

2016 Athletic Facts

Fact File 54

2016 - Age Analysis of Southern Athletics League Competitors.

Background. The YDL was set up in 2012 to provide competition for younger athletes as an aid to improvement. However since its introduction there has been a growth in those area leagues with combined men's and women's teams. These leagues have also provided competition for younger athletes as teams have sought to make up numbers to compensate for a decline in senior competitors. A potential conflict involving the use of younger athletes next season has arisen between the Southern Athletic League and the YDL Upper Age Division. We addressed this issue in Fact File 51 after the first round of matches in 2016. We asked Rob Whittingham to revise the figures after the 2016 season closed. Here is his full age analysis of the 120 meetings which took place in the 2016 Southern League.

Breakdown by Age and Division

	MSen	MU20	MU17	MVets	WSen	WU20	WU17	WVets
Div 1	317	137	93	140	192	118	134	81
Div 2E	251	135	134	110	156	132	158	65
Div 2W	199	129	101	131	110	86	101	69
Div 3N	244	96	96	172	130	66	98	93
Div 3SW	154	106	116	103	96	100	168	56
Div 3SE	195	82	128	125	112	57	116	74
	1360	685	668	781	796	559	775	438
	38.92%	19.61%	19.12%	22.35%	31.00%	21.77%	30.18%	17.06%

Conclusions on SAL age breakdowns

- Only 39% of men and 31% of women who competed in the Southern League were seniors.
- U20 men and U17 men comprised 38.7% of the men's section of the combined teams.
- U20 women and U17 women comprised 51.9% of the women's section of teams.

YDL Numbers

To determine the participation levels of younger athletes in the Southern YDL Rob Whittingham looked at the 28 YDL Upper Age Southern Division matches held in the 2016 season. These are compared to the numbers competing in the SAL by age group.

- YDL U20 men 506
- YDL U17 men 738
- YDL U20 women 429
- YDL U17 women 732.
- SAL U20 men 685
- SAL U17 men 668
- SAL U20 women 559
- SAL U17 women 775

Conclusions on numbers

The number of U17 men competing in the YDL was greater than the number who attended SAL matches.

The numbers of U17 women, U20 men, and U17 women competing in the YDL were fewer than the numbers who attended SAL matches.

Overall more Under 20s and Under 17s compete in the Southern League than the Southern Divisions of the YDL

A separate analysis showed that over 50% of younger athletes who competed in the SAL did not compete in YDL matches during 2016.

End.