

Tooting Run Club's Affiliation with England Athletics

Frequently Asked Questions

What does this announcement mean?

Tooting Run Club (TRC) has become an affiliated England Athletics club.

England Athletics is the national governing body for running and athletics in England. Becoming affiliated means TRC is now part of the national framework that supports and develops running and athletics in England.

Affiliation aligns TRC with nationally recognised standards and best practice while preserving the free, inclusive and volunteer-led community that defines us.

Will anything change for participants?

No. TRC will remain the same volunteer-led, community-driven charity that people know today.

- Our sessions remain free, accessible and open to adults aged 18 and over.
- We will continue to promote health, wellbeing and social connection through movement.
- We will remain committed to inclusion and removing barriers to participation.
- We will remain focused on participation, inclusion, health and wellbeing rather than competition.

The changes are happening behind the scenes, strengthening areas such as governance, safeguarding, insurance and volunteer support.

Do I need to do anything differently?

No.

Please continue signing up for sessions through Eventbrite exactly as you do today. Eventbrite remains our registration system for all sessions. There are no additional forms to complete and no new requirements for participants.

Do I have to become a member or join England Athletics?

No.

TRC is not introducing a membership model and we are not introducing participation fees.

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England Athletics affiliation applies to the club, not individual participants. There is no requirement for anyone running with TRC to join England Athletics.

Some runners may choose to register individually with England Athletics to access benefits such as discounted race entries, but this is entirely optional.

Will my personal information be shared with England Athletics?

No.

Signing up for a TRC session does not make you a member of England Athletics, and your Eventbrite registration details will not be shared with England Athletics as a result of TRC's affiliation.

TRC will continue to manage personal information in accordance with its privacy policy and legal obligations, just as it does today.

Why did TRC choose to affiliate?

As TRC has grown, so has our responsibility to participants, volunteers and the charity itself.

Affiliation helps ensure we have the right structures, protections and resources in place to support the organisation's long-term sustainability. Key benefits include:

- Formal recognition within England's running community.
- Alignment with nationally recognised safeguarding, welfare and governance standards.
- Comprehensive insurance cover for our activities, volunteers and participants.
- Better support and development opportunities for our volunteers.
- Greater organisational sustainability through improved access to funding, lower operating costs and a simpler route to delivering larger community events, including the proposed Tooting 10K.

Is TRC becoming a competitive athletics club?

No.

TRC remains focused on participation, inclusion, health and wellbeing.

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Affiliation does not mean TRC will begin entering leagues, championships or athletics competitions. Runners who wish to pursue competitive athletics will continue to be encouraged to consider clubs such as Herne Hill Harriers.

Can I still join if I'm new to running?

Absolutely.

TRC remains open to all adults, from complete beginners taking their first steps into running through to experienced runners. Simply visit Eventbrite to book onto any sessions you wish to attend.

What does this mean for the proposed Tooting 10K?

Affiliation makes it easier and more cost-effective for TRC to organise larger community events by providing access to England Athletics' event licensing and support framework.

Does this affect TRC's relationship with Herne Hill Harriers?

No.

TRC and Herne Hill Harriers continue to enjoy a positive and complementary relationship. TRC remains focused on free, inclusive community running, while Herne Hill Harriers provides opportunities for those who wish to pursue competitive athletics.

Why is this good for TRC's future?

Affiliation gives TRC stronger foundations for the future.

It helps ensure we have the structures, protections and resources needed to support our community over the long term, develop our volunteer team, access new opportunities and deliver larger community events more effectively.

Why now?

TRC has grown significantly in recent years.

Affiliation reflects the scale and maturity that the organisation has now reached and helps ensure we have the right support, protections and standards in place for the future.