

Australian Athletics Official

BRIEFING NOTES FOR TRACK UMPIRES

Only the Track Referee can decide on the action to be taken, so Umpires need to:

1. Act quickly and decisively when something happens.
2. Complete the Umpire Infringement Form accurately. This includes:
 - Circle the rule number that the umpire believes has been infringed and complete information as required;
 - Mark your location on the track – place a coloured in triangle on the form
 - Mark the location of the incident in relation to your position – place an "x" on the umpire's infringement form;
 - Complete information regarding the Event No.; Name of the Event, whether it was a heat (include heat number) /Final, the time the incident occurred and the date; and
 - Print your name as the umpire and insert signature in appropriate place.



What do I report?

Look for all breaches of the rules. **Report any infringement** of the IAAF and WPA Technical Rules, e.g.

- Deliberate jostling, running across a 4 x 400m events and 2 x 200m events;
- Failing to change a relay baton correctly;
- Use of Guide runners in T11 and T12 events;
- Wheelchair drafting; and
- Unsporting conduct

Incidents - such as stumbling onto the inside of the track or accidental contact should be noted but not reported immediately. These notes should include the competition number, hip number or lane of the athlete(s) involved and the location of the incident and stage of the race. This information will become important if an athlete protests after the race.

Umpire Racing Incident Form

The Umpire's Racing Incident Form should only be completed if the Track Referee requests information about the running of an event.

If the Track Referee receives a protest and has not received an infringement report on the race he/she may ask for information that Umpires have noted as racing incidents. These observation notes should be transferred to the **Umpire's Racing Incident Form**. The completed forms should then be given the Assistant Chief Umpire so they can be passed on to the Track Referee

How do I communicate with my Assistant Chief Umpire?

Normally, in large competitions, there are three Assistant Chief Umpires (AC) on the track. You should know where your AC is positioned at all times.

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You should communicate with your AC, using your folder, after the athletes have left your area of the track. White side of the folder should only be shown at hip height indicating all clear. If you see a reportable infringement, raise your folder above your head with the yellow side facing your AC. Once your signal is acknowledged, start writing your report.

*The exception to this is where you are at the cut-in – the first two bottles on the inside of the track must be removed (800m) and all the bottles for the 4 x 200m relay, 4 x 400 m relay before commencing to write the report to allow the race to continue. **Make sure you are aware of the conditions under which other types of relay are run e.g. Medley, Swedish etc.***



On seeing your signal, your AC will communicate to the Chief Umpire that there might be a reportable incident. The Chief Umpire will advise the Track Referee that there is an impending report.

Do not congregate and/or prepare combined reports. Everyone has a different perspective. If another umpire is making a report about the same incident, it does not mean that you don't need to bother.

Only confer with your AC.

TIPS:

- Assemble at a predetermined location at least 15 minutes before the start of the event.
- **Ensure that your mobile phone is turned off.** It should not be used on the field of play.
- Carry your folder and other equipment in the hand that is away from the spectators.
- Try to move on and off the track in an orderly manner. Move in single file, to the positions as indicated in the umpire's roster and track map in order with the umpire at the farthest position leading the way. On reaching your position stand and wait until all are in position. Walk directly to the inside of the track together. If chairs are provided then all sit down at the same time on instruction from your AC.
- Move to a position within your designated area where you have the best view.
- The track diagrams only indicate an approximate position.
- If you get to your designated position and find another official already there do not discuss the problem, look around and either take up the vacant position or position yourself so you have space between you and the other umpire and in a position where you have a good view of the event.
- After an event has been completed stand and wait for the other umpires who led the team onto the arena to come back past you. Join onto the line as it passes you and stop at your next designated position or continue in the line to exit the field of play. If there are no other umpires moving on the track move to your next position in an orderly manner.
- For all events up to and including the 800metres stand up from your chair/stool after the introduction of the athletes or when you see the starter mount the stand if there are no introductions. Watch your AC and stand/sit when they do.
- If you do not have an AC at the meet you should resume your seat when the last athlete has crossed the line.
- For all events over 800 metres remain seated in your chair for the entire race.

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- Ensure that the first three flights of hurdles for straight and circular events are setup as a priority. This will allow athletes to warmup whilst the rest of the hurdles are being placed on the track.
- Check any hurdles within your responsibility for correct height, weights, position, lane(s) and number of hurdles required for the event. Replace on correct marks if moved.
- For sprint hurdles, position yourself beside the hurdle you have been assigned to and when the starter mounts the rostrum move at least three (3) steps towards the finish line so you have a clear view of all the competitors as they come towards your designated hurdle.
- In circular hurdle and steeple races, you should position yourself so you can observe clearly all approaching athletes. Usually this would involve standing beyond the steeple or row of hurdles towards the finish line. This procedure also applies for the cut in for the 800 metres, the second runner in a 4 x 400 metre relay and the third runner in a 4 x 200 metre relay.
- If you are allocated to the lapboard or wind gauge ensure you are familiar with its correct operation i.e. is it working and can you operate it.
- In all events that involve a cut-in ensure that prisms, cones or flags are in place in readiness for the event
- Ensure you have at least two (2) pens, and a pencil for wet weather.
- Make sure you are appropriately dressed for the prevailing weather conditions.

- Please consider the following for each event:
 - ❖ Are the rules of competition being followed?
 - ❖ Are there any potential safety issues?
 - ❖ Am I taking responsibility for my area?
 - ❖ Is the track free of debris?
 - ❖ Are there cones placed on the track (about 4 metres apart) where the curbing has been removed?
 - ❖ Are the witches hats placed correctly for the steeplechase?



Be familiar with the umpire's report form and pre-sign a few forms before the start of the day's events.

- Remember your folder's front cover is your white and its back cover is your yellow. When holding your folder, don't expose the yellow cover unless you are making a report.
- Do not get distracted by race finishes. Remain focused - you are an Umpire, not a spectator!
- Do not allow any unauthorised persons to venture onto the track.

For an injured or distressed athlete do not attempt to touch them (unless there is an urgent need to). Commonsense for safety for all should prevail. Seek medical advice as required. If an athlete requires medical assistance wave your folder from side to side above your head with the yellow side facing the finish line.

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WPA EVENTS

- ❖ Officials may assist athletes who fall from track chairs during a race but only by retrieving the wheelchair and holding it for the athlete to climb back into. Officials must not assist the athlete to get back in the chair or push the wheelchair to get it started again.
- ❖ If an athlete and track chair is on the track after a fall then the nearest official must move to a position to warn the oncoming athletes and shout "HEADS UP" in an attempt to gain their attention.



GENERAL

- ❖ If you are unsure about any form or document in the folder please discuss your concerns with your AC.
- ❖ At the end of competition you are most welcome to keep any forms or documents in the umpire's folder but the folder itself must be returned to your AC.