



# Reading Roadrunners Cross Country Club Championship Rules

## 1. Background

The Club traditionally participates in two long-running XC leagues: Thames Valley (TVXC) and Hampshire (HantsXC). For several years, the Club has operated a Cross Country Championship based solely on member participation in the TVXC league, but there has been no organised competition based on the HantsXC league.

The Team Captains petitioned the 2020 AGM to harmonise Club participation across the two leagues. The requested amendments were ratified by the AGM, including a request to alter the scoring system.

Henceforth the Club shall operate separate annual XC Championships, together with the Marathon Championship and the main Club Championship. This document explains how the two XC Championships will be organised and lays out the rules of the competitions.

## 2. Participation

Members shall be enrolled into either league XC Championship automatically upon returning a valid result in any race in the respective league. Members may take part in either or both Championships at their discretion.

For a race result to be valid and count towards the competition, the member shall have run in the official Club colours and paid the prevailing race entry fee.

There are typically eight or fewer races held in each league during the season. To qualify for inclusion in the final results of either competition, members shall have participated in a minimum required number of races in that league, as follows:

<b>Number of fixtures taking place</b>	<b>Participation for inclusion in the Championship</b>
8 or more	5 races
5 - 7	4 races
4 or fewer	Championship cancelled

## 3. Gender - Age categories

Men and women shall compete only against members in their own gender - age category, i.e. there is a separate competition for men and women in each age category in each league. The age categories for men and women shall be the same.

The designation of the age categories may vary from year to year at the discretion of the Club Committee. The prevailing age categories shall be published on the Club website.

Initially, the age categories shall comprise:

*Senior, Vet 40, Vet 50, Vet 60, Vet 70, Vet 80*

A member's age category is fixed for the duration of the Championship, regardless of whether s/he has a birthday during the league.



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## 4. Championship start date

The start date for both XC Championships shall be the same and shall be published on the Club website. This date is crucial as it may impact the age category of any member born in the autumn. The Championship start date shall be the first of the month in which the earliest race in either league is scheduled to take place, typically this will be 1<sup>st</sup> October.

## 5. Scoring system

The previous scoring system was based solely on the member's overall finishing position in each race, which is subject to the inherent volatility of the strength and depth of other team's participation in the race on the day. This weakness has been eliminated by applying a similar approach to that used for the main Club Championship, as follows.

The member with the lowest finishing position, as recorded on the results page of the respective league website, within each gender – age category shall be awarded 50 points; the next lowest finishing position shall be awarded 49 points, etc. The benefit of this system is that it is unaffected by who else runs on the day, whether it be other Club members in another gender – age category or members of other competing clubs.

Once the league is complete, the scores shall be aggregated separately in each gender – age category as follows:

- a. Members who have returned fewer valid results than the minimum required number of races shall be disqualified.
- b. Members who volunteer at the Club's home fixture and hence are prevented from competing in the race shall be compensated, as laid out below.
- c. A member's score shall be calculated as the sum of the member's best scores in one fewer than the minimum number of required races, i.e. discarding their worst result during the competition. (E.g. if members are required to have returned five valid results during the competition, their overall score would comprise the sum of their best four results, regardless of whether they have return more than five results.)

If the Club hosts a home fixture in a league, members who volunteer to help stage the event shall be awarded points as if they had run the event. The number of points allocated to each member shall be their average number of points earned across all other races they have run in the league.

## 6. Trophies

A trophy shall be awarded to those members placed first, second and third in each gender – age category in each league. If there is a tie for third place in a category, four or more trophies shall be awarded within that category.

The nature of the trophy is at the discretion of the Club Committee.

## 7. Participation award

In addition to trophies, any member who returns a valid result in every race in a league shall be receive a participation award, the nature of which is at the discretion of the Club Committee.

Volunteering for a home fixture shall count towards the minimum race requirement and towards the separate participation award.



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### **8. Team award**

Should the Club win either league, each member who qualified for the respective Championship shall receive a memento of the team's success, the nature of which is at the discretion of the Club Committee.

Volunteering for a home fixture shall count towards qualification for the team award.

### **9. Applicability**

The rules as stated herein shall apply from the start of the 2020-21 XC season.