

## The Vetting & Barring Scheme, CRB and you.

The Government's Independent Safeguarding Authority's (ISA) background checking system **known as the "Vetting and Barring Scheme"** (VBS) for those who work with young people and vulnerable adults comes into force on the **12<sup>th</sup> October 2009**.

This new scheme is law and non-compliance could result in criminal action. It covers what the government call Regulated Activity. This is defined as an activity where an adult is working in close proximity, on a regular or frequent or intensive basis, with young people or vulnerable adults, thus having the opportunity to build a relationship of trust with them. Training, coaching, supervising, officiating young people in athletics are considered Regulated Activities. People undertaking a Regulated Activity must apply to be a 'member' of the VBS. The VBS is **not a replacement** for the existing CRB scheme. These two checks will work together, in tandem via a single form, to help safeguard young and vulnerable people and will require **no additional work** over and above what is expected for a CRB check by the person completing the form.

The new law relates to both paid staff and volunteers-thus covers many people who work or volunteer in athletics clubs across the country. Clubs will need to risk assess (from October 2009) their personnel to identify who should apply for a VBS membership. This should include:

Coaches	Medical/First Aid	Membership Secretary
Welfare Officers	Parent Helpers	Photographers
Officials	Catering Staff	Team Managers
Stewards	Regular Drivers	

This new scheme will check individual applicants against its database of individuals who have been banned (by government) from working with children or vulnerable adults.

From 12 October 2009, it will be a criminal offence to:

- Apply or volunteer for a job which is a Regulated Activity if you know that you are on the 'barred' list;
- To appoint someone to a paid or voluntary role within a Regulated Activity if you know they are on the barred list.
- Deploy an individual to a paid or voluntary role in a regulated activity, **before** they have become members of the VBS.
- Continue to employ, in paid or voluntary capacity, anyone who has been barred from working with young and vulnerable people since joining the VBS.

Applications are FREE for volunteers but will cost £64 for paid employees-this will be for a combined VBS and CRB check. The VBS membership application will only ever need to be done once. The 'membership number' **will be transferable & recognised** between all employment and volunteer roles and between different employers. If a person's status changes and they become 'barred' then all the individual's 'employers' (paid or voluntary) will be informed. CRB checks must still be renewed with UK Athletics every three years and they are **not transferable between employers**.

For more information on the VBS and CRB please visit [www.isa.gov.org.uk](http://www.isa.gov.org.uk) or contact the UK Athletics welfare team on 0161 223 4246. This information is subject to change