

NEWSLETTER ISA / VBS

UNITED KINGDOM ATHLETICS 29TH APRIL 2009
PREPARED BY DAVID BROWN CBE



Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) and the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS)

April 2009 Update

Background Information

- The government's Independent Safeguarding Authority's (ISA) background checking system **known as the "Vetting and Barring Scheme"** (VBS) for those who work with young people and vulnerable adults comes into force on the 12th October 2009.
- This new scheme is law and non-compliance could result in criminal action. It covers what the government call Regulated Activity. This is defined as an activity where an adult is working in close proximity, on a frequent or intensive basis, with young people or vulnerable adults, thus having the opportunity to build a relationship of trust with them. Training, coaching, supervising, officiating young people in athletics are considered Regulated Activities.
- The VBS is **not a replacement** for the existing CRB scheme. These two checks will work together, in tandem via a single form, to help safeguard young and vulnerable people and will require **no additional work** over and above what is expected for a CRB check by the person completing the form.
- On the 16th March 2009 Meg Hillier on behalf of the government announced that part of the scheme would be delayed until July 2010.

LATEST.... Update information

- On the 28th April 2009 UKA representing athletics attended the latest consultation meeting between the sports sector and the ISA/VBS. The following main points are relevant to keep you up to date with how the implementation is progressing:-
- The scheme will commence on the 12th October 2009. On that date it becomes a legal requirement for convictions or concerns regarding individuals and their involvement with children and vulnerable adults to be referred to the ISA. Any concerns from clubs or individuals should in the first instance be passed to the Welfare Team at UKA who will advise on the next course of action.
- Individual registration of new additions to the workforce will commence in July 2010. In respect of athletics this will relate to all new coaches and technical officials and at club level anyone who is new to your club and who you would be requesting to obtain an enhanced CRB check due to their involvement with children or vulnerable adults.
- There are some 11.3 million people who will need to register with the ISA, so they **intend to spread the registration over a five year phasing period**. The announcement of the 16th March put back that period by twelve months.
- **From July 2010 UKA will facilitate the ISA registration of those new to the sport.**
- During 2011 the ISA only expect to check those with no CRB, this is in fact a substantial number in the teaching profession who have never had a CRB check completed.
- **On the 1st January 2012 UKA will start the process of ISA registration** of all those individuals who hold an enhanced CRB check with UKA and which are from that date due for renewal. The intention is to complete the ISA registration as your CRB comes up for renewal. This will inevitably mean that some people will not enter the ISA scheme until 2014.
- UKA have yet to formally agree our phasing policy with the ISA however our plans are fully in line with the guidance that we have received.

ISA Guidance

- The ISA will circulate to the consultation groups the interim generic guidance for consideration from the 11th May 2009.
- The draft sport specific guidance is due for consultation during July and August 2009.

Road Shows

- The ISA will be putting on road shows across the country between June and July. They will be free to attend and last for a half day. The road shows will only provide the background to the legislation and the generic guidance they will not be in a position to provide any answers to sport specific questions.
- Details of the road shows will appear on the ISA website www.isa-gov.org

Communications strategy

- The ISA have a communications strategy planned which will see the scheme brought more and more into the public arena. As July 2010 draws ever nearer more detailed information will become available.

Call Centre

- A call centre has been set up by the ISA where you can contact them with any questions that you may have. The number is 0300 123 1111 and is operated Mon- Fri between 8am and 5pm.
- There is also a frequently asked question page on the ISA website.

UKA will continue to represent the best interests of the sport and to provide you with any information on this issue as soon as it becomes available. **The next consultation meeting is set for the 16th July 2009.**

If you have any questions then please contact either David Brown or Jane Fylan at the UKA Welfare Team. We do not promise to have all the answers.

Telephone 0161 223 4246

Email dbrown@uka.org.uk or jfylan@uka.org.uk