December. Civilians, as well as members of the Armed Forces, Reserve Forces, and MOD who are registered and affiliated EA athletes are entitled to enter the championships. This event is not open to unaffiliated athletes. Entry is via a JotForm system with online payments of the entry fee of £9 (under 17 years) and £11 (over 17 years). Entries will close at midnight on the 14th December. It is strongly recommended that attendees consult the South West Athletics website, and YOAC Social Media feeds (twitter, and Facebook) for updates prior to the competition date.
9. **Public Liability.** The event will be insured by EA who are providing liability to the value of £5,000,000. A copy of the Public Liability Insurance Certificate is available on request.
10. **Traffic Management plan.** Please make plans such that you arrive no more than 2 hours prior to your published race time where possible.
11. **Arrival at RNAS Merryfield.** Gates will open for attendees at 0900 except for members of the organising team. Do not to arrive at the site before this time and not to wait in the villages of Ilton or Rapps which are served by small and quiet access roads. Attendees are asked to be respectful to the local community by driving with care and consideration through their villages. On arrival at the site, traffic will be marshalled to an entry point, where the surname of each occupant in every vehicle will be checked from the pre-entry nominal list.
12. **Car Parking.** Parking will be signposted and available East of runway 34 threshold, please see Annex A. A team of marshals will guide attendees to the parking area. Traffic will arrive at the main entry gate and will be directed to runway 27 and then down runway 16, before being guided to the parking area. This is to avoid queuing at the main gate on public roads. **Please note the on-site speed limit is 15mph.** People with disability access requirements should make themselves known to a Marshal and will be directed to the Disabled Parking area.
13. **Departure.** Exit from the base will be via the Main Gate, using the Southern Taxiway. This will mean keeping the air traffic control tower on your LEFT as you leave the site. Re-joining the A358 can cause delays. Attendees are **STRONGLY** advised to turn left at this junction **even if heading to the M5 at Taunton** and use the roundabout to gain access to the west bound carriageway, it is an additional 3-minute drive but will be much quicker and safer for everyone in the queue behind you.
14. **Registration.** All competitors are to register at race registration. Please allow plenty of time to park, register and warm up prior to the event. Race numbers can be collected from the registration desk, competitors will need to provide their own safety pins to secure numbers to club/competition vests.
15. **Course Recce.** Please note that this is MOD property. There is no prior access to the site; access is limited to Saturday 3rd January for attendees, although organisers will arrange access through OiC MFD to facilitate preparatory work.
16. Attendees will be permitted to walk through the course but are to be clear of the course at 1045. **There will be no access to the course after this time, except for marshals, and competitors during their races.**
17. **Smoking Policy.** RNAS Merryfield is a non-smoking site. Smoking is not permitted at any time in any location whilst on the base. Smoking may only take place prior to entry or once you have left the site.
18. **Dogs. Please NOTE dogs are not permitted on site. The entry form states this clearly!**

19. **Timings.** Timings for the event are as follows:

1300 – A/R	Friday 2nd January
	Course set up
Saturday 3 rd Jan	
0630 - 1000	Final set up course and registration area
0815	On site officials and helpers briefing
0900	Gates open for entrants
0930	Second Officials and Marshal Brief
0945	Registration opens for first race see above table
1030	Race brief
1045	Course clear for competition
1100 - 1530	Age group races
1500	De-rig course and administration areas. Marshals will help with this!
ASAP	Walking Litter pick ALL to help
1630	Site clear

20. **Safety and Security.** Any incident or accident is to be reported immediately to the Security Guard. A MoD Accident/Incident Report Form is available at the Main Gate Security building and is to be completed by the injured party, event organiser or person in charge after any accident/incident, giving full details in order to assist with further reporting action. In the event of an on-site Emergency, all personnel, to include members of the public, organising staff and vendors will be moved to the North side of runway 27 on foot. The details will be forwarded to the OiC MFD who will carry out any investigation as required. The Southern Taxiway (Eastern section from Tower to entry gate) is to kept clear for Emergency vehicle access.

- a. **Briefing.** All on site staff will be given a briefing by the Mr Paul D'Arcy and Mr Richard Llewellyn-Eaton at 0815 and 0930.
- b. **Medical.** First Aid staff will be on site to deal with any minor injuries, for any serious injuries contact emergency services on 999. First Aid providers have been made aware of the requirements detailed in the EA Guidance above. A copy of the FA Risk assessment is available at request.
- c. **Catering.** A mobile catering facility will be on site, provided by H Chipperfield. A copy of the Catering licence is available at request.
- d. **Hydration.** All competitors must ensure they bring sufficient water bottles to stay hydrated.
- e. **Earphones and personal electronic devices.** Use of such devices by competitors is not permitted at any time during the race. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification.
- f. **Marshals.** Marshals will wear hi-vis vests and be situated along the race routes. Competitors must obey signals and orders given by marshals to maximise safety.
- g. **FOD Control.** Competitors are not to drop litter; anyone caught doing so will be disqualified. Merryfield is an active airfield and litter presents a serious 'Foreign Object Damage' hazard to aircraft. Competitors are to use bins provided or to take litter home.
- h. On completion of the event a thorough FOD plod, or Litter Skirmish will be conducted. Any residual waste will be removed from the site by the organisers or placed in prearranged bins as directed by OiC MFD.
- i. **Risk.** The Organisers of the Event are required to provide HSEP team with a report form should an occurrence take place during the event, the Occurrence Advisor will then determine

whether it needs reporting through the MySafety system. A full Risk Assessment has been conducted and is available on request.

