

Should I get England Athletics Affiliation?

What Is England Athletics (EA) Affiliation?

The England Athletics registration fee basically registers you as a competitive athlete with England Athletics, the governing body for athletics in England. This includes road, cross country, and trail races run under UKA rules (most races) and fell races under FRA rules.

For many of these races, you do not need EA affiliation to compete as an individual, but for almost all of them you need to be affiliated (to a club) in order to represent and 'count' for the team (although many local, low-key races will not enforce this). Some races, particularly cross country, do not allow you to compete unattached. EA affiliation also entitles you to at least £2 off entry for road races.

For further information on EA affiliation and its benefits, see here:

<https://www.englandathletics.org/england-athletics/athlete-registration#Benefits>

Exemption for fell running

The above rules apply to the fell running, but they only tend to be enforced at the national championships (English & British) and relays (Hodgson and FRAs). However, you can obtain 'registered' fell running status by being a member of the FRA (<http://fellrunner.org.uk/join-the-fra.php>). If you are a member of Keswick and the FRA but not EA this will entitle you to compete for Keswick in all fell running events including the English/British champs and relays but **it will not give you any status for road and cross country** - you wouldn't be able to compete for the club at the road relays, for example. If you opt for this route and change your mind you can purchase EA affiliation at any point by contacting the Secretary.

You don't need to be a member of the FRA if you have EA affiliation - EA covers you for everything whereas FRA only covers fell running.

Summary

If you compete in the occasional road or cross country race, get EA affiliation. You don't need FRA membership (you can always borrow the magazine from someone else and save a bit of cash).

If you only ever run on the fells and will never do a road/cross country race and you are also a member of the FRA, don't get EA affiliation. If you are not a member of the FRA, pick one, they cost the same!

If you don't really compete at all, just stick with Keswick membership and forget FRA/EA membership.

What if Keswick are not my 'first claim' club?

The above applies but your first claim club are responsible for everything. Contact them. (If this bit is confusing, don't worry, it probably doesn't apply to you).