

Some information for those beginner officials attending an athletics official's training day

The cost to attend a presentation is usually set at \$15 for the first course and \$10 for additional ones. It is suggested that attendees ask their clubs to pay this fee for them.

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 and their duties- eg Meeting Manager, Referee, plus what is required from the competitors regarding clothing, footwear etc. Also covers assistance to athletes, disqualification and the protest and appeal process. Depending upon which further aspects of Competition are being covered (eg 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 (eg 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 (eg time allowed for attempts, competition order, recording tips) 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. These may be covered in greater detail if candidates for B or A gradings are present. 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 written assessments for C gradings. However, these aspects are included in B and A papers.

Athletics NZ has requested that all presentations start with one on safety so this specific presentation will be included as well.

Some handout material will be provided to attendees, along with other useful resources that help to explain aspects of officiating. Make sure you bring along note paper etc.

After the presentation, the written assessments will be available for the attendees to complete. A World Athletics Rulebook is needed to sit the papers. Additional material, such as Athletics NZ Supplementary Rules and World PARA Athletics rule books will be available for reference.

I have a supply of the 2022 World Athletics rule books. These rule books will be available for purchase at a cost of \$15. Again, ask your club to cover this cost.

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 and progression through the grades.

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.

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 (eg Road and Cross Country competitions), PARA and Technical (for those running the gear sheds) may be available from time to time. If one of these more specialised courses is being held in another region (eg 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 in the lead up to the competition.

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.

Email: heathersohagan@gmail.com this is the preferred method of contact

phone/text: 0274 713220

postal: P.O.Box 106, Paeroa, 3640.

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