

Dear Colleague

### **Women in Coaching Project**

UKA and England Athletics, in conjunction with our Home Country partners hosted the UK's first Women's Coaching Conference in the summer of 2009 with 150 female coaches in attendance. The event brought together a number of high profile female coaches for a discussion on the challenges in building a better environment for women in coaching.

The event included world class presenters instrumental in bringing women into key areas of USA Track and Field (USATF), namely Stephanie Hightower, President of USA Track & Field (USATF), Terry Crawford, (Director of Coaching, USATF), Amy Deem, coach to former 100m World Champion Lauryn Williams, Brooks Johnson, pioneer of the USATF Women's Initiative, and former World Champion and Olympic silver medallist turned successful British coach, Liz McColgan.

It was evident from the discussions at the conference that there are a number of issues impacting the recruitment, retention and development of female coaches in our sport. Our own data confirms that women are under represented amongst the ranks of level three and level four qualified coaches and they are rarely working with funded athletes on both Futures and World Class Plan funding.

- Ratio of female to male Level 3 coaches is 3:10
- Ratio of female to male Level 4 coaches 1:11
- Ratio of female to male coaches working with funded athletes (Futures & WCP) 1:28

Following an online survey completed by the attendees shortly after the event, there is clearly a desire amongst female coaches to organise and develop strategies and programmes to improve upon these statistics.

As a result of these findings, UKA and the Home Country federations are creating a "Women in Coaching Advisory Committee" that will work closely with all of the governing bodies to develop a strategy and make recommendations that can help to improve the coaching environment for women. Attached to this document is an application form for individuals who are willing to sit on this committee with a view to meeting four times a year to discuss women specific issues and deliver developmental programmes and an annual conference.

This programme will sit as part of a wider UK Coaching and Development Strategy to get more women into performance/development coaching and should not only be about getting more women qualified at the highest level but, about visibility and opportunity as well.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

- The key long term objective of this project is to create opportunities for female coaches serving to raise the standard, number and profile of female coaches working with athletes at every level.
- To ensure the continued development of female coaches within the Coach Education system with a particular focus on raising the proportion of female coaches working with athletes in the top 10 UK rankings across U17, U20 and Senior levels.



Application forms for the Advisory Group are available online.  
<http://www.uka.org.uk/media/news/march-2010/31-03-10-women-coaching/>

Terms:

- Committee comprised of up to 8 individuals.
- All UKA licensed coaches.
- One representative from each home country.
- One marketing representative.
- Ideally coaches of grassroots, developmental and high performance athletes / experience.
- Meet 4 times per year.
- Charged with: will contribute to the development of a strategy for women in coaching initiatives.
- Will make recommendations to home countries with regards to women specific programming.
- Provide a voice for female coaches.
- Contribute to the hosting of the annual women in coaching conference.

The closing date for receiving application forms is April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A panel will then meet and successful applicants will be informed by the May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It is expected that the group will meet for the first time in the spring of 2010.

All applicants should be endorsed by their Home Country Federation, contact information below:

Athletics Northern Ireland – Vicki Kennedy - [Vicki@niathletics.org](mailto:Vicki@niathletics.org)

Scottish Athletics – Nigel Holl – [nigel.holl@scottishathletics.org.uk](mailto:nigel.holl@scottishathletics.org.uk)

Welsh Athletics – Neil Wheeler - [Neil.Wheeler@welshathletics.org](mailto:Neil.Wheeler@welshathletics.org)

England Athletics – Alison Potts - [apotts@englandathletic.org](mailto:apotts@englandathletic.org)

If you have any questions please contact Hayley Ginn at [women@uka.org.uk](mailto:women@uka.org.uk) or Alison Potts – [apotts@englandathletic.org](mailto:apotts@englandathletic.org) ; 07912 127586

Yours sincerely



**Kevin Tyler**  
**UKA Strategic Head of Coaching & Development**

