

13 December 2013



Little Athletics Australia and Athletics Australia have been exploring the merits of a potential merger between the two organisations, with the assistance of the Australian Sports Commission. It was understood that by undertaking this review process, neither organisations was committing to a merger, but simply evaluating the benefits of a unified governance structure and a single national entity.

After an initial presentation in April this year to both national organisations by the Australian Sports Commission, a representative steering group was formed to conduct an analysis of the proposed merger on behalf of their relevant organisations. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 26 June 2013, whereby both parties agreed to continue discussions in good faith, with the view to signing a Heads of Agreement by December 2013.

Little Athletics Australia distributed the Heads of Agreement document to its Board of Management, and it was ultimately determined that although the Heads of Agreement did not commit the two organisations to a merger, due to a combination of factors the Board of Management could not support the signing of the documentation.

Following an intensive review process, the Little Athletics Australia Board of Management has determined not to pursue a merger with Athletics Australia.

Little Athletics Australia President Dereck Fineberg said "I commend the Australian Sports Commission, Athletics Australia and the Little Athletics Australia Board of Management for the effort and contribution they have put in to this very worthwhile process. Little Athletics is very proud of what it has achieved over the past 50 years, and it was always going to be a huge leap of faith for us to forego our long-held independence. But we will certainly look to implement some of the initiatives that have evolved from this process, and we will continue to work positively and proactively with Athletics Australia and its Member Associations for the benefit of athletics."

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