21. **Results.** Race results will be announced on completion of the race. The results will also appear on the Athletics South West website and sent to Power of 10, as soon as possible after the event.

22. **Summary.** The South-West Cross-County Championships for 2026 will be held at RNAS Merryfield on Saturday 3rd Jan 25.

Signed on original

Lt Cdr P A D'ARCY RN (Rt'd)

Annexes:

- A. Cross-County Course Map.
- B. Online Entry Details.

Distribution:

Internal:

COVL

OiC MFD

Lt Cdr P A D'ARCY Rtd

External: (Except Annex E)

SW Regional Council members and Website

All Athletes (via Link)

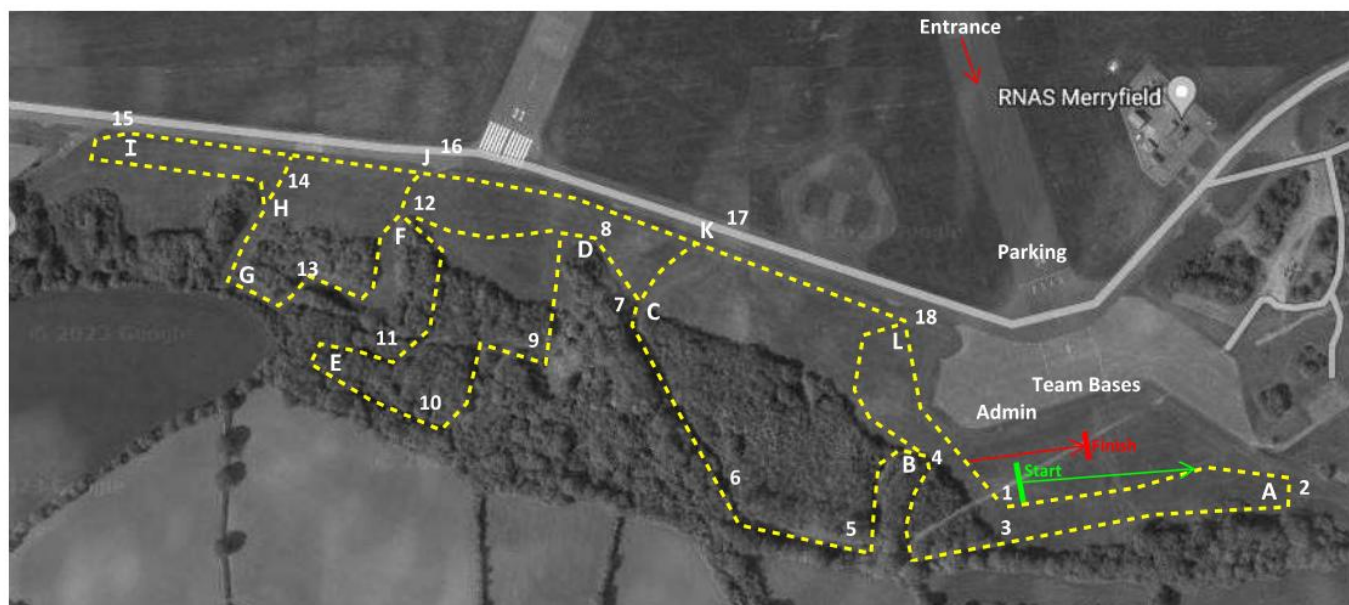
All Officials and Helpers (via Link)

The South-West Cross-County Championships **RACE COURSE**

RNAS Merryfield - course layout for England Athletics South-West Region Cross-Country Championships

Saturday 3rd January 2026
First Race 11.00

The course is 'taped' at intersections and also by the hedge lines surrounding fields or within wooded areas. Thus minimal actual tape is needed.



Race Times & Approximate Race Distances:

11.00 under 11 = Start A B **C K L** Finish = 1900m

11.10 Senior Women = Start (A B C D E F G H I J K L) X2 Finish = 7130m

11.45 Senior Men = Start (A B C D E F G H I J K L) X2 Finish = 7130m

12.25 under 13 Girls = Start A B C D E **F J K L** Finish = 2790m

12.40 under 13 Boys = Start A B C D E **F J K L** Finish = 2790m

12.48 under 17 Women = Start (A B C **D F J K L**) x2 Finish = 4400m

13.09 under 17 Men = Start A B C **D F J K L** + A B C D E F G **H J K L** Finish = 5400m

13.32 under 15 Girls = Start A B C D E F G **H J K L** Finish = 3200m

13.44 under 15 Boys = Start A B C D E F G **H J K L** Finish = 3200m

ONLINE ENTRY DETAILS

1. Entry into the South-West Cross-County Championships will be via JotForm hosted on the Athletics South West website. The JotForm may be available in a variety of social media platforms.
2. Entry fees are £9 (under 17 years) and £11 (over 17 years)
3. Entries will close at midnight on 14 Dec 25. Entry on the day of the race is NOT available.
4. It is strongly recommended that you consult the website for updates regularly prior to the competition date.

