



going the distance for gender equality

## Propose a motion at your running club AGM

Here is a template which has been successfully used by other clubs:

This club believes that women and men should have equality of competition opportunities and experiences.

With this principle in mind this club shall:

- 1) Ensure our own events offer equal race distances, age categories, prizes and status for women and men
- 2) In the leagues and events we compete where competitions are not equal, the club will proactively advocate and vote for equal race distances, age categories, prizes and status for women and men.

When this means event distances will change, it is for the event organiser to decide what that distance should be based on their knowledge of their event and logistics. We support their decision as long as the main principle of equality is upheld.

Specific examples where we will advocate and vote for change:

*< list examples here relevant to the events your club competes in that are not equal >*

### Suggested introduction to motion

It's worth saying that for the vast majority of running events, this motion is not needed.

Running does a lot better than other sports at welcoming women and mostly provides a good model to other sports for treating women and men equally across all distances of event. Despite all the things we still do as a society to discourage women and girls from competition and physical activity, 45% of applicants to the London marathon are women, and around 45% of parkrunners are women. An organiser setting up a new event wouldn't consider different distances for each sex. Nobody running a 10k has ever thought 'why aren't the women running 7k'.

This motion is targeted at the small number of events that do not invite women and men to participate equally. These are increasingly embarrassing historical anomalies which do our sport no favours and are in our clubs interest to change.

It is also worth saying that this change is already happening. Scotland have equalised their national XC champs to 10k (with record participants for the first equal event in 2018), the IAAF have equalised international XC to 10k, Intercounties XC has equalised to 10k, Essex county XC has equalised to 10k and a number of local leagues have also recently equalised their distances.

We anticipate votes on the remaining events will happen in the near future, the purpose of this motion is to establish a clear club position for our representatives at these.