

Some information for beginners officials attending an athletics officials training day.

There will be a sit down power point presentation covering the following:-

The general rules which are relevant to all aspects of athletics competitions. This includes how the officials training scheme works, and how to progress from C grade to B, and then to A. This includes information about which officials are responsible for certain aspects of the Competition- e.g. Meeting Manager, Referee, what is required from the competitors regarding clothing, footwear etc. Also covers assistance to athletes, disqualification and the protest and appeal process. Depending on which further aspects of Competition (e.g. Track, jumps or throws) some sections of the general rules will be stressed more than others.

For a Track officials course the second half of the presentation will cover the rules for track events- starts, the course of the race and the finish, with extra information about hurdles, steeplechase and relay events. Where possible (e.g. a course held at either Porritt Stadium in Hamilton or Tauranga Domain) a walk around the track looking at the various track markings will take place.

For a Jumps officials course the second half of the presentation will cover the general rules for field events (e.g. time allowed for attempts, competition order) plus the rules for each of the jumping events- long jump, triple jump, high jump and pole vault.

For a Throws officials course the second half of the presentation will, as per the jumps course, cover the general rules for field events plus the rules for each of the throwing events- discus, shot put, hammer and Javelin.

Both the Jumps and Throws presentations end with a section on the rules for relay events. This is included as at many competitions the field event officials assist with the relay events at the end of the day's competition.

Included in all the presentations are sections regarding specific rules for PARA events. The presenter may also, if relevant to the attendees, discuss the extra rules that are applied to Master's competitions. There are no questions regarding PARA events in the C papers. However, these aspects are included in B and A papers.

Handouts covering the presentation will be provided to attendees, along with other useful resources that help to explain aspects of officiating.

Occasionally a course will include more than 1 element, most likely Jumps and Throws together as there is some overlap between both aspects. Sometimes all 3 aspects will be covered in one marathon session, but this is very tiring for both the presenter and attendees, and is not usually done.

The Athletics NZ Officials Association produce an edited version of the IAAF Rulebook which contains all the Technical Rules an official needs to know, and the extra Athletics NZ Supplementary Rules (variations for competition in New Zealand). This can be purchased

from the presenter for \$15-00. These rule books are usually re-printed every 2 years to keep up to date with the Rule changes the IAAF bring in.

The “C” grade written assessments are a mixture of multi choice and short answer questions, covering the general rules and the basic elements of Track, Jumps or Throws officiating. 2 hours are allowed, and a pass mark is 70%. These can be completed individually, or in small groups discussing the questions amongst themselves. If necessary a reader- writer is allowed. Using the Rule Book is permitted when doing the assessment.

Prior to attending a course it is suggested that beginners take a look at the Official’s Page on the Athletics New Zealand website. This has information regarding the training scheme, progression through the grades, and an online introductory training module for each of track, jumps and throws.

Go to www.athletics.org.nz

On the top menu bar go to “Get Involved” then click on “As an Official”

Take a look at the “Pathway” section which explains the training scheme. For the online training modules look at the section entitled “starting out in officiating with the big red LIVE stamp to the side. Click on “join the course here” and work your way through the 3 modules to test yourself regarding some basic rules of the sport.

The “resources” section contains a huge amount of information handy for officials, both experienced and beginners. Some of this material will be used for the presentations.

Other courses covering Race Walking, Out of Stadia Events (e.g. Road and Cross Country competitions), PARA and Technical (for those running the gear sheds) are available. If one of these more specialised courses is being held in another region, (e.g. Auckland) officials from WBOP can be included.

If a National Championship event is being held in our region we try and build up for this with extra training days. Porritt Stadium will host the ANZ National Track and Field Champs again in March 2018. We had a good turnout from beginner officials at the Champs this year, and hope to see them all again, plus new ones, next year. The Colgate Games is scheduled to return to Hamilton in January 2019, so the Children’s Committee will be looking to train extra officials for that event as well.

Beginner officials usually come from the ranks of the parents whose children are competing at their club nights and ribbon days. Gaining good all round experience at these events is a great springboard for officiating at the higher levels. Our country’s top officials started here.

If you require any further information, or want to set up a training session for your club, please contact Heather O’Hagan, the Athletics WBOP Officials Educator.

